

Dear Reader,

This Newsletter is intended for all SPS members, researchers, industries, students, interested specialists and physics friends. Feel free to share this Newsletter within your community, and follow this [link](#) if you want to add a person to our mailing list.

If you wish to give your contribution with news or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: margherita.boselli@cern.ch

Kind regards,

Margherita Boselli

WHAT'S NEW IN SWITZERLAND

SPS Annual Meeting 2024: deadline for abstract submission extended

The [next SPS annual meeting](#) will take place from September 9 to 13, 2024 at the Campus Zentrum of the ETH Zürich.



The conference will open this year on Monday, 9 September with the third edition of the *Physics Funding in*

Switzerland session. In the afternoon we will continue with the General Assembly, followed by a symposium acknowledging **Louis de Broglie: 100 years of wave-particle duality**. After the symposium, **Anne l'Huillier** (Lund University, Sweden), Nobel Laureate 2023, will give a public lecture, jointly organised by the SPS and the SSPH: *The route to attosecond pulses*. The **Women in Physics Career Symposium**, also with its third edition, will become an integral part of the annual meeting and take place on Tuesday, 10 September. On Friday, 13 September, the new section **Energy and Sustainability** will have its inaugural session with a special program

The [abstract submission](#) is open until **May 15, 2024** and [the registrations](#) until **August 15, 2024**.

Do not hesitate to send your contribution!

The International Physics Tournament: it's a wrap

Over 200 university students from all around the world gathered at ETH Zürich over the Easter Break for the [16th International Physicist Tournament \(IPT\)](#). Despite logistical challenges, 21 teams, including Mexico for the first time, competed with the support of local organizers and sponsors. The IPT simulates a peer review process



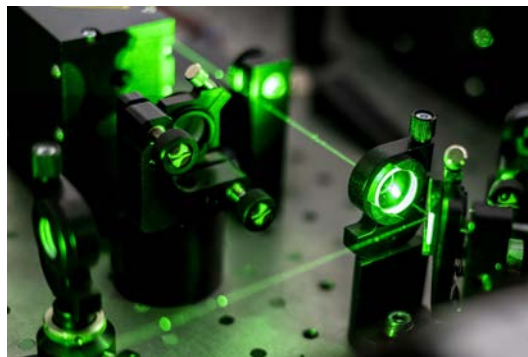
through physics fights, emphasizing collaboration and problem-solving. The finals saw Germany clinch the title, showcasing impressive experiments that captivated all participants. The success of the event underscored the passion for physics of the organizers and the participants, the collaborative spirit, and its educational value, with participants praising the inclusive

environment and challenging stereotypes in science, making IPT a transformative experience. Our colleague Martina D'Arco followed the event, and her report will appear on the next issue of the SPS Communications.

Image: an experiment showcased during one of the debates of IPT 2024. Credits Martina D'Arco.

2024 Edition of the Young Physicists Forum

From 26 to 28 April, the EPFL hosted this year's [Young Physicists Forum \(YPF\)](#). The event, which aims to strengthen the network of physics students in Switzerland, attracted more than 30 students from various Swiss universities and at all stages of their studies. With a series of expert lectures on ultrafast laser physics and a tour of the nearby LUMES laboratory, the participants were able to catch a glimpse of the scientific frontier associated with last year's [Nobel Prize in Physics](#). The students were introduced to this fascinating topic by a series of excellent speakers: Dr Michele Puppini, Lukas Hellbrück, Rémi Claude, Prof. Malte Oppermann, Prof. Jérôme Faist, Prof. Andrea Cannizzo, Erik de Vos.



