



European Organization for Nuclear Research
Organisation européenne pour la recherche nucléaire

Dr Fabiola Gianotti
Director-General
CERN
CH – 1211 Geneva 23

Tel. direct: + 41 22 767 2300
Tel. secretariat: + 41 22 767 5160 /1540
Telefax: + 41 22 767 8995
Email: dg.office@cern.ch

Professor James Stirling CBE FRS
Provost
Imperial College
South Kensington Campus
London SW7 2AZ
United Kingdom

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Dear James,

It was with great sadness that I learned today of Tom Kibble's passing. I count myself as privileged to have had the opportunity to meet him in Edinburgh soon after the Nobel Prize had been awarded to Peter Higgs and François Englert. I found Tom to be a lovely man: kind, modest and gracious. Our field has lost a great scientist, and a true gentleman.

It is, of course, a sign of the esteem in which the field held him that Tom was a central part of Edinburgh's celebration of Peter Higgs, standing alongside Higgs and Englert as one of the pioneers of the Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism. That is what he will be remembered for, but his influence on the field runs much deeper. He pioneered the extension of spontaneous symmetry breaking to non-Abelian gauge theories of the type appearing in the Standard Model, and he also pioneered the studies of cosmic strings and monopoles. He was a great theoretical physicist, contributing greatly to our understanding of particles, their interactions and the cosmos.

Please pass on my condolences on behalf of CERN to his family and all who knew him. He will be sorely missed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fabiola Gianotti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fabiola Gianotti
Director-General