The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is deeply saddened by the passing away of Professor Guy Blaudin de Thé, at the age of 84.

Professor de Thé joined the Agency immediately after its establishment. From 1967 to 1978, he headed IARC’s Unit of Biological Carcinogenesis, where he became known for his outstanding work on the link between the Epstein–Barr virus (EBV) and the development of Burkitt lymphoma in African children. In China, Professor de Thé studied nasopharyngeal carcinoma, a tumour associated with EBV and very common in the southern part of the country.

Throughout his career, Professor de Thé was committed to the fight against cancer. His research projects around the world have contributed significantly to our current understanding of the mechanisms that link viruses and cancer.

Professor de Thé was Emeritus Research Director and Honorary Professor at the Institut Pasteur, and was one of the founders and the first president of the Alliance Mondiale Contre le Cancer (AMCC). He was a distinguished scientist and a member of numerous scientific societies. Professor de Thé was also a founding member of the National Academy of Technologies of France, a Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honour, and a Commander in the French National Order of Merit.

Professor de Thé will be greatly missed by all who knew him.