



### Obituary in memory of Prof. Ioannis Vardoulakis

The members of the Scientific Committee and the lecturers of the LARAM School, with deep and sincere sadness, communicate that Professor Ioannis Vardoulakis, a very active member of the School Scientific Committee since the founding of LARAM in 2005 and a pillar of the European Geomechanics scientific community, passed away on 19th September 2009.

Ioannis was full professor at the Faculty of Applied Mathematics and Physics, Department of Mechanics of National Technical University of Athens. He was born on 03-22-1949 in Chania Crete. He graduated in Engineering Mit Auszeichnung (with the Highest Honours) at University of Karlsruhe, where he became a PhD student under the guidance of Professor Gerd Gudehus. He spent the first 14 years of his academic carrier in Karlsruhe, became full professor at University of Minnesota and finally in 1990 Professor of Mechanics in Athens.

During his involvement with the LARAM School, Ioannis distinguished himself for his contributions in the very complex scientific field of Landslide Risk Assessment and Mitigation. In particular, starting from a deep knowledge of basic mechanics, he was able to provide innovative methodologies for landslide analysis by effectively combining the complex theoretical and practical aspects of the issue. Striking was also Ioannis ability to work effectively in multidisciplinary research teams, as testified by his numerous and successful attempts to promote research cooperation initiatives at a European level, and his keen ability on lecturing, as testified by the way he was able to attract the students' attention while presenting very complicated engineering topics.

Ioannis' sudden departure leaves an overwhelming void in our hearts. We will miss him for ever.