Peter A. Carruthers died at the age of 61 in his home in Tucson, Arizona on 3 August. His career as a theoretical physicist spanned a remarkably broad spectrum ranging from elementary particles and field theory to condensed matter physics, astrophysics and nonlinear dynamics. In the past few years he had become an acknowledged leader in the area of multiparticle production.

After a PhD in theoretical physics from Cornell in 1961 under Hans Bethe, he joined Cornell and rapidly climbed to full professor. He supervised many outstanding PhD students and post-doctoral fellows, many of whom have had distinguished careers. In 1973 he became Leader of Los Alamos Theoretical Division, where he had a major impact on its growth, reputation, and scientific excellence. He attracted many outstanding scientists and established a highly visible broadly-based basic research programme of international repute.

In 1980, he stepped down from the Division Leadership to return to research. He was named a Senior Fellow of the Laboratory and became the Leader of the Elementary Particle and Field Theory Group. In 1986 Pete moved to Arizona as Professor and Head of the Physics Department and, later, as Director of the Center for the Study of Complex Systems. Together with Murray Gell-Mann and others he was instrumental in creating the much-heralded Santa Fe Institute. Peter was an eloquent ; spokesman for the Supercollider, and for the importance of basic research across all of science. He was a man of ideas, an accomplished musician