



Olivier Jaoul (1944–2005)

We are saddened to report that Olivier Jaoul of the Université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, France, died on November 15. Born in Neuilly sur Seine in 1944 and trained as a physicist in the laboratory of Jacques Friedel, Jaoul was recruited into geophysics by Claude Froidevaux at the Laboratoire de Géophysique et Géodynamique Interne at the Université Paris Sud in Orsay. In 1997, he moved his laboratory to Toulouse and joined the Laboratoire d'Étude des Mécanismes et Transferts en Géologie. In both Orsay and Toulouse, Jaoul's laboratory pioneered new experimental techniques to study plastic deformation and atomic diffusion in mantle minerals; this research was always characterized by care in the design and execution of the experiments.

The acquisition of new data for atomic diffusion led Jaoul and his colleagues to formulate a new model for creep in olivine via multicomponent diffusion.

Olivier was a master teacher, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, with a refined pedagogical style which was didactic and philosophical, typical of a person whose first foreign language was Greek. He enjoyed teaching young students, not only in the laboratory, but also in the field. Lastly, Olivier was a warm and generous colleague who leaves a long list of protégés and collaborators in his scientific and educational legacy. He is survived by his wife, Martine, and their two children, Nicolas and Delphine.

**R.C. Liebermann, F. Béjina,
and J. Ingrin**