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After a residency in psychiatry, Rene joined the Air Force in, graduated in aerospace medicine and took up a military research position in from which he recently retired with the rank of General.

Rene has b involved in several major European research programs on human error and risk management and he pioneered the concepts of pilot's assistant, ecological safety, and Crew Resource Management. He was the first head of human factors and flight safety of the Joint Aviation Authorities.

In the 1990s Rene progressively diversified his research fields, studying risk management in the nuclear and oil industry, professional fishing, and public ground transportation. During this decade he has been chairman of the French national research program on road and railway safety..

In the late '90s, he undertook research in the medical field on medical errors, patient safety, system approach, and resilience. He has published more than 100 international papers and chapters, and authored or co-authored 10 books.

Rene lives in Paris, France.