Horst Wachsmuth, well known for his work over many years as a physicist at CERN, passed away after succumbing to cancer on 8 September.

Horst came to CERN in the early 1960s and started work in the Nuclear Physics Apparatus Division. This division was mainly concerned with the construction of the neutrino beams that would be used with the 1.2 m heavy-liquid bubble chamber, to carry out the first-ever, bubble-chamber neutrino experiments. Horst immediately became interested in the difficult problem of calculating the exact energy distribution of the neutrino beam and also measuring the absolute neutrino flux. To do this he developed a method of measuring the muon flux in the neutrino shielding at various depths and radial positions. These techniques were continuously developed and refined over the subsequent 20 years.

He participated in almost all of the bubble-chamber neutrino experiments at CERN, including the famous discovery of neutral weak currents with Gargamelle. In addition, the important discovery that the neutrino cross-section increases linearly with energy, therefore confirming the quark model, could be made only because of the meticulous calculations of the neutrino spectra and fluxes that Horst undertook. However, it was not only at CERN that he participated in neutrino experiments. As one of the first to do so, he fought for his two sabbatical leaves, both of which took him to the University of Wisconsin to work on experiments at Fermilab.

During the final years of his activities in neutrino physics, Horst joined the ALEPH collaboration, where he filled many functions from testbeam coordinator to CERN team leader. He also started a new activity, which he energetically pursued until his death: analysing cosmic-ray events using ALEPH and the other LEP detectors, as well as dedicated
stations around the ALEPH underground areas. His dedication to the CosmoALEPH experiment encouraged a small team of colleagues to continue working in close collaboration with him, which contributed significantly to the understanding of cosmic rays that penetrate underground.

Horst's activities at CERN outside research earned him the respect of his colleagues. An early member of the staff association, he participated in the five-yearly review in 1974 and worked on the improvement of working conditions in several committees. By the late 1980s his efforts led to improved conditions both for young scientists and for visitors.

Outside his direct work for CERN, Horst was very concerned about ecology and the intelligent use of energy. He studied human ecology in 1975 at Geneva University, analysing energy problems together with colleagues in the European Physical Society (EPS) during the 1990s, resulting in his organizing the EPS study conference Economy–Energy–Entropy, at CERN in 1996.

Last but not least, he was known to all at CERN, and many beyond, through Picked-Up for You, which he published for many years and which was eagerly read by many to keep abreast of scientific news in all fields.

At the beginning of Horst’s career at CERN, Simon van der Meer wrote an assessment, characterizing him perfectly: “Doesn’t work for me, but good and intelligent and does support and research work. He is a very good man and it would be a pity to lose him. Excellent relationships with other people.”

Horst’s devotion to his work and the good of his colleagues and the environment in every respect won him the warm regard and admiration of all who know him. He will be sorely missed.

His colleagues and friends.