

Ted Janssen (1936-2017)

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It has been a great sadness when we learnt that Ted Janssen, 81 years old, passed away on September 29 2017, after a very rapid and aggressive Leucemia.

With him, crystallography loses the last of the founding fathers of the super-space crystallography after Pim de Wolff and, most recently, Aloysio Janner.

Ted was a theoretician in physics and has developed the beautiful and elegant analysis of the incommensurately modulated structures using spaces with dimension larger than three. This was then extended to incommensurate composites and quasicrystals. The super-space crystallography has nowadays become the ‘standard’ theory for the structural analysis of aperiodic crystals.

Ted, as a solid state physicist theoretician, was also very much interested by all the questions raised by the existence of the long range aperiodic order, in particular their physical properties, the lattice dynamics and the driving forces that could lead to long range aperiodic order. He made very important contributions in this field, frequently working in close collaboration with experimentalists.

Ted and Aloysio received the 1998 Aminoff International Award from the Swedish Academy of Sciences for their contribution to modern crystallography. Just recently, in 2014, they received a second award, among the most important in the world, the IUCr Ewald Award presented at the 2014 IUCr Conference in Montreal.

Ted Janssen was a man of great modesty, warmth, and remarkable kindness. Always available, with a very easy approach, he liked to confront the theory with the experiments, to explain to the youngest and of course to discuss physics or many other subjects, philosophy or art.

Ted Janssen, beyond the great scientist, was a friend for many of us, and his death is a great loss.