Professor Veksler

Professor Vladimir Veksler, one of the leading scientists from the USSR, died on 22 September. His outstanding contributions to the theory of particle accelerators won him international fame and respect.

Vladimir Veksler was born on 4 March 1907. In 1931, he graduated from the Moscow Institute of Energetics and began research at the All Union Electrotechnical Institute. He moved in 1938 to the Institute of Physics of the USSR Academy of Sciences until 1958 when he joined the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (Dubna). He remained there, as Director of the high-energy laboratory over the 10 GeV proton accelerator, until his death. He was made Academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences and eventually became Chairman of the Department of Nuclear Physics in the Academy.

His research included experimental techniques in X-ray physics, cosmic rays, isotopes, and counters. But the work which has written Veksler's name in the history books of science is his contribution to the theory of accelerators. In 1944, he published a paper in Doklady Akad. Nauk SSSR on 'phase stability', a principle which is fundamental to the operation of our present day high energy synchro-cyclotrons and synchrotrons. The 'Atoms for Peace' prize in 1963 was awarded to Professor Veksler and Professor McMillan of Berkeley, who published his independent work on phase stability at almost the same time, for their contributions to accelerator theory. Professor Veksler also received the 'Lenin Prize', the highest honour in the Soviet Union.

Professor Veksler visited CERN several times and has been a prominent figure among the Soviet scientists at high energy physics and accelerator conferences for many years.