Eduardo Caianiello, one of the most distinguished personalities in Italian physics, died in Naples on 22 October aged 72. His life was dominated by science, with a wide range of interests but always devoted to fundamental problems. His contributions to quantum field theory, in particular to the analysis of Feynman graphs using permanents and determinants were hailed as revelations of beauty and clarity. His pioneering work in neural networks (Caianiello’s equations) already belongs to the literature of the field. He died while completing with his coworkers a study of the implications of the hypothesis of the proper maximal acceleration of a massive particle.

A tireless organizer, he founded and promoted many Italian institutions, the last being the International Institute for Advanced Studies (IIASS) in Vietri sul Mare which hosts important international meetings and is active in neural network research.

With him we lose a protagonist and a witness of one of the most exciting and rich periods in modern physics. Those who had the privilege of knowing him were aware of his deep wisdom and humanity. He embodied the soul of his land to which he was always faithful and linked by profound love.

From Sergio Fubini, Alberto Giovannini and Maria Marinaro.