

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ASIM BARUT 1926-1994

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One of the major participants in the Workshop is no longer with us. Professor Asim O. Barut of the University of Colorado, Boulder, passed away at the age of 68. During his forty-plus years after his doctoral degree, Barut wrote more than five hundred scientific papers and several books on a wide range of topics. He had always been interested in basic questions and returned to fundamental questions again and again. His knowledge and facility with group representations has flavored his work over the years; and, in turn, he was able to bring out the relevance of geometric and algebraic theorems in the context of physics. His work on group theory was not only with abstract questions but to practical ends like computing matrix elements of various dynamical variables between atomic wave functions. He was equally at home in particle physics, relativity and atomic physics.

Apart from his extensive research work and research collaborations, Barut was a master expositor of great elegance. That he could do so in many languages and many geographic locations made him a well-known lecturer all over the world.

Asim Barut was one of the most gracious and courteous people that I have known. To discuss with him was to learn; to disagree with him was to have him patiently go over his reasons for his conclusions. Even as he told of his mean "colleague" who attacked him personally, he did it without bitterness, almost with a smile on his lips.

At the interdisciplinary discussions at this Workshop, Asim Barut was a key participant since he could see it from different perspectives and relate them to each other. We shall miss him from amongst us.