

CERN accelerator physicist Roy Billinge died at his home on 31 July after a brief illness. Born in Buxton, England, Roy studied physics at King's College London and joined the UK Rutherford Laboratory in 1959, where he immediately became fascinated with building accelerators, playing an important role in bringing the 7 GeV NIMROD proton synchrotron into operation.

Roy came to CERN in 1966 for a year, seconded from the Rutherford Laboratory to the '300 GeV project' which went on to become the SPS proton accelerator. In 1967 he left to spend four years at the new Fermilab accelerator then being constructed under Bob Wilson. His task complete at the Fermilab 8 GeV Booster, he was asked by John Adams to lead the vital task of magnet construction for CERN's new SPS, at the age of 33 the youngest Group Leader in a young team.

Roy brought back to the Old World some of the spirit of adventure of the New, as well as a style of building a team into a family in which each member felt of equal importance. This became invaluable when the SPS was completed and he, together with Simon van der Meer, drew together diverse talents from all over CERN for the challenge of building the Antiproton Accumulator. Roy, always ready with a suggestion to simplify and resolve a setback, pushed the AA from approval in 1978 through to commissioning in 1980. As well as building a complex new machine in record time, this set CERN firmly on a new course.

For nine years (1982-90) he was Leader of the PS Division, ensuring that the PS, then already approaching accelerator middle age, could

