Roger F. Dashen of the University of California, San Diego, and Department Chair there from 1988-1994, died suddenly on 24 May. Before going to San Diego in 1986, Dashen was for 20 years at Princeton’s Institute for Advanced Study, first as Long Term Member (on leave from Caltech) and then as Professor.

A widely respected and much loved theorist, Dashen made important contributions to particle theory, statistical mechanics, and applications of path integrals. He was involved in pioneering work on current algebras, on which he produced, with Stephen Adler, an influential book. Dashen helped initiate use of chiral SU_3 x SU_2 as a strong interaction symmetry and was a coinventor of chiral Lagrangians. In recent work with collaborators at San Diego, he obtained important consistency conditions for the pion-baryon couplings in large-N QCD.

In statistical physics, Dashen showed how to relate the partition function to S-matrix elements, and how simulation studies could be used to bound the higgs mass (or the energy scale for new physics). He applied path integrals both to uncovering the complex substructure of the vacuum in QCD, and to making seminal contributions to the theory of sound propagation in random media.

He was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in 1984 and was an active participant in the JASON summer study. To a generation of colleagues, he will be remembered as a stimulating collaborator and a steady source of innovative ideas.

From Stephen L. Adler