André Allisy, who has died aged 92 years, was a giant of French and international metrology, the science of measurement. He was appointed to the International Commission for Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) in 1953 and was elected as its Chairman in 1984, retiring 12 years later to a standing ovation at which he was presented with an Honorary Chairmanship. He represented the ICRU on the international Consultative Committee for Units of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM) where he immortalised the names of Henri Becquerel, L. Hal Gray and Rolf Sievert as the internationally agreed radiation units for activity (Bq), absorbed dose (Gy) approved in 1975 by the General Conference for Weights and Measures and for dose equivalent (Sv) in 1979. In 1961, the CIPM, which meets at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) in Paris, had charged André with setting up an international laboratory at the BIPM for radiation measurements. His laboratory there is acclaimed throughout the world today for its precision measurements of ionizing radiation. The laboratory enables comparisons of realizations of the becquerel, gray and sievert for all the national laboratories of the Metre Convention and by working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has extended the consistency of radiation measurements to almost all the nations of the world. Through his work on the ICRU, André was involved with the IAEA from its debut in Vienna in 1957 until his retirement, latterly as the Chairman of its standing committee on the Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory Network (since 1989) run jointly by the IAEA and the WHO to assure in particular that radiotherapy dose measurements are consistent throughout the world. In 1967, André was appointed to the first Chair of Metrology in France at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM) and continued lecturing students in the fundamentals of metrology. In parallel with his work on ionizing radiation at the BIPM, André was responsible for creating the Institut National de Métrologie in France specialising in primary measurement standards for length (metre), mass (kilogram), temperature (kelvin) and photometry (candela). He received the *Ordre National du Mérite* in 1981 in recognition of his work.

André Allisy was born in Brunstatt, Alsace on 9 March 1924 and, to avoid the clutches of the German invaders, left home at the tender age of 16 to journey across the Vosges to complete his studies in France. He had accompanied a young family across the border but their small child soon became tired and started to wail. The father then cut holes in his rucksack and discarded the tools of his trade (hairdresser) to accommodate the youngster on his back. André was charged with entertaining their child so its cries would not draw attention to their position!

Having obtained the necessary qualifications, André’s professional life began as an engineer with the French navy and in 1945 he moved to the research laboratory of Yves Rocard in the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS). It was there that he started work on radiation dosimetry for the company Massiot who produced radiological and dosimetry equipment under licence (later joining with Philips Medical Systems, as they are known today) . André quickly realised that there was not a proper measurement standard for dosimetry in France and so he constructed one. His primary measurement standard for radiation exposure was then compared, favourably, with that of the United States. It was as a consequence of his knowledge and this work for Massiot that he was sent to the ICRU meeting in 1953 held in Copenhagen. At the previous ICRU meeting in 1950, the French representative was a radiologist who had found the technical discussions concerning dosimetry to be beyond his ken and asked Massiot if he knew anyone who could replace him. André was the obvious choice as he was able to discuss with expert knowledge at the ICRU and in English, having read all the publications of the then Chairman, Lauriston Taylor. Taylor more or less adopted André and soon came to France to see André’s dosimetry primary standard. Hal Gray also visited André in Paris and his blind wife impressed the family with her account of a visit to a local museum that she described through the eyes of her husband.

André had met his future wife Colette, a medical doctor, on Liberation Day in Paris when the two of them were the only people eating in the University canteen! Having married, they produced five children and André often remarked that his family was his greatest achievement. Three of his children went on to marry and had nine children between them, one of whom was lost tragically to cancer at the tender age of 17. André had also lost his first wife to cancer in 1989 and later met Penelope Roberts at an ICRU meeting in Vienna. They were married in 1994.

He is survived by his second wife, Penelope , two sons and three daughters, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**André Allisy, born 9 March 1924, died 22 February 2017.**