

Samuel Krinsky

Died: Saturday, April 26, 2014

Samuel Krinsky, 69, of East Setauket died on April 26 shortly after a diagnosis of a malignant brain tumor.

A senior physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, he was one of a small group of scientists at BNL who began their efforts in 1976 to design and commission the National Synchrotron Light Source, the first U.S. accelerator designed and built from the ground up as an X-ray facility.

Krinsky translated the physics of his National Synchrotron Light Source X-ray ring design into specifications for its construction and led the effort to turn it into one of the nation's most productive major research facilities.

His research spanned a broad range of beam physics, and he authored some 160 publications.

His work on synchrotron radiation has made possible a proliferation of research facilities based on X-ray free-electron lasers. He was a recipient of the 2008 Free Electron Laser Prize.

Krinsky was born in Brooklyn in 1945. He earned a bachelor of science degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in high energy theory from Yale University.

Krinsky and his wife, Faith, a high school English teacher, instilled in their children, Benjamin and Sylvia, a love of learning and a sense of playful inquiry.

In 1999 Benjamin passed away due to the same brain cancer that took his father.

Donations may be made to MIT, payable to The Benjamin and Samuel Krinsky Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Fund. The purpose of the fund is to inspire basic research into the origins of glioblastoma multiforme — a malignant tumor.