Research physicist Alan Wetherell joined CERN in June 1959, and went on to participate in a series of early experiments by a group working at the then new Proton Synchrotron. After studies at the Serpukhov accelerator in Protvino in the late 1960s and at the start-up of CERN's Intersecting Storage Rings in the early 1970s, Alan Wetherell became head of this group when Giuseppe Cocconi became a Director of CERN. The group became interested in weak interactions and joined with Klaus Winter to form the CHARM neutrino collaboration (CERN-Hamburg-Amsterdam-Rome-Moscow). Alan was appointed CERN's Experimental Physics Division Leader in 1981 and served for three and a half years. Subsequently he joined Ugo Amaldi and Jim Allaby in the Delphi collaboration at LEP, eventually taking responsibility for the hadron calorimeter which was mainly constructed under his guidance by a Russian team. His election as a Fellow of the UK Royal Society (FRS) signifies distinguished contributions to physics.

Alan Wetherell 1932–1998

CERN senior research physicist Alan Wetherell died on 13 September. After studies at Liverpool and a period at Caltech, he came to CERN in 1959, going on to participate in a series of experiments at the then new Proton Synchrotron. After work at Serpukhov in the late 60s and at CERN's Intersecting Storage Rings in the early 70s, he became head of this group when Giuseppe Cocconi became a CERN Director. The group shifted to weak interactions and joined with Klaus Winter for the CHARM (CERN/Hamburg/Amsterdam/Rome/Moscow) experiment.

He was appointed Leader of CERN's Experimental Physics Division in 1981, and served for three-and-a-half years. Subsequently he joined Ugo Amaldi and Jim Allaby in the Delphi collaboration at LEP, eventually taking responsibility for the hadron calorimeter which was built under his guidance by a Russian team.

In 1971 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS). He was also a visiting professor at Liverpool. He formally retired from CERN in December 1997.