

Vesa Ruuskanen and the Hard Probes Cafe



Highlights of Vesa's Career

- MSc (1964) and PhD (1970) from the University of Helsinki
- Research Fellow, Iowa State University (67-68)
- CERN Fellow (71-72)
- Visiting Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (86-87)
- University of Jyvaskyla (72 on), Department Chair (87-90)
- Chair of Finnish Physical Society (78-79)
- Member of NORDITA Board, Copenhagen (94-98)
- Director of Finnish National Graduate School in Particle and Nuclear Physics (95-98)

Before the Hard Probes Collaboration

- Vesa was a coauthor of one of the first papers on photon emission from a QGP (Kajantie and Ruuskanen, Phys. Lett. B121 (1983) 352)
- He was an expert on hydrodynamics in ultrarelativistic heavy-ion collisions (Kajantie, Raitio and Ruuskanen, Nucl. Phys. B222 (1983) 152, and many more to follow)
- He studied many aspects of thermal dilepton emission, including transverse flow (Phys. Rev. D34 (1986) 811)
- With Gordon Baym and Peter Braun-Munzinger, he studied transverse energy production in pA and AB collisions (Phys. Lett. B190 (1987) 29), one of the dominant centrality measures of the fixed-target heavy-ion program
- He even studied J/ψ suppression (with Helmut Satz, Z. Phys. C37 (1988) 623)

Life at the Hard Probes Cafe

- Formed working groups at first CERN meeting, Vesa was a natural for Drell-Yan dileptons (with Gavin, Gupta, Kauffman, Srivastava and Thews)
- He worked with me on heavy quark production (also McGaughey, Quack, and Wang)
- First publication was in Int. J. Mod. Phys. A10 (1995)
- After successfully managing to apply higher-order pQCD calculations to hard probes in pp collisions, we spent some time trying to tame pA physics, resulting in some pretty interesting work from all of us but no more Collaboration volumes until 2003!
- In the meantime:
 - Papers that combined our interests in dileptons and heavy flavors – studying the contributions to the dilepton continuum
 - Papers with Kari and collaborators on parton distribution functions in nuclei, resulting in EKS98 and starting the nPDF industry

Beyond the Cafe

- During the time spent on the CERN Yellow Report, Vesa was a convener of the Photon group
- He helped settle Kari Eskola in Jyvaskyla
- He worked with a lot of fantastic Finnish students (Pasi Huovinen, Kimmo Tuominen, Vesa Kolhinen, Heli Honkanen, Harri Niemi, Markku Kataja and many more)
- His interests ranged from photon and dilepton emission, hydrodynamics, saturation phenomena, equation of state and more

Personal recollections

- When we first met, he attempted to teach me cross country skiing – it worked (a little) for that meeting at least but didn't stick
- Running was better, we were more or less equally fast (or slow) and Jyvaskyla remains one of my favorite semi-planar places to run in the world
- Vesa collected sea shells and I'd try to bring something new but it wasn't easy
- Many, many good times at meetings and in our café time
- I loved collaborating with Vesa, he was so kind and pleasant to work with it was a real joy
- He will always be one of my best friends

Something about Bob

- We shared a preference for diet soda, if I couldn't find Diet Coke somewhere, I could trust Bob to have found some
- Bob and Johnnie were wonderful together and I appreciated them both so much in many ways
- Some (many) of my most memorable dinners out away from home were with them – 'our place' in Lisbon, Dahlia Lounge in Seattle, the wharf in Cape Town during the 'blackout' evening at SQM 2004, Chez Thews and many, many more
- He was a true gentleman, a great collaborator and a good friend always