

# Obituary

**Claire Vidal, 1969 - 2009**



Claire Vidal, scientist at the Center of Population Biology and Control (UMR CBGP) in Montpellier, France, passed away on Tuesday, March 17th at the age of 40, after a three year courageous battle with cancer.

Claire was born on February 19, 1969. She obtained her Engineering in Agronomy degree from the "Ecole Nationale Ingénieurs Travaux Agricoles de Bordeaux" in 1992, a Master's Degree in Parasitology in 1993 and a Ph.D in Population Biology & Ecology in 1997 at the University of Montpellier II, France.

Her research speciality was ecopathology of entomopathogenic fungi and microbial control of insect pests. Since 2004, she was employed at the French overseas Institute for Research and Development where she was carrying out a research program on the dynamics of pathosystems (whiteflies-entomopathogenic fungi-tomato greenhouses) for improving biologically-based crop protection strategies in Mediterranean and tropical areas. Passionate about her job, she continued to work while facing her battle with cancer with exemplary courage.

Claire was internationally recognized and her death will create a lack in her discipline and in the scientific community. The rigor of her analysis, her interest in an interdisciplinary and systemic approach, her sense of responsibility, together with her energy, her humour and charisma, earned her great respect and deep friendship with all who had the privilege and pleasure to work with her within the UMR CBGP or in many French or foreign laboratories. Her premature departure will leave a particularly large gap in the heart of her 9 year old daughter, Ambre.

*Jacques Fargues*

*Montpellier, France*