

OBITUARIES

Luis Masperi 1940–2003

Luis Masperi, who was director of the Latin American Centre for Physics (CLAF), passed away on 2 December 2003 after a short illness. Born in Spoleto, Italy, Masperi was raised in Argentina and became an Argentinean citizen. Following a doctorate from the National University of Cuyo in 1969, he became a theoretical physicist of international renown. From 1982 to 1984 he served as president of the Argentinean Physical Society, but he also maintained links with his native Italy through numerous visits and in particular a lifelong relationship with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste. From 1998, as director of CLAF, he worked tirelessly to promote links between Latin American physicists and the global physics community. A notable

success was the organization of the first CERN–CLAF School of High Energy Physics in 2001.

Masperi's international reputation rested not only on his research, but also on his dedication to world peace. In 1992 he shared the American Physical Society's Forum Award with fellow Latin American physicists Luis Pinguelli Rosa, Alberto Ridner and Fernando de Sousa Barros, for efforts in persuading Argentina and Brazil to abandon their nuclear weapons programmes; and from 1999 to 2002 he was a member of the Pugwash Council.

His boundless energy and enthusiasm for what he believed in will be sorely missed by all of those who worked with him and shared his ideals.

Juan-Antonio Rubio, CERN.

