

Dear Reader,

You scientists shape this Newsletter.

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. If you would like to share some news with us, please contact [Celine.Lichtensteiger@UniGe.ch](mailto:Celine.Lichtensteiger@UniGe.ch).

## WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND?

### The Swiss team wins the International Physics Tournament

Congratulations to the Swiss team who won the International Physics Tournament (IPT) in Moscow on **7 April 2018**! The Swiss team, composed of EPFL students, participated in the 10th edition of the IPT together with 14 other teams from around the world. This team was selected to represent Switzerland at a



national competition held last December, with a jury including two of the SPS board members. The Swiss selection event and the participation of the Swiss team were supported by SPS and SCNAT. The competition was taking place at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and lasted for a week. [\[more\]](#)

### SPG Nachwuchsförderpreis at the Swiss Physics Olympiad in Aarau, a ticket for Lisbon and Dolgoprudny

The final round of the [SwissPhO](#) took place at the Neue Kantonschule Aarau on **24-25 March 2018**. The two best, the Berner [Julius Vering](#) and the Ticinese [Arthur Jaques](#) were awarded



the “*SPG Nachwuchsförderpreis*” with the support of SCNAT. The group of the five best were awarded Gold Medals, which allows them to participate to the International Physics Olympiad ([IPhO](#)) in Lisbon, Portugal, **21-29 July 2018**. Another group composed of essentially Silver and Bronze Medals will participate to the European Physics Olympiad ([EuPhO2018](#)), from **28 May to 1st June 2018** in Dolgoprudny, Russia.

### Towards the update of the Swiss Roadmap for Particle and Astroparticle Physics

CHIPP (the Swiss Institute of Particle Physics) is working on an update of the Swiss Roadmap for Particle and Astroparticle Physics for the coming years and decades. The roadmap will also serve as a basis for the



Swiss input for the update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics organized by the CERN Council taking place in 2019-2020. In the week of **6 April 2018**, the first of two Strategic Workshops in Switzerland ([SWICH](#)) was held to prepare the Swiss roadmap update. It was open to all CHIPP members and close to 100 participants contributed to the presentations and discussions on the current status and future directions of the field (picture). The physics questions were laid out as well as the infrastructures, experiments and theoretical work required for addressing



those questions. A second workshop will be held in **September 2018** in Fribourg, with the aim of converging on the roadmap. [more: [Twitter account](#), [SWICH page](#), [summary](#)]

## Science March Switzerland plans for 2018

A year after the success of the March for Science, Geneva, in **2017**, the newly energized movement for science advocacy advances! Although researchers in Switzerland are fortunate to enjoy a relatively secure, supportive, and open scientific atmosphere, the worldwide threats to science - and the abuse and misuse of science to facilitate prejudice and oppression - are



greater than ever. And while there were many marches happening around the world on **14 April 2018** [\[more\]](#), the initiative's global efforts have expanded beyond single-day demonstrations [\[more\]](#). The March for Science, Geneva, organizing group encourages everyone to stay tuned for more information about a Science March Switzerland Symposium [\[more\]](#) in the **early fall of 2018**, featuring speakers, panels, and discussion related to innovative science advocacy and about how to counteract the worldwide anti-science and abuse-of-science moment and to construct a more equitable world where science belongs to everyone.

## Images of particle physics

These days, the Swiss-Italian documentary "*CERN and the sense of beauty*" will be screened in selected Swiss cinemas. The work of the Italian director Valerio Jalongo combines images from the particle physics research laboratory with nature photographs and with works of art, leading to a subjective and idiosyncratic meditation on knowledge and beauty. [\[more\]](#)



## "Einstein"- a premiere by the Bern Dance Company, Bern, 4 May 2018

On **4 May 2018** the Bern Dance Company will premiere their new dance piece "*Einstein*". The winners of the Bern Dance Platform 2017 were commissioned to choreograph with the scientist Albert Einstein, who postulated 1916 the "stimulated emission" in his famous paper "*Zur Quantentheorie der Strahlung*". The evening is very varied and the work of Albert Einstein artistically illuminated in different ways. [\[more\]](#)



## The Young Physicist Forum (YPF) at CERN, Geneva, 4 to 6 May 2018

The Young Physicist Forum (YPF) - a committee of physics students from various Swiss universities - organises diverse events to contribute to the exchange between



physics students. Under this premise, this year's event focus will lie upon High Energy Physics, with a visit of the world-famous European Organization for Nuclear Research, better known under its acronym CERN, **4 to 6 May 2018**. Ever since its establishment in the 50s, scientists from all over the world have contributed to ground-breaking discoveries in the behaviour and properties of the most elementary particles matter consists of. Registrations are open to all students in YPF's website. [\[more\]](#)