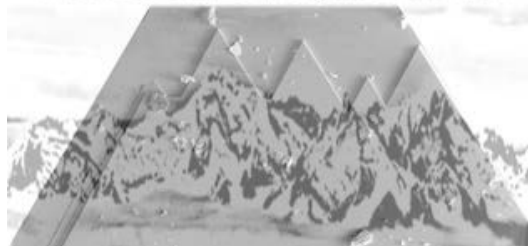
As well as interesting physics, the event also included various social and fun events, meals and get-togethers that allowed the group to get to know each other, network and socialise. After spending the weekend together, the participating students not only knew how to generate ultrafast laser pulses or how to use them to measure the tunneling time of an electron out of the Coulomb potential, but also emerged as part of a strengthened physics community in Switzerland, making the event a complete success.

Tips and tricks for the crystal growth of inorganic materials

26 - 27 August 2024, Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI), Switzerland

The workshop [Tips and tricks for the crystal growth of inorganic materials](#) brings together experts from the Solid State Chemistry and Condensed Matter Physics communities in order to discuss the accomplished progress and perspectives for future developments in the synthesis and crystal growth of materials with novel and interesting physical properties.

Workshop on Tips and Tricks for the Crystal Growth of Inorganic Materials



The 2024 edition will take place on August 26 and 27 at the Paul Scherrer Institut, Switzerland.

[Abstract submission](#) is open **until May 15, 2024**.

Maths à PartaG

The University of Geneva just launched ["Maths à PartaG"](#), a Public Lecture series that aims to bring the research carried out by the Section of Mathematics at the University of Geneva to a wider audience.

Whether you are simply interested in mathematics or use it every day in your work, these lectures will take you on a journey of discovery into mathematical research with curiosity as the only prerequisite.

The first lecture will take place on **May 7, 2024**, and it will feature Francis Brown (University of Geneva and Oxford University). Entitled "MYSTERIOUS NUMBERS - from mathematics to physics and back again", it is particularly relevant for a public of physicists and physics passionate. The talk will be followed by a discussion with Francesco Riva (physicist at the University of Geneva).



CERN celebrates its 70th anniversary

In 2024, CERN will celebrate its [70th anniversary](#) with a series of events aimed at sharing with the public what CERN has done and continues to do throughout its history. On Thursday 18 April 2024, more than 700 people, and many more who watched the event live (follow [this link](#) to watch it), spent an evening on the developments and future of innovation, demonstrating the leading role of CERN and physicists around the world in



future developments in space science, medicine, computing, AI, plasma physics and superconductivity. The event, titled “The Virtuous Circle of Knowledge and Innovation”, took place in the new auditorium of the Science Gateway at CERN which hosted the presentations and discussions of numerous scientists on the very profound relationship between knowledge and innovation, resulting in technology transfer. [An interesting article published in Nature](#) a few weeks ago looks at the impact of CERN's fundamental research on the wider scientific community and society.

[The next event, entitled "CERN - An extraordinary human endeavour"](#), will take place on Sunday 19 May 2024, as part of the [CineGlobe International Film Festival](#).

Image: Daniela Bortoletto, one of the speakers of the “The Virtuous Circle of Knowledge and Innovation”, talks about the CERN detectors and the numerous examples of technology transfer in this field. Photo from M. Boselli.

The University of Zurich announced to stop providing data for THE ranking

[The University of Zurich has decided to withdraw from the Times Higher Education World University Ranking \(THE\)](#). This decision is motivated by the fact that the evaluation criteria used by THE do not reflect the diversity of research and teaching activities carried out by universities.

This announcement contributes to the very important debate about the impact of the numerous university rankings and their ability to capture the complexity of institutions, where the emphasis should be on the quality of teaching and research rather than their quantity.

Call for women mentors

Mentorinnen gesucht!

Werde zu einer Inspiration und Unterstützung für junge Frauen* (14-19 Jahre), die sich für Fächer wie z. B. Mathematik, Physik oder Informatik interessieren. Teile die Leidenschaft für deinen Beruf, zeige wie vielfältig MINT-Berufe sind und vernetze dich mit Frauen* mit ähnlichen Berufen und Interessen in der ganzen Schweiz. Das nächste [Swiss TecLadies Mentoring-Programm](#) der Schweizerischen Akademien der Technischen Wissenschaften SATW findet vom 28. September 2024 bis 5. April 2025 statt. Anmeldungen sind bis am 6. Mai möglich. => [Infos und Anmeldung bis 6. Mai](#).

