Dubravko Tadić 1934–2003

Dubravko Tadić, a leading figure in Croatian particle physics, passed away on 6 February. Born in Zagreb in 1934, Tadić graduated from the University of Zagreb in 1958, during the time of Vladimir Glaser, Borivoj Jaksic and Gaja Alaga. He studied for his PhD under Alaga on problems in nuclear beta decay and the structure of weak interactions, and then developed his research in parity violation, and in particular in parity-violating nuclear interactions. Subsequently, his main field of research became elementary particle physics, specifically electroweak interactions and quark models.

Tadić began his international career in Birmingham at the time of Rudolf Peierls, and later worked at Brookhaven. He continued his connection with international science throughout his life, but unfortunately did not live to see his dream of Croatia becoming a full CERN member state.

Tadić had a leading role in academic life in Zagreb and Croatia, and became the leader of a research group at the Rudjer Boskovic Institute early on in his career. He then became head of the theory division at the Faculty of Sciences (PMF—Zagreb) and a member of the Croatian Academy. Tadić introduced particle physics to many physicists who are now leaders in Croatian science, and he always shared his joy of research with collaborators and in particular with younger colleagues. The style and standard by which he influenced the young researchers was often recognized as “the Zagreb school”.

Tadić accepted the challenge that questioned whether high-quality scientific work could still be done in a small country that suffers from a huge brain drain. He instigated numerous conferences in nuclear and particle physics in Croatia including, among others, the well-established series of “Adriatic meetings”. He was also extremely supportive of the development of particle physics in Split and of participation in the CMS experiment. Dubravko Tadić will be deeply missed by the physics community and by his collaborators and friends.

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