

OBITUARY

In memoriam Sophie Rym Hamada



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The critical care community is mourning the death of Professor Sophie Rym Hamada who tragically passed away on August 16, 2022.

She was an anesthesiologist and intensivist, expert in the management of severe trauma and brain-injured patients, working at the Georges Pompidou European Hospital in Paris (Assistance Publique—Hôpitaux de Paris). She was the president and co-founder of the

French Traumabase[®] group, a collaboration focusing on major trauma created in 2012.

Since the beginning of her training, Sophie Rym Hamada has been committed to improving the management of trauma patients at all stages of the medical process, from the pre-hospital to the intensive care phase. She was convinced of the importance of analyzing our practices with modesty and honesty to improve our skills. She has been part of important research networks and was the author of numerous papers focusing on trauma care. She was actively involved in national and international scientific societies: Société Française d'Anesthésie-Réanimation (SFAR) and European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM). For ESICM, she was the vice-president of the Trauma & Emergency Medicine section, and the co-director of the masterclass “The art of Trauma Care”.

The energy, conviction, and courage she put into the realization of what she considered her mission were a source of motivation for all her colleagues, but also for the nurses, in the departments she worked for. Sophie was a free spirit who never denied her values. She had the intelligence to be always positive and find solutions to problems.

Her first ambition was not to become a professor, but to advance and improve the care of trauma patients and also pass on her passion to the younger generation. She “naturally” became an academic physician because in the eyes of all, it was obvious that she had all the qualities and charisma required for this position. She was extremely generous and never reluctant to dedicate her time to colleagues or students in need of benevolent mentorship. She always put ahead collective success over her own interests and became therefore a trustworthy and respected leader.

She knew how to push aside mediocrity and always remained focused on her mission, at the service of critically ill patients. Her tireless involvement during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis was further proof that she was totally dedicated to her profession and had the spirit of a leader. She was an inspiring example for young anesthesiologists and intensivists.

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We will miss her smile, her striking green eyes, her exceptional intelligence, her contagious enthusiasm, her infinite positivism and her «joie de vivre».

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