Outstanding high-energy experimental physicist Vladimir L. Solovianov died suddenly on 26 June at the age of 60 as a result of a tragic accident.

Born on 17 December 1940 in Dnepropetrovsk in the Ukraine, Solovianov received his diploma degree in physics at Moscow State University in 1964. That year he began his 37 year career at the Institute for High Energy Physics in Protvino, where he earned his candidate (PhD) and doctorate degrees in high-energy spin physics.

Early in his career, Solovianov helped to create the hodoscope detectors for one of the first elastic scattering experiments at the 70 GeV U-70 accelerator. He then made important contributions to the IHEP-SEN (Saclay) experiment, which made precision measurements of Coulomb-nuclear-interference cross-sections, inclusive cross-sections and spin-polarization effects. He was also a co-author of the key discovery at U-70 in the late 1960s for evidence of an increase in the proton’s radius in high-energy strong interactions.

During the past 15 years, Solovianov was a leader in developing three spin-polarization experiments: NEPTUN at the 400 GeV - 3 TeV UNK, and RAMPEX and SPIN@U-70 at the 70 GeV U-70. These experiments form a major part of the Russia-US Physics Collaboration Program in Russia and a major part of IHEP-Protvino’s large Polarization Program.

Solovianov was an unusually active and talented physicist. He also made significant contributions to several other CERN-Russia and US-Russia experiments, such as the SPS high-energy elastic polarization experiment at CERN and the E-704 lambda-decay polarized-proton experiment at Fermilab.

His death occurred while he was, as usual, working too many hours each day to ensure that his new and well loved SPIN@U-70 polarized high-momentum-transfer elastic proton-proton scattering experiment would be fully installed and ready to take data in the 70 GeV extracted beam in March 2002. His many colleagues in Russia and around the world will remember him as an outstanding scientist and a wise and loyal friend.