Theodorus J. Sluyters

Theodorus J. Sluyters, who retired at the end of June after 27 years at Brookhaven, died of a heart attack on 17 November while vacationing in his native Holland. He was 63 years old. Sluyters had many friends in Laboratories all over the world. He earned his physics PhD at Amsterdam in 1958. After working at the F.O.M.-Laboratory in Amsterdam, and then at CERN, he joined Brookhaven in 1964. In 1971-72 he was visiting professor at the KEK Laboratory in Japan. Sluyters was a member of the Dutch Physical Society, the British Interplanetary Society, and the American Physical Society.

In the early 1970s Sluyters and his colleagues at Brookhaven began working on the development of ion sources. Pioneer work on negative hydrogen ion (H-) sources suggested a superior injection technique for high energy accelerators. This programme soon showed that negative ions of hydrogen isotopes can also have applications for plasma heating of fusion devices. Negative ion injection has since become a standard technique at proton accelerators, making possible, for example, a doubling of the Brookhaven Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS) beam intensity. Later the group built a spin-polarized H- source for experiments with polarized protons at the AGS.

Sluyters was a forceful organizer of people and events. In 1971 he organized the first Symposium on Ion Sources and Formation of Ion Beams, and from 1977 he and his colleagues have sponsored a broader Symposium, held every three years at Brookhaven, on the Production and Neutralization of Negative Ions and Beams; these meetings have become the most important on the subject worldwide.

In 1983 Sluyters became deputy head, and in 1986 head of the AGS Accelerator Division, overseeing the longterm upgrade programme to prepare the AGS for higher intensity operation and heavy ion operation with the new Booster. From 1990 until his retirement he was Deputy Chairman of the AGS Department.

With unbounded energy and enthusiasm, Sluyters was a generous colleague and friend. He chose early retirement with extensive plans to enjoy many years of travelling. His sudden death left his many friends shocked, with a deep feeling of loss. He was buried in Amsterdam on 21 November.

His colleagues