

LEV D. SOLOVIEV

1934–2003

(Presented by S. Troshin, IHEP, Protvino)

Lev D. Soloviev, an outstanding Russian theoretical physicist and director of the Institute for High Energy Physics (IHEP) in Protvino, Russia, from 1974 to 1993, passed away on 6 July 2003 after a long illness.

Soloviev's scientific career began in 1956 in the Steklov Institute in Moscow, Russia's famous centre of mathematics, after graduating with excellent results from Moscow State University and following a post-graduate course. When his scientific interests became focused on nuclear physics, he began to work at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) in Dubna.

Soloviev then moved to IHEP–Protvino soon after its creation in 1963 to construct the 70 GeV U-70 proton accelerator. This was the world's highest energy facility until CERN's Intersecting Storage Rings and Fermilab began operation in the early 1970s. At IHEP he continued his theoretical research, and his notable uses of modern mathematics in high-energy physics soon became recognized in the scientific world. These included the theory of low-energy photoproduction and electroproduction, the S-matrix theory of high-energy electromagnetic interactions, and relativistic string theory. Soloviev's name is also connected with the famous finite-energy sum rules, which served as a basis for the creation of the duality concept, and then superstring theory.

Soloviev was a scientist of rare ability. He combined distinguished scientific work with 19 years' service as director of the IHEP, Russia's largest high-energy physics institute. During those years, IHEP was developing both its experimental and accelerator capabilities. Soloviev constantly paid great attention to the further improvement of scientific personnel in what was then the USSR and is now Russia. There were many talented scientists among his students who gained fame both in Russia and abroad. One major factor in this success was the example he set of high scientific and personal standards. His many contributions to the development of science were highly valued by his home country.

After his term as director, Soloviev continued as IHEP's senior scientist. Despite his grave illness, he continued both his well-loved physics research and his teaching as chairman of the Moscow Physical–Technical Institute's branch in Protvino, until almost the last day of his life.

Soloviev was also a leading figure in the international high-energy physics community. He was one of the first young Soviet physicists to make an extended stay at the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen. From 1976 to 1982 he served as a member and then from 1982 to 1984 as chairman of the IUPAP's Commission on Particles and Fields. In 1977 he was a founding member of the International Committee for High Energy Spin Physics Symposia, and became its first Russian honorary member in 2002. Moreover, he chaired the first Russian Spin Physics Symposium, which was held at IHEP–Protvino in 1986. After a long period of strained East–West relations, this historic symposium served as a model for further scientific cooperation. When his directorship ended, Soloviev became a

visiting professor at the University of Michigan, where he wrote some significant papers on theoretical spin physics.

The best memorial for Lev Soloviev will come from the similar work of all those who knew and respected him, and who will try to follow his example.

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