

Olivier Chesneau (1972-2014)

As a talented scientist, animated with a constant passion for astronomy, Olivier Chesneau led pioneering works using visible and infrared long-baseline interferometry. Olivier used this technique to study disk formation around varied astrophysical objects, such as evolved massive stars, planetary nebulae, and novae. His foremost results include the study of the close environment of Eta Carinae and other massive stars, the first direct detection of disks in planetary nebulae, finding evidences of dust bipolar ejections by novae shortly after eruption, and the discovery of the largest yellow hypergiant star in the Milky Way.

In May 2014 Olivier passed away at the age of 41. To honour his work in this field, his home institute, the Laboratoire J.-L. Lagrange at the Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur in France and the European Southern Observatory have established a prize in his memory.

