

Physicist Abdus Salam; shared Nobel Prize in '79

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LONDON — Theoretical physicist Abdus Salam, the son of Punjabi peasants who went on to win a Nobel Prize, died Thursday at his home in Oxford, England. He was 70.

The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of London, where he taught for 36 years, did not give a cause of death.

"Salam ranked in the top 10, maybe the top five of all physicists of this century," said Dr. John Hassard, a colleague.

Mr. Salam shared the 1979 Nobel Prize for physics with U.S. professors Sheldon Glashow and Steven Weinberg of Harvard University for pioneering work on unifying two of the forces governing the behavior of matter — the

electromagnetic force and the weak nuclear force.

He gave his share of the prize money to an international fund for young scientists.

Deeply committed to the development of science in the developing world, Mr. Salam founded the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Italy in 1964 to further that goal.

Mr. Salam, who won a scholarship to study science at Cambridge University in England, was the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards, including an honorary knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. Salam lived in Oxford with his wife, Louise Johnson. They had one child. Friends said that he also had four children with his first wife.