

Burton Richter, a Nobel Winner for Plumbing Matter, Dies at 87

By [Kenneth Chang](#)

July 23, 2018

Burton Richter, whose discovery of an unexpected particle revealed a new building block of matter and brought him a share of the 1976 Nobel Prize in Physics, died on Wednesday at Stanford Hospital in Stanford, Calif. He was 87.

The cause was heart failure, according to a statement by the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park, Calif., which Dr. Richter led for 15 years in the 1980s and '90s.

Dr. Richter was the rare particle physicist who possessed a broad expertise both in the engineering of how accelerators slam together subatomic particles at near-light speeds and in understanding what comes out of those collisions.

“Burt was very different,” said Samuel C. C. Ting, the M.I.T. physicist who shared the Nobel with Dr. Richter. “I know of no one else” like him.

[Show Full Article](#)