

Paul A. Lagacé, Honorary Member of ICCM Executive Council, ICCM World Fellow, Past-President of ICCM, passed away July 16th, 2021 in his home in Wilmington, Massachusetts, USA.

Professor Paul Lagacé, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Professor of Engineering Systems, and MacVicar Faculty Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was a leader in the composites community. A faculty member at MIT since 1982, Paul had an enormous impact on our field: his research on fracture and failure of composites helped establish the fundamentals on which modern composite design practices are based, his enthusiasm and devotion to education and teaching formed generations of undergraduate students, and his graduate students have in turn taken leadership roles in academia, industry and government. His contributions went well beyond academia, and he was a powerful and influential presence in organizations such as ASTM and CMH-17. We invite you to read about his many contributions at [link](#); here we focus on Paul's tremendous and transformative contributions to the International Committee on Composite Materials, the parent organization of the International Conference on Composite Materials series, which started in 1975 with ICCM-1, and is next to be held in Belfast as ICCM-23 in 2023.

Paul Lagacé became President of the International Committee on Composite Materials in 1993, at a time when the organization and the associated conferences had increasingly lost focus and continuity. By sheer force of vision, commitment, focus, and personality, Paul set about to transform ICCM. Where previously there had been no proper Constitution, By-Laws, Guidelines, or essentially any documented procedures, Paul changed the organization. Learning from other international organizations, including the Olympic Committee, Paul drafted a Constitution and By-Laws, ensuring that there was significant involvement and input from all stakeholders, and guided the process to ratification in July 1999, at the General Assembly of ICCM-12 in Paris.

Paul then focused on ensuring that the Constitution, By-Laws, and associated Conference Guidelines would be used in an effective manner to create a stable, fair, and prospering conference series. President from 1993 to 1999, he was elected World Fellow, Life Member, and Honorary Member of the Council in 2001. With an encyclopedic knowledge of all matters ICCM, and a laser focus on fairness and transparency, Paul was the heart and soul of the ICCM Executive Council, and an inspiration for all Executive Council members. As Honorary Member, Paul was devoted to mentoring the next generations of ICCM leaders, both in person and by continuing to document best practices.

It is hard to think of ICCM without Paul, be it in Executive Council meetings, at the General Assemblies, or in the conference halls. He will be sorely missed as an esteemed colleague, friend, and leader of ICCM, but his incredible contributions will have lasting impact because of his care and attention in making ICCM a well-governed and truly global organization independent of any one person.

ICCM Executive Council

July 20th, 2021