

ICAM Remembers Stephen Berry

R. Stephen Berry, University of Chicago chemist, path-breaking interdisciplinary scientist and founding ICAM member, died July 26 age 89.

Berry, a chemist by profession, was a pioneer of complex adaptive matter, and his theoretical work ranged far and wide across science, from his early work in sustainable energy to his work on finite-time thermodynamics: he believed deeply in the interdisciplinary frontier of science.

Steve Berry was a co-founder of the Telluride Science Research Center. He had a long involvement with the Aspen Center for Physics. Berry became an enthusiastic supporter of ICAM from its founding meeting in 1999, and we knew him for his enthusiasm for science, linking the frontiers of physics, chemistry and biology.

“He wanted scientists to not just remain in ivory towers, but to change the world,” said Carla Friedman Berry, his wife of 65 years, [1] “For him, science was an instrument to better the world”. ICAM honored him on the occasion of his 80th birthday at its annual meeting in Hangzhou, 2011. Stephen was a tireless contributor to the ICAM Science Steering Committee and participated in our 2020 annual meeting, literally days before his passing.

We miss him dearly and remember him fondly.

[1] <https://news.uchicago.edu/story/r-stephen-berry-one-most-influential-chemists-his-generation-1931-2020>



Steve Berry, cutting the cake on the occasion of his 80th birthday, in Hangzhou, China, April 2011.