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## Obituaries

# Roger Sperry, 80; awarded Nobel for brain research

REUTERS

PASADENA, Calif. — Roger Sperry, 80, a Nobel Prize-winning pioneer in research of the brain's two hemispheres, died Sunday.

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

Dr. 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 brain hemispheres surgically cut.

His work showed how the two hemispheres function, separately and together, and continues to have important implications for medicine,

education and philosophy.

Dr. Sperry was a professor of psychobiology at the California Institute of Technology. Davidson, a fellow professor, praised his former colleague as "one of the premier experimental neurobiologists of his time."

Dr. Sperry, who was born in Hartford, Conn., also received the National Medal of Science in 1989, as well as the Wolf Prize in Medicine and the California Scientist of the Year Award, both in 1972.

He turned his attention from neurobiology to philosophy later in his career.

Dr. Sperry earned a bachelor's in English literature and a master's in psychology from Oberlin College. He earned a doctorate in zoology from Chicago University.