Distinguished Dutch theorist
Siegfried A. Wouthuysen died on 9 July.

Born in Amsterdam, he moved with his family to Antwerp in Belgium and studied chemical engineering at Ghent. Returning to the Netherlands, his theoretical physics studies with H.A. Kramers were interrupted by the war. Continuing physics as best he could, he managed to communicate to Kramers a curious property of analytically-continued quantum amplitudes showing poles, which he interpreted as bound states. After the war, he followed Kramers’ advice and went to Berkeley for a PhD with J. Robert Oppenheimer, subsequently moving to Princeton in Oppenheimer’s wake. However his thesis had to be presented in Berkeley, and an overland car trip with Lesley Foldy resulted in the famous Foldy-Wouthuysen transformation.

Despite this success in the US, Wouthuysen preferred to continue his career in the Netherlands, where he established a school of Theoretical Physics in Amsterdam in 1950. He realized very early the importance of CERN, where he served as a national delegate from 1961-79 and was a member of the Scientific Policy Committee from 1963-74. He was a member of the Belgian Academy of Sciences and doctor honoris causa at Ghent. His colleagues and numerous students ensure that his memory remains alive.