
Roger Sperry, 80

Nobel Prize winner VII-15

REUTERS

PASADENA, Calif - Nobel Prize winner Roger Sperry, a pioneer in research of the brain's two hemispheres, has died at the age of 80, a former colleague said yesterday.

Norman Davidson of the California Institute of Technology, where Mr. Sperry worked from 1954 to 1984, said Mr. Sperry died Sunday at Huntington Memorial Hospital after suffering from muscular dystrophy for many years.

Mr. Sperry won the Nobel Prize for medicine-physiology in 1981 for his research involving "split-brain" patients - those who had had the connection between the left and right hemispheres of their brain surgically cut. His work showed how the two hemispheres function, separately and together, and continues to have important implications for medicine, education and philosophy.

Mr. Sperry, who was born in Hartford, was a professor of psychobiology at the California Institute of Technology.

In addition to the Nobel prize, Mr. Sperry also received the National Medal of Science in 1989 from then-President George Bush, as well as the Wolf Prize in Medicine and the California Scientist of the Year Award, both in 1972.

Mr. Sperry leaves a wife, Norma, a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

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