

I met Frank in 1982, when he started his Physics studies in Utrecht and like you, I was quickly seduced by his wide interests and his kind personality. We became close friends and when, after a few years, he somehow tricked me into being his girlfriend, it became clear that we were a great team, one that could last for a lifetime.

And so our future was shared and as in marriage, you do not only get the man, but his family too. And in this very case, I also got the Physics family with it. Frank shared all the names and projects with me and over the years, this family became larger and larger. Too large actually to meet everyone in person or to invite them to our house.

And then, he got ill. Something still unbelievable. But as his mottos were “Science comes first” and “standing still is moving backwards”, this did not prevent him from doing Physics, no matter what. He fought a hard battle against cancer and lost, leaving behind what I would call a ‘Hekking Gap’.

So now we have to live on without him, without his driving force, his jokes, his music, his fine insight. And that is difficult. But somehow I know that his ideas will live on in all of us, his family and this big family of Physics.

This brings me to the point where I can express my gratitude to the organisers of this workshop and to you all for keeping his memory alive. I am also greatly indebted to Hervé who, by offering me a job as his project manager, kept me in this family of Physics. So hopefully we will see each other often, as you have become dear to me over these past 30 years.

And this brings me to the future and our ITN Marie Skłodowska Curie Project, funded by the European Commission: Quantum Electronics Science and Technology training (slide). You may already have received an email from me, but if not, do not hesitate to go on our website questech.org or give us a call.

I am looking forward to seeing you again.

Thank you,

Erika

Les Houches, January 30, 2018