

In Memory of Philippe Mermod



(1978 – 2020)

James L. Pinfold
University of Alberta

An Explorer of Realms Beyond the Standard Model

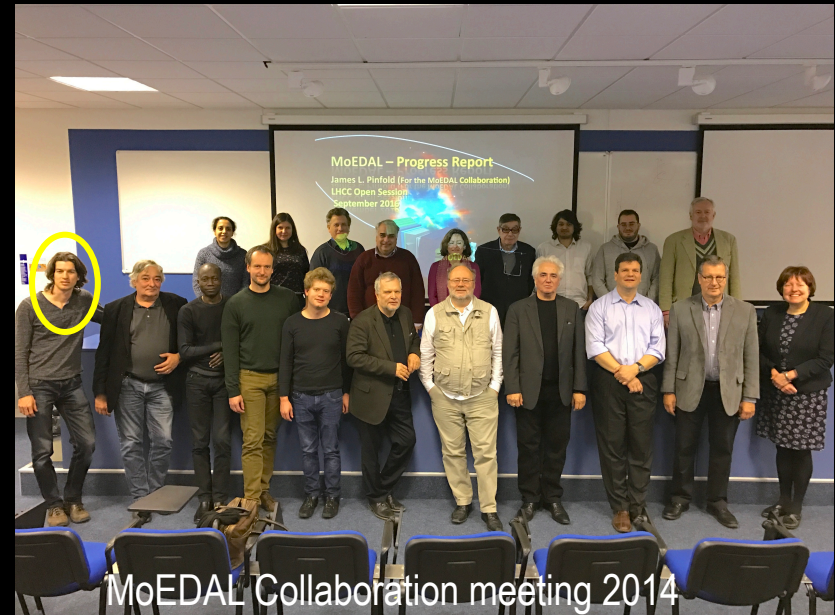
I lost a good and brilliant friend on the 20th of August when Philippe lost his long and valiant fight against leukemia.

I had the honour of knowing Philippe since 2012. We worked together on ATLAS and MoEDAL. More recently he also made major contributions to the SHiP experiment and the T2K experiment.

On ATLAS he: was the Convenor of the Exotic Long-lived Particle Group; led the search for highly ionizing particle with a new trigger; pioneered the search for displaced heavy neutral lepton decays during Run-2; and, explored new physics prospects with AFP

On SHiP and T2K he was a leader of the ToF detector for the T2K NS280 detector upgrade and he prototyped the SHiP timing detector

His Great Passion (1)



In the arena of physics beyond the Standard Model Philippe's great passion was the search for the magnetic monopole.

It was only natural then that he should join the MoEDAL Experiment at the LHC the main physics goal of which was to search for the monopole - as one of the founding members - whilst continuing his quest for the monopole on ATLAS

His Great Passion (2)

Indeed, Philippe made many key contributions to MoEDAL.

We pioneered the MoEDAL trapping detector and he subsequently served as the Convenor of the Trapping Detector Group.

He was also MoEDAL Analysis and Software Coordinator and one of the main authors on MoEDAL's first physics physics paper - giving the EP-LHC Seminar on the topic in 2012.

Not content with ATLAS or MoEDAL's capabilities he also led a search for monopoles in polar volcanic rocks

Before he got ill we were working together on a project to use very large area scans of mica with integration times of millions of years to search for monopoles and even dark matter.

In Closing

Mostly it is loss which teaches us about the worth of things.

His death brought home to me what a superb human being Philippe was, loving to his family, passionate, honest, fair, energetic, brilliant and brave.

He was a true explorer of unknown worlds of the mind, beyond to the bounds of established knowledge.

I will miss you old friend.