



Françoise Taillefer sadly passed away in a ski touring accident on Friday 7 April 2017 in the Pyrenees mountains.

Françoise had been a member of GMAP since 1991. She had been part of basically every e-suite and operational implementation of Météo-France's NWP suites since the beginnings, as her expertise was remarkably widespread in both the scientific and technical fields. She was a recognised scientist in surface processes, data assimilation and limited area modeling. Her understanding of the associated codes was incomparable in many aspects. Both the global modelling system and the regional ones were well known to her, and she was undoubtedly a pillar of Météo-France's NWP systems. Some of her specific fields of expertise were the elaboration of climatological files, sea surface temperature updates, sea ice cover updates, modelling surface processes, data assimilation in its various implementations (3D-VAR, 4D-VAR, Optimal Interpolation), and the specific aspects of the limited area coding inside IFS/Arpège.

Over time she had played a significant role in Météo-France's international collaborations on NWP. She had always been more than willing to give up time for questions and problems forwarded by the Aladin and Hirlam staff, and had been the supervisor of many Aladin scientific visitors in GMAP. She was very often providing first hand and "first class" support to partners calling for advice or help on technical difficulties. She did this regardless of her own work efforts, always building on her extraordinary dynamic attitude and attention to detail .

She was appreciated for her extreme kindness, unfailing good humour and constant availability, for her great readiness to comply with problems-of-the day. Besides her endeavor in her professional activities, she was also known for her many personal interests in which she was involved wholeheartedly. Thus, some of us will also remember her for playing tennis, booking tickets for Toulouse concerts or discussing the latest opera production at the Théâtre du Capitole. She also was very keen on trekking in desert areas like Mauritania or up in the Pyrenees. It is in the latter, in the midst of a landscape that she loved to visit so much, that she eventually left us.

Her loss has struck us hardly. Our thoughts go to her daughter Thelma, her brother, her family and friends.