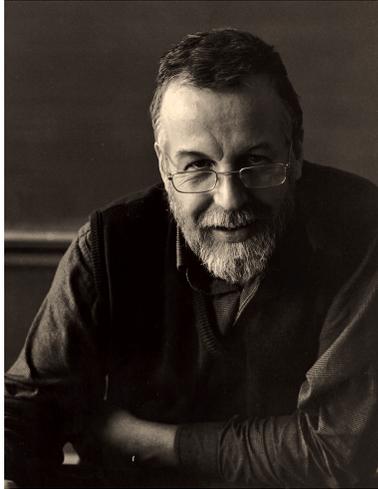


## About the author



Dr. Richard Wigmans (1948), a native of the Netherlands, obtained academic degrees in Physics, Mathematics, Astronomy and Economics at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. In 1975 he was awarded a Ph.D. in Physics for an experimental study of the production and decay of short-lived nuclides in the  $Z \sim 50$  region. As a graduate student, he developed a facility for the very fast ( $\sim 1$  minute) production of chemically and isotopically pure sources. Thanks to this facility, he was able to determine the decay properties of some 10  $\beta^+$ -unstable nuclei in great detail. Moreover, he discovered several previously unknown tellurium isotopes ( $^{112}\text{Te}$ ,  $^{113}\text{Te}$  and  $^{115m}\text{Te}$ ).

In 1975 Dr. Wigmans decided to switch from nuclear to particle physics. In the next 17 years, he worked alternatingly at the Dutch National Institute for High Energy Physics (NIKHEF) in Amsterdam and at the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Genève, Switzerland, in different capacities.

Early in his tenure at CERN, Dr. Wigmans was primarily involved in research on heavy-ion scattering in the framework of the HELIOS experiment. Inspired by problems encountered in the HELIOS calorimeters, he increasingly engaged in both theoretical and experimental studies of the fundamental aspects of calorimetry, in particular of the *compensation* mechanism. In 1987, he initiated SPACAL, a detector R&D project in which the compensating lead/scintillating-fiber technology was developed. Under his leadership, an international collaboration of  $\sim 50$  physicists, engineers and technicians built a 20-ton generic prototype calorimeter and studied its (record setting) performance in great detail. In 1990 he initiated and served as spokesman for the RD1 project, a detector R&D project intended to study the merits of this type of detector in high-luminosity experiments.

In 1992 Dr. Wigmans relocated to the United States. Attracted by the prospect of the Superconducting Supercollider (SSC), under construction near Waxahachie at that time, and driven by the desire to work in a teaching environment after having spent 20 years in full-time research, he accepted a faculty position at Texas Tech University, where he holds the J. Fred and Odetta Greer Bucy Chair in Physics. The research group he started at TTU is currently involved in experiments at Fermilab (CDF) and at CERN (CMS), as well as in several detector R&D projects.

Based on his personal contributions to the development of the field, Dr. Wigmans is considered one of the world's leading experts on calorimetry.