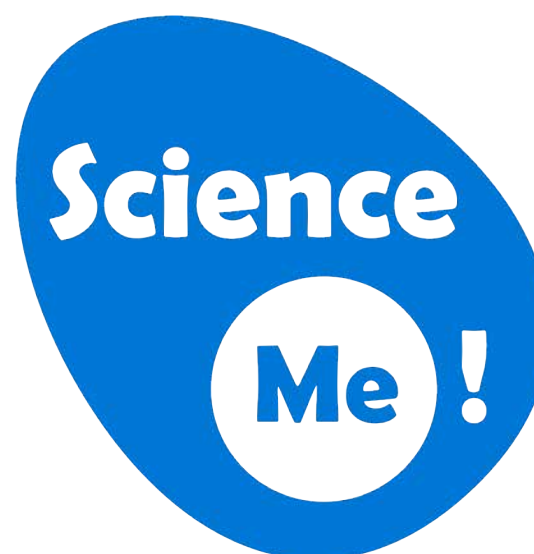
## Fourier Symposium, Zürich, 26 May 2018

For several years, the [SPS](#) and the [PGZ](#) have been organizing mini-symposia on a current topic on a regular basis. This year commemorates the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jean Baptiste Joseph *Fourier*, whose (Fourier) analysis, - series and - transformations are applied in almost all areas of physics and technology. In the first lecture we remember the person and the work of Fourier, afterwards modern applications in the fields of optics, seismology and algorithms are reported. [\[more\]](#)



## Science Me! - the European Science Show Competition, Geneva, 7-8 July 2018

*Science Me!*, the European Science Show Competition is aimed at strengthening the dialogue between scientists and the public in a playful and relaxed atmosphere. 10-minute presentations in all fields of science or technology, consisting in experiments or demonstrations or explanations, given by a maximum of 2 animators, are evaluated by the public and by an independent jury of experts in science communication. If you feel you have to communicate to the general public, then **apply not later than 11 May 2018**, and **compete on 7-8 July 2018**, during the *Nuit de la Science*, Geneva, Switzerland. Details on the competition and pictures/videos of the previous events are available [here](#).



## Prof. Françoise Brochard-Wyart received the Doctor Honoris Causa from ETHZ

The SPS wishes to congratulate Prof. Françoise Brochard-Wyart, a woman physicist who has received on **17 November 2017** the Doctor Honoris Causa from the ETH Zurich. After an education in Physics at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan and Orsay Université, she obtained in 1974 a PhD on "*Dynamical properties of Liquid Crystals*" under the supervision of Pierre-Gilles de

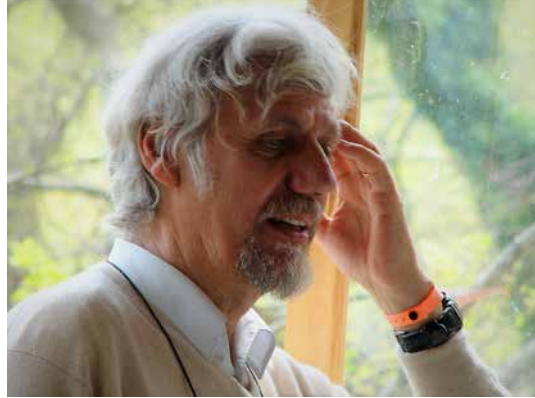


Gennes. After having been active at the Collège de France, in 1986 she was appointed professor at Sorbonne Université in Paris and became member of the Institut de France in 2005. The research of Prof. Brochard-Wyart has spanned from liquid crystals, polymers, wetting and dewetting, cell adhesion and membranes mechanics to the most recent scientific work on active matter and cellular aggregates. For the broad scope and innovation of her scientific endeavour, she was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa of the ETH Zurich. [\[more\]](#)



### In memory of Karl Knop (1943-2018)

*"The most prominent Swiss physicist Karl Knop (1943) passed away during a trip to Norway, when enjoying the beauty of the northern light. Karl's strong impact in optics and nano-photonics as head of the former RCA Zurich Lab, later as R&D head of CSEM and co-initiator of the Swiss Nanoconvention*



*always pushed the technical applications of physics by creating vivid communities. He was strongly engaged in the famous Engelberg symposia where academia and industry met and defined fruitful national cooperations to promote modern optics. He also initiated the SATW Tec-Days at many grammar schools (Gymnasien) to fascinate youngsters for science and technology. We all miss this wonderful colleague and dearest friend." B. Braunecker, C. Rossel, L. Schlapbach*

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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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