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# Agence France Presse

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Sperry, Nobel prize winner in medicine, dead at 80

DATELINE: PASADENA, California, April 20

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Roger Wolcott Sperry, a neurobiologist who shared the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1981, has died of a heart attack at his home here. He was 80.

Sperry, who suffered from a degenerative neuromuscular disease, died Sunday, said a spokesman for the **California Institute of Technology**, where he was Board of Trustees Emeritus Professor of Psychobiology.

He was best known for his work with patients who had undergone operations in which the brain's hemispheres were severed. The operations were performed in the 1960s to treat epilepsy.

His work defined the function of the corpus callosum, a bundle of nerve fibers that Sperry determined acted to transmit information between the right and left sides of the brain.

The Nobel committee cited Sperry for "his discoveries of the specialization of both cerebral hemispheres" and the development "of an entirely new dimension in our comprehension of the higher functions of the brain."

He shared the Nobel with two Harvard researchers, Torsten Wiesel and David Hubel.