Wanted: femmes mentores !

Deviens une source d'inspiration et de soutien pour les jeunes femmes* (14-19 ans) qui s'intéressent aux mathématiques, à la physique ou à l'informatique. Partage ta passion pour ton métier et mets-toi en réseau avec des femmes* ayant des métiers et des intérêts similaires dans toute la Suisse. Le prochain programme de mentorat [Swiss TecLadies de l'Académie Suisse des Sciences Techniques SATW](#) se tient du 28 septembre 2024 au 5 avril 2025. Les inscriptions sont possibles jusqu'au 6 mai. => [Information et inscription jusqu'au 6 mai](#)

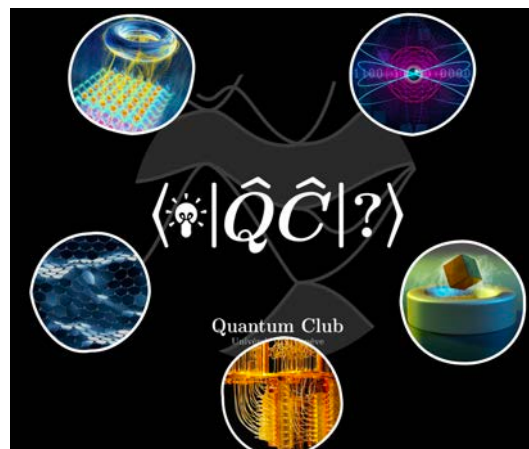
Cercasi donne mentori!

Diventare una fonte di ispirazione e di sostegno per le giovani donne* (14-19 anni) interessate alla matematica, alla fisica o all'informatica. Condividere la passione per la sua professione e creare una rete di contatti con donne* con professioni e interessi simili in tutta la Svizzera. Il prossimo programma di mentoring [Swiss TecLadies dell'Accademia](#)

[Svizzera delle Scienze Tecniche SATW](#) si svolgerà dal 28 settembre 2024 al 5 aprile 2025. Le iscrizioni sono aperte fino al 6 maggio. [Informazione e iscrizione fine al 6 maggio](#).

Launch of the Geneva Quantum Club

As part of the [Geneva Quantum Centre](#), a group of students from the University of Geneva launched the [Quantum Club](#) at the end of 2023. The aim of this association is to help interested students approach various topics in quantum physics by organising special events with experts from the local area and other Swiss institutions. The calendar of events is available on the Quantum Club page.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD

The scientific community pays tribute to Peter Higgs

On April 9, 2024, **Peter Higgs passed away at the age of 94** in Edinburgh. In 1964, Peter Higgs, alongside Robert Brout and Francois Englert, postulated the existence of the BEH (Brout-Englert-Higgs) field which can explain the formation of matter in the Early Universe, approximately 10-11 s after the Big Bang. The Higgs Boson, the particle associated to excitation of the BEH field, was discovered at CERN in 2012. This observation paved the way to a deeper understanding of the Standard Model.



This discovery led to the Nobel Prize for Peter Higgs and Francois Englert. The obiquary published by CERN is accessible [here](#).

Image: Peter Higgs in front of the CMS detector in 2008. Photo from CERN, M. Brice.

WHAT'S NEW ON DEI

2024 portraits of women in science in the fields of MAP

Since the beginning of the year, SCNAT published a news series of [portraits of women in science in the field of MAP](#). At the beginning of April, a new portait of this series told the story of [Martina Nieswand](#), a patent attorney in a large patent law firm in eastern Switzerland with a PhD in theoretical solid state physics.



Image: Martina Nieswand, physicist and patent attorney. Photo: Benedikt Vogel.

The Swiss Physical Society (SPS) unites persons interested in physics from university, schools, research, development and industry. The SPS promotes the scientific exchange of ideas in Switzerland and with its international environment.

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