Distinguished Russian theorist Igor M. Ternov died on April 12 after a sudden heart attack. A World War II veteran, he graduated from Moscow State University in 1951 and spent his entire career there. A world renowned expert in the theory of synchrotron radiation, Igor Ternov was the author of more than 300 scientific papers, 5 monographs and 10 textbooks. He developed a new field - the theory of quantum processes in strong external fields based on exact solutions of relativistic wave equations. His investigations led him to the discovery of new quantum effects in macroscopic particle motion: quantum fluctuations of electron trajectories in accelerators, the effect of radiative polarization of electrons and positrons in a magnetic field (Sokolov-Ternov effect), dynamic character of the electron anomalous magnetic moment, "spin light", etc.

An outstanding organizer of education and research at MSU, the chairman of MSU Physical Society, and for 15 years the vice-rector of MSU, he was first the head of quantum theory, then of the theoretical physics departments.

Although he said, self-deprecatingly, that he did not have a good feel for experiments, he took a lively interest in new developments and attended many of the biennial high energy spin physics symposia. He is reported to have been 'delighted' that the spin effects he helped predict have been put to good use at LEP at CERN and at HERA at DESY. A brilliant lecturer, he was popular with many generations of students. Igor Ternov was a warm-hearted man with a highly developed sense of humour, always ready to extend help. He lives in the memory of all of those who worked with and admired him, and his scientific school will remain as a lasting monument.