Gérard A. Maugin was born on December 2, 1944 in Angers, Western France. He studied mechanical engineering and mathematics in Paris as well as space engineering and aviation engineering in Princeton, USA. He earned his PhD degree from Princeton University in 1971 and received his doctorate in mathematics (Doctorat d’Etat) at the Pierre and Marie Curie University Paris 6 (UPMC) in 1975. Gérard A. Maugin held honorary doctorates from the Technical University of Darmstadt and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

His career with Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) began in 1972 and included positions from Attaché to Directeur de Recherche – the final position with rank of Full Professor while teaching graduate courses at UPMC. Professor Maugin also taught and directed a team at Laboratoire de Mécanique Théorique, UPMC since 1985. After its name change to Laboratoire de Modélisation en Mécanique, he headed the laboratory from 1999 to 2006. Gérard A. Maugin was the founder and first Director (later Director of Research) of Institut Jean le Rond d’Alembert that gathered both theoretical and experimental studies in mechanics, acoustics and energetics. He also taught graduate courses in the same institution. Since 2010 he was Emeritus in Service.

The key areas studied by Gérard A. Maugin were in continuum mechanics and wave propagation. He intertwined mechanics and physics to construct new mathematical models, especially for dynamic processes. He had intensive contacts with Estonian scientists since the 80ies. He and his Estonian colleagues were engaged in studies of continuum mechanics, thermodynamics and wave propagation. They have published many joint papers and a joint monograph. Gérard A. Maugin was a member of the International Advisory Board of the Centre for Nonlinear Studies (CENS) of the Institute of Cybernetics at Tallinn UT. He was also a long-time Editorial Board Member of the Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences.

In 2002 Gérard A. Maugin was elected a Foreign Member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. He was a Foreign Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Arts and Letters in Messina and had an honorary professorship at Lomonosov Moscow State University.

The Foreign Member of the Academy Gérard A. Maugin died on September 22, 2016 as a result of a serious illness.

The world community has lost an excellent scientist who beside his main research interests was also studying philosophy and history of science. His numerous writings were deep and well elaborated and have already become classical in the field.

Estonian Academy of Sciences is in mourning to commemorate our esteemed Foreign Member and sends condolences to his family and colleagues in Paris.