

An obituary to Professor Gérard Gary

The DYMAT community mourns the passing of Professor Gérard Gary, a distinguished researcher and pioneer in the field of experimental dynamics, who left an indelible mark on the study of materials under high strain rates. His passing in October 2024 represents a profound loss to the world of impact engineering and applied physics.

Gérard Gary's academic journey began with his engineering diploma from the prestigious École Polytechnique. He dedicated his career to advancing the understanding of the dynamic behavior of materials, consistently expanding the potential of Hopkinson bars as a powerful tool for measuring forces, velocities, and displacements under dynamic loading conditions. Through rigorous experimental innovation and theoretical modeling, Professor Gary developed more accurate and reliable methods to analyze how materials respond to high strain rates—insights that are vital for applications such as automotive crash safety, jet engine design, and metal forming.

As a CNRS Research Professor at the Laboratoire de Mécanique des Solides (LMS) at École Polytechnique, Professor Gary was not only a prolific researcher but also a generous mentor for generations of engineers and scientists. His collaborative spirit set an exceptional example for interdisciplinary inquiry. His groundbreaking contributions to the study of the dynamic behavior of materials earned him the highest distinction of our community: the John Rinehart Award.

In his memory, the DYMAT association reaffirms its commitment to promoting excellence in science, application-relevant research, and collaborative work—values that were at the heart of Professor Gary's professional life. The profound impact of his research and personality will continue to inspire researchers for generations to come.

November 2024, Dirk Mohr
DYMAT President