

# Chicago Tribune

April 23, 1994

Saturday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

## **ROGER SPERRY, 80 STUDIED FUNCTIONS OF HUMAN BRAIN**

By Kenan Heise, Tribune Staff Writer.

Roger W. Sperry, 80, a Nobel laureate and professor emeritus of psychobiology at the **California Institute of Technology**, was honored for his research in right-side, left-side brain functions and learning. He was a former professor at the University of Chicago, where he had received his doctorate in zoology.

A resident of Pasadena, Calif., he died Sunday in Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena.

Professor Sperry, a native of Hartford, Conn., received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Oberlin College. He earned his doctorate at the U. of C. in 1941. During World War II, his military duty involved medical research on nerve injuries.

He taught after the war, first as an assistant professor and then an associate professor at the U. of C. He then was section chief for neurological diseases and blindness at the National Institute of Health and was a professor at **Cal Tech** from 1954 to 1984.

Through study of animals and human patients who had had the connections between the right and left sides of their brains severed, he demonstrated the functions of the two hemispheres of the brain. His research and observations helped establish concepts now regularly taught in the areas of art, education and philosophy.

Other work he did explained how neurons use chemical codes to grow, assemble and organize themselves following hereditary patterns.

Professor Sperry shared the 1981 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine with David Hubel and Torsten Wiesel. He also received the National Medal of Science, the Wolf Prize in Medicine and the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award.

Survivors include his wife, Norma; a son, Glenn; a daughter, Janeth; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Services are pending.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO; PHOTO: Roger W. Sperry in 1979.