

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 2026

The next SPS Annual Meeting will take place at **EPFL (building Center Est)** from **August 24 to August 28 2026**. Besides the usual ingredients like plenary talks, topical sessions, poster session, industrial exhibition, the conference will include a public historical symposium, an Energy Day and a public lecture, given by Nobel Laureate *Didier Queloz*.



Detailed information is available on our [website](#).

Call for Abstracts: Abstract submission is now open. [Submit your abstract here](#). Deadline: 1 May 2026.

Registration is also open. Deadline for *early bird* fees is 10 July 2026, for regular fees 1 August 2026. [Register here](#).

PLANCKS competition - Swiss Preliminaries

28 March 2026, University of Bern

For the first time Switzerland organised a preliminary phase of the [PLANCKS \(Physics League Across Numerous Countries for Kick-ass Students\)](#) competition. In a group of 3-4 bachelor and master students, solve exciting theoretical physics problems from various fields. The Swiss teams will take part in the international finals in Eindhoven 21 - 24 May. Stay tuned!

Young Physicists Forum 2026

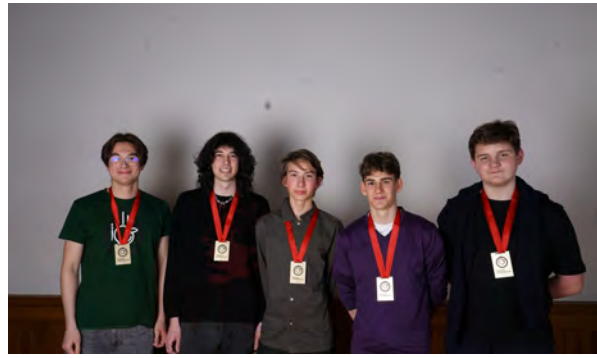
24 - 26 April 2026, Basel

This year [Young Physicists Forum](#) will dive into the topic of Biophysics! Join us for a three day forum of expert and industry talks on the interplay of physics and biology for interested bachelor and master students. Take this opportunity to connect with fellow physics students from all over Switzerland whilst exploring Basel as a hub for biotechnology. More information and impressions from recent events can be found [here](#). This year you also have the opportunity to present your own research and projects related to the topic during student talks. Register now, there are limited places available! Priority is given to students wishing to present.

[Registration](#) here!

Swiss Physics Olympiad 2026

The final of the Swiss Physics Olympiad took place on 7 and 8 March at the Alte Kantonsschule Aarau. Twenty-seven young people demonstrated their theoretical and practical knowledge. Five of them were awarded gold medals:



Leon Zimmermann (Paul Scherrer Institut/Technische Berufsschule Zürich, ZH)

Levin Glatz (Kantonsschule Wettingen, AG)

Eric Lüscher (Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliches Gymnasium Rämibühl, ZH)

Leo Swedenborg (Zurich International School, ZH)

Leonard Duparc (École Nouvelle de la Suisse Romande, VD)

Leon Zimmermann and Levin Glatz, the first- and second-place winners respectively, received the Young Researchers' Award from the Swiss Physical Society. Silver and bronze medals were also awarded, as were places in international competitions. Have a look at all details [here](#).

Image: gold medalists of the Swiss Physics Olympiad. Photo by Physik-Olympiade.

New portrait of women in quantum science: Cristina Benea

SCNAT has recently released a new portrait of women in quantum science. This edition features Cristina Benea, an EPFL scientist who works on cutting-edge quantum optics and photonic chips research. [Don't miss it!](#)



Image: Cristina Benea, from SCNAT.

PSI diversity gallery

[PSI \(the Paul Scherrer Institute\)](#) employs over 2,000 people from a variety of backgrounds and with a range of experiences and perspectives.

This diversity is neither accidental nor incidental. It is one of the key foundations of our scientific success. At the end of March, the institute opened a [diversity gallery](#), displaying a collection of portraits throughout the campus. Launched by the Committee for Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Inclusion (DEICO), the initiative quickly grew into a PSI-wide project celebrating workforce diversity. Everyone was invited to take part and share what diversity means to them, both professionally and personally.

