



Microbe expert. John La Montagne, deputy director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), died on 2 November en route to a Pan American Health Organization meeting in Mexico City. The 61-year-old microbiologist was waiting in a passport line at the Mexico City airport when he collapsed suddenly. NIAID officials say he had no serious health problems, and the cause of death is as yet unknown.

Born in Mexico, La Montagne worked at NIAID on a wide range of infectious diseases including influenza, malaria, and tuberculosis. "He had an encyclopedic knowledge of microbiology," says Anthony Fauci, La Montagne's boss and longtime friend. "And he had to be one of the finest human beings anyone of us had ever met." La Montagne is survived by his wife of 35 years.

CREDIT: NIH/NIAID
