



Dr David Pothier

15 December 1973 - 27 July 2018

David Pothier passed away on July 27, 2018 in the early hours of the morning following a struggle with recurrent brain cancer. His passing extinguished a brilliant light, the likes of which few of us will witness in our lifetime. **Muaz Tarabichi** pays tribute.



Dave and Muaz Tarabichi at a sushi restaurant in Tokyo, 2013.

I came to know Dave Pothier in July of 2006 when he wrote me a message expressing his interest in endoscopic ear surgery. I had been advocating this for 10 years with no other human being, let alone an otologist, showing any interest in this technique. I was really excited that a fellow ENT surgeon saw some wisdom in using the endoscope in transcanal ear surgery. What was remarkable to me at that time was that Dave was a trainee but felt personally empowered to talk to his teachers and professors about the technique and its advantages. Since 2006,

I had a very close relationship with Dave, both personally and professionally. He was a clear leader in this emerging field of EES and was a moving force behind the IWGEES organisation (Dave was the president of the IWGEES when he passed away).

He always saw things in a different light than others and never shied away from expressing and defending what's going on in his mind. His strong and single-minded personality has carried him through his years living with the tumour in a 'matter of fact' approach, never stopping a second to

feel sorry for himself or get scared of his own mortality. As we travelled together to many corners of the world advocating and teaching EES, I got to know all those little quirks that made Dave such a special person. Much of my interactions with Dave were during his smoking breaks from the meetings and seminars and I always joked around with him that he gave enough second-hand smoke to last me a lifetime.

Muaz Tarabichi, ENT Surgeon, Dubai.

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