

Ioannis Emmanuel Papadakis

Yannis was born in Kerkini, a small lakeside village in Central Macedonia, Greece. Soon afterwards, his parents moved to Heraklion, Crete, where he grew up. He graduated from the University of Athens with Honors in Physics and Mathematics and worked for NATO as an oceanographer in Italy. Yannis was a brilliant scientist and a true deep thinker. Throughout his career he was always probing ahead of his time, exploring the applications of new concepts and theories long before his peers. His knowledge of science and mathematics spanned three millennia, and because of that he was able to bridge history and philosophy with the latest discoveries in math and science. His passion was to find form and pattern and meaning out of data that was otherwise unintelligible.

In the 1970s, Yannis emigrated to Victoria, BC, Canada, to work at The Institute of Ocean Sciences in Patricia Bay. During this time, he married Brigitte Rathje and they had two children, Nigel and Elena who were at his side, in the hospital and at home, during his final days. In addition to having close family members, Yannis was blessed with multiple friends throughout his life in Victoria. Eddy Carmack, Carl Whiteside, John Bell, and Peter Lauren, to name a few. He will be dearly missed by his companion of 20 years, Raquel Simper, who worked tirelessly to support him throughout the duration of his illness, taking him to doctor appointments, hospital visits and caring for him at home. Those who knew Yannis could not be unaware of his pure joy, often punctuated by laughter, when, through open discussion or private contemplation, original discovery was made. Truly, Yannis Papadakis expanded the definition of science.

Yannis is survived by his two children, Nigel and Elena; his two grandsons, Moris and Hugo; and his sister Mairi who lives in Heraklion, Greece.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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