

Sergio Fubini, who was on the MIT physics faculty from 1967-1973, died in Geneva, Switzerland on 6 January 2005 at the age of 76. Fubini was an eminent physicist, with roots at the University of Turin, Italy, where he held a professorship while also working at MIT, and afterwards at CERN as a member of the directorate. During his years at MIT Fubini, together with his colleague and compatriot Gabriele Veneziano, founded and developed the physical and mathematical principles of string theory, which today is the most active area of investigation in fundamental physics. Veneziano and Fubini formed a research center at MIT, to which were attracted physicists from many countries, especially from Italy. This tradition survived Fubini's departure, and these days is maintained by an exchange program administered and funded by the Italian Nuclear Physics Institute and by MIT. After retiring from CERN, Fubini used his international standing in physics to promote peace in the Middle East. To this end, he organized in 1995 a very successful meeting in Dahab, Egypt, which brought together Arab, Israeli and Western physicists. Also he started a process that culminated in Germany donating an electron-synchotron to the Middle East region, with the hope that it would bring people together, just as CERN did in post-World War II Europe. While one cannot say that these initiatives have as yet succeeded, they are vivid evidence for Fubini's scientific activity, social conscience and humane values. He was recognized by the Heineman Prize, by an honorary degree of Heidelberg University and by a medal from the Italian Government. Fubini is survived by his wife Marina and daughter Emma Kursner.