

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?

### SPS Annual Meeting - 28-31 August 2018, EPFL

We are looking forward to seeing you at our annual meeting that will take place this year at the EPFL from **28 to 31 August 2018**. The conference is organized in collaboration with the Swiss Institute of Particle Physics ([CHIPP](#)) and the [NCCR MARVEL](#) (Computational Design and Discovery of Novel Materials), guaranteeing an exciting conference covering physics at its best. The programme will consist of a mix of plenary talks, topical sessions and poster exhibition. You can download it [here](#).



### Martina Hirayama, the new State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation

On **4 July 2018**, the Federal Council appointed Martina Hirayama as the new State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation. She will succeed Mauro Dell'Ambrogio on **1 January 2019**. Martina Hirayama has been dean of the ZHAW School of Engineering, with 13 institutes and centres, nine degree programmes and 620 staff, since 2011; president of the Institute Council of METAS, the Federal Institute of Metrology, since 2012; vice president of the board of Innosuisse, Switzerland's Innovation



Promotion Agency (up to the end of 2017 the Commission for Technology and Innovation) since 2011; and a member of the Foundation Council of the SNF (Swiss National Science Foundation) since 2016. The SPS congratulates the new State Secretary on her honourable vocation and wishes her every success in the demanding work at the interface of science and technology. [\[more\]](#)

### CERN Swiss Teacher Programme 2018

Every year, CERN offers various professional development programmes for teachers to keep up-to-date with the latest developments



in particle physics and related areas, and experience a dynamic, international research environment. All programmes are facilitated by experts in the field of physics, engineering,

and computing and include an extensive lecture and visit itinerary. [\[more\]](#)

The CERN Swiss Teacher Programme 2018 will take place from **11-14 November 2018**. Lectures, on-site visits, exhibitions, and hands-on workshops will introduce Swiss physics teachers to cutting-edge particle physics to become ambassadors, who pass on the subject to our next generation of physicists, engineers, IT specialists, etc. Details on the programme and how to register are available [online](#).

## International Physicists' Tournament comes to Switzerland

Following the glorious win of the Swiss team at the [IPT2018](#) (which you can read about in the [latest issue of SPS Communications](#)), the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Physicists' Tournament will be held at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) from **21 to 26 April, 2019**. The tournament will bring together more than 200 undergraduate physics students, teaching assistants and professors from 20 countries around the globe in a magnificent one-week-long event.



The problems list for the IPT2019 is already published, so you can check it out at the [official website](#)! If you are a student or professor at one of the Swiss universities and you would like to participate in IPT2019 - just send an e-mail to [switzerland@iptnet.info](mailto:switzerland@iptnet.info) or directly to [evgenii.glushkov@epfl.ch](mailto:evgenii.glushkov@epfl.ch) and express your interest! For more information, please visit [2019.iptnet.info](http://2019.iptnet.info).

## The Swiss team at the International Physics Olympiad

The 400 best young talents from 90 countries took part in the International Physics Olympiads (IPhO) in Portugal from **21 to 29 July 2018**. Five Swiss gymnasians qualified for this competition at the national finals held in the spring at ETH Zurich and the new Aarau Cantonal School. Congratulations to Tobias Hächler (Gymnasium Oberwil, BL) who earned an honorable mention at the IPhO in Lisbon, and to all of them for being selected. You will find the press release and photos on the Science Olympiad webpage [here](#).



*Picture: the Swiss physics delegation - Arthur Jacques, Tobias Hächler, Hiro Josep Farré Kaga, Tim Mosimann and Ciril Humber. Credit: Lionel Philippoz for the Science Olympiads.*

## Young Physicists Forum's blog - The Mathematics of Physics

The Mathematics of Physics is the main topic in the most recent article of the Young Physicists Forum blog. Inspired by Dr. Cohl Furey and her work linking the Standard Model of Particle Physics and Division Algebras, it explores the close relation between mathematics and theoretical physics and how bachelor and master students approach this topic. In Switzerland, the NCCR SwissMAP is in charge of encouraging the interaction between these two fields across all Swiss Universities and polytechnic schools. They offer among other things a series video lectures encompassing topics such as Geometry, Topology and Physics and Planar Statistical Physics open to the public. Exploring these video lectures offers the opportunity for graduate and undergraduate physics students not only to complement and refresh their knowledge on the field, but to take a new perspective towards the relationship between theoretical physics and mathematics. [\[more\]](#)



## In memoriam of Prof. Verena Meyer (1929-2018)

The nuclear physicist Verena Meyer passed away on **21 July 2018** at the age of 89. Among her numerous achievements, she was





the first woman in many areas. She was the first to head the University of Zurich, making her the first woman to head a Swiss university at all. She was also the first woman serving as SPS president, and the first woman to be an honorary member of our society. Read more about her accomplishments [here](#) (University of Zurich) and [here](#) (Tages Anzeiger).



Picture: Prof. Verena Meyer. Credit: University of Zurich.

## WHAT'S UP IN EUROPE?

### **Horizon Europe - the next EU research and innovation framework programme**

During the [EuroScience Open Forum](#) in Toulouse in **July 2018**, Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, presented *Horizon Europe*, the next EU research and innovation programme for 2020-2027. More about how *Horizon Europe* is being designed, legal framework, factsheets, reports and timeline can be found [here](#).



### **Apply for the BEAMLINe FOR SCHOOLS Competition 2019 - Hamburg, Germany**

The Beamline for Schools (BL4S) competition offers high-school students worldwide the chance to conduct a real experiment at a real research laboratory. It was created by CERN in **2014** and since then, 936 teams from 76 different countries with almost 8500 students have taken part in five successful editions to learn about particle physics. Since the accelerators at CERN are going into a scheduled maintenance and upgrade break of two years, for the next edition, CERN is collaborating with DESY in Hamburg, Germany. DESY is a world-leading accelerator centre and Germany's national laboratory for particle physics, accelerators and photon science.



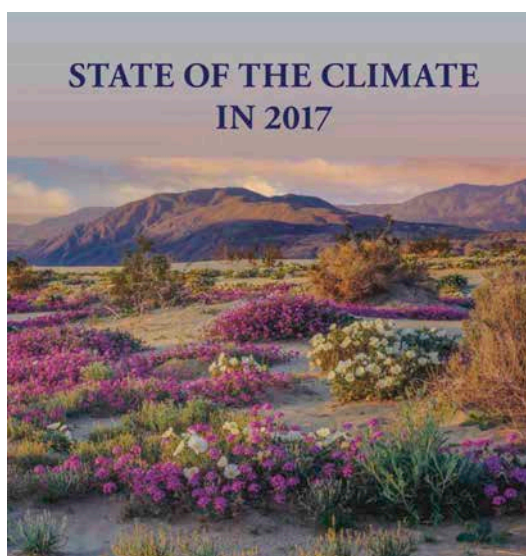
The BL4S competition is open to teams of at least five high-school students aged 16(+) with at least one adult supervisor. Think of a simple, creative experiment and submit your written proposal and short video by **31 March 2019** [here](#).

## WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD?

### **State of the climate: the six points that alarm scientists**

With the contribution of 500 scientists from 65 countries, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports on the acceleration of global warming, with records of greenhouse gas levels, higher and higher sea levels, ever warmer oceans surfaces, ever higher temperatures at the poles, and a proliferation of tropical cyclones.

To learn more, read the Special Supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society available [here](#).





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.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage profile](#) | [About](#)

[Subscribe as new user](#)

© Swiss Physical Society, Klingelbergstr. 82, CH-4056 Basel, [info@sps.ch](mailto:info@sps.ch), [www.sps.ch](http://www.sps.ch)