Gian Carlo Wick, celebrated and prolific theorist, died in his home town of Turin on 20 April at the age of 82 after a remarkably long, productive career. After short spells with Heisenberg's group in Leipzig and Born's group in Göttingen, he moved to Rome in 1932 to begin physics with Enrico Fermi. Here he wrote his famous paper on the magnetic moment on the rotating hydrogen molecule, and went on to address a range of important topical questions, including the implications of Fermi's picture of weak interactions for positron emission.

After Fermi left Italy for the United States in 1938, Wick was invited to take the vacant professorial chair at Rome, where he played a vital role in the developments leading up to the discovery of what eventually came to be known as the muon.

After the War, Wick went to the United States, eventually settling at Columbia in 1965. In the US he continued his prolific output, in 1950 producing the famous 'Wick Theorem', a vital part of quantum electrodynamics perturbation formalism. In 1959, with Maurice Jacob (later to come to CERN) he developed the famous helicity formalism for handling collision problems. Later, with T.D. Lee at Columbia, he developed the theory of pion condensates. In 1967 he was awarded the prestigious Dannie Heineman Prize of the American Institute of Physics for his contributions to quantum field theory, for his investigation of the theory of scattering of particles with spin, and his deep analysis of physics symmetry principles. After retiring from Columbia in 1978, he returned to Italy to teach at Pisa.