The new Swiss Quantum Strategy

The [Swiss Quantum Strategy](#), published at the beginning of March, demonstrates how Switzerland intends to maintain its leading role in quantum technology by developing and marketing these technologies internationally. The strategy was written by Swiss Quantum Commission experts from the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) in the context of the Swiss Quantum Initiative, on behalf of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation.

Call for grants – Innosuisse/SNSF BRIDGE

The [BRIDGE Discovery](#) call for projects is aimed at experienced researchers who wish to develop an innovation resulting from their research work, whether fundamental or applied.

It provides financial support to develop the scientific basis needed for the implementation of innovative projects, in particular during the critical phase before they are commercialised, thereby advancing their scientific and technological vision. **Application deadline: April 28, 2026.**

The [BRIDGE Proof of Concept](#) is aimed at young researchers who are hoping to transform the results of their research into practical applications. This support offer provides financial support for a period of 12 months, covering the salary and costs directly associated with implementation of the project, up to a maximum of CHF 130,000 per year. Applicants must have recently graduated from university and be affiliated with a Swiss research institution. **First submission deadline June 1, 2026.**

Teachers' Day at the IYPT 2026, ETH Zurich, 8 July 2026

From Monday, 6 July, to Saturday, 11 July, the [International Young Physicists' Tournament \(IYPT\)](#) will take place at ETH Zurich. During this event, teams of students compete against each other in engaging and dynamic "physics fights," where they present and critically discuss their solutions to challenging problems.

In connection with the tournament, the Swiss Physical Society (SPS), ETH Zurich, and DPK are **jointly organizing a teachers' professional development day on project-based learning**. The programme includes keynote talks, the attendance of an IYPT physics fight, discussion rounds, and a visit to the Project-Based Learning Lab at ETH. The event is primarily aimed at upper secondary school physics teachers, and contributions will be held in German and English.

For more information, please follow [this link](#).

9th International Jost Bürgi-Symposium

The 2026 edition of the [Jost Bürgi-Symposium](#) will take place on Saturday 25 April

in Lichtensteig (SG), the birthplace of Bürgi (1552-1632). You can join virtually via Zoom or come in person to enjoy the stimulating atmosphere of the venue. Here's a quick overview of the programme: This year's theme, 'Surveying', will be explored across the timeline in five fascinating talks. Beginning with a topic from Bürgi's era, the presentations will cover Switzerland's major tunnel surveying projects and conclude with a discussion of Leica's humanoid robot.

The third presentation will see a slight shift in focus, with the speaker also addressing how to defend against attacking combat drones using optical technologies.

WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD

NCCR Bio-inspired Materials International Conference

19 - 20 June 2026, University of Fribourg, Switzerland, Joseph Deiss Auditorium

Registration and abstract submission are open for this event, which marks the end of the 12-year funding period of the NCCR and will bring together leading scientists from around the world, industry partners, and current and past members of the NCCR Bio-inspired Materials community to share and discuss the achievements and future of bio-inspired materials science.



The conference will feature keynote lectures including *Thomas Speck* (University of Freiburg), *Ilja Voets* (TU Eindhoven), *Ulrich Wiesner* (Cornell University), and *Kerstin Blank* (Johannes Kepler University), as well as additional invited talks, contributed talks selected among the submitted abstracts, and two poster sessions.

Important dates:

- **Deadline for abstract submission: April 10, 2026**
- **Notification of abstract acceptance: Before April 20, 2026**
- **Registration deadline: May 10, 2026**

You can find all the information in the [conference website](#).

ÖPG-CMD-Graz 2026

75th Annual Meeting of the Austrian Physical Society (ÖPG),

32nd Meeting of the Condensed Matter Division, European Physical Society (CMD)

Sun 20 – Fri 25 September 2026, Graz Center of Physics, Austria

This year the [Austrian Physical Society](#) organises its annual meeting together with the Condensed Matter Division of the European Physical Society. The meeting will take place in the last week of September in Graz, Austria. The conference covers a broad spectrum of physics including condensed matter, particle physics, astronomy, among others.

The plenary and semi-plenary speakers are already fixed. Additionally 41 specified scientific topics are defined. These so-called mini-colloquia serve for highly focused intensive scientific exchange.

If you are interested to join the meeting, you can register. The deadline for abstract submission is April 15 2026.

All information can be found on the [Conference Website](#).

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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