

Dear Reader,

You scientist 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 this community, please contact Celine.Lichtensteiger@UniGe.ch.

WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND?

Thanks to all of you who made our annual meeting a success!

Our annual meeting, jointly with the Austrian Physical Society, took place in Geneva on **21-25 August 2017**. With more than 500 participants, ca. 280 talks and nearly 90 posters, this year's annual meeting was again a great success. Congratulations to the [6 SPS awards winners](#), and to the [first Charpak-Ritz 2017 prize laureate, Carlo Sirtori](#) (see picture).



(see picture). More details regarding the meeting will be published in the next *SPS Communications*.

Reshuffling and new members of the SPS Executive Committee

The SPS is led by the Executive Committee, whose members are elected for two years by the general assembly. Last elections took place on 23 August 2016. At the general assembly during this year's SPS annual meeting, some reshuffling took place: PD Dr. Hans Peter Beck, then vice-president, was elected president, while Prof. Minh Quang Tran, then president, was elected vice-president. Two new members were also elected (see picture): Andreas Fuhrer (left) and Thilo Stöferle (right) from [IBM Research - Zurich](#), who will be responsible for the section "Physics in Industry". The rest of the Executive Committee remains unchanged. [\[more\]](#)



Event - Innovation World Cup Conference 2017 in Neuchâtel

Switzerland is well-known for its innovation: this year again the Innovation World Cup Conference will take place in Neuchâtel on **20 September 2017** at [Microcity](#).



Join the audience of international experts, techpreneurs and potential investors for an action-packed day with IoT (Internet of Things) developer workshops, great talks, inspiring pitches and exciting networking opportunities. Participation in the event and developer workshops is free of charge, but seats are limited and you should [register](#). [\[more\]](#)

Event - Physics Day at EPFL

On **16 October 2017**, EPFL will host the first Physics Day in the Rolex Learning Center. Bachelor, Master, PhD students, researchers from EPFL and other Swiss universities are most



welcome to join and present a poster. The event will bring together leading scientists from academia and industry. The program will lead you for a travel through the physics landscape, from the infinitely small to the infinitely big, from fundamental to applied physics. [\[more\]](#)



Call for the ACP Award for Atmospheric Research

The ACP Award for Atmospheric Research is granted by the Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Commission (ACP) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (scnat+). The award is attributed annually to a young scientist for outstanding achievements during his/her PhD thesis in the domain of atmospheric sciences. The evaluation will be based on the submitted thesis. Applications are possible until 18 month after the thesis defense. The work should have been performed at a Swiss institution. The award consists of a certificate, a citation, and a donation of CHF 1000. The submission deadline is extended to **18 September 2017**. Self application or the nomination by the thesis supervisor are possible. [\[more\]](#)



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Prizes and Awards: Innovators Under 35

[Congratulations to](#) Dr. Fabian Menges (IBM Research – Zurich) who has been recognized as honoree on the *Innovators Under 35* list of 2017 by MIT Technology Review. Dr. Fabian Menges is a post-doctoral researcher in the materials integration & nanoscale devices group at IBM Research in Zurich and he has been recognized as a pioneer for his work. Menges' research focuses on the experimental characterization of thermal energy transfer and conversion processes in electronic devices. Recently, Menges and his colleagues invented a thermometer for the nanoscale. The research was motivated by the challenge to understand the thermophysical processes which occur at the scale of individual transistors to support the development of novel materials for energy harvesting and cognitive computing. [\[more: MIT Technology Review; IBM blog; Nature article\]](#)



Sustainable wellness with solar energy

There is a growing need in our society for fitness and wellness, which generally incurs environmental costs and swallows up large quantities of energy. At [NEST](#), the [Empa](#) and [Eawag](#) research and innovation building, a global innovation has been put into operation on **24 August**: a fitness and wellness facility powered entirely by solar energy and the power generated by its users' physical exercise. The Swiss-Liechtensteinian building technology association, [suissetec](#), made a significant contribution to the facility's development. [\[more\]](#)



Stellarium Gornergrat: the sky brought in the classrooms

The "Stellarium Gornergrat" is a remotely accessible observatory for educational purposes. A suite of different instruments has been installed at the Gornergrat, allowing diverse observation possibilities and small, but "real-flavour" research activities to teachers, pupils, and the general public, thus fostering the interest for science based on the fascination of astronomy by sharing the excitement of discovery. The use of the instruments, images and data of the Stellarium is done through a [web portal](#). You are cordially invited to participate. Contacts: Timm.Riesen@csh.unibe.ch



(Bern); Stephane.Gschwind@edu.ge.ch (Geneva - direct support for classroom implementation by interested teachers possible). [\[more\]](#)

Job offer

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI is looking for a graduate student from fields involving large-scale international research projects like e.g. CERN, ESA, ITER, CTA ... (Master or PhDs obtained since less than one year). [\[more: Deutsch, Français, Italiano\]](#)



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WHAT'S UP IN EUROPE?

The World's most powerful X-ray source started up

European XFEL, the largest (3.4 km long) and most powerful X-ray laser in the world, was officially inaugurated on 1. September in an international event with musical and enlightening highlights. Research ministers and other prominent guests from across Europe joined the European XFEL Managing Directors to officially start the research



operation of the facility with the first two experiments. XFEL generates extremely intense X-ray flashes to be used by researchers from all over the world. The flashes are produced in underground tunnels and will allow scientists to map atomic details of viruses, film chemical reactions, and study the processes in the interior of planets. [\[more: XFEL.eu; DESY; CERN\]](#)

WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD?

And finally we read

"Plimpton 322" is a clay tablet of the Babylonian era, dated ca. 1820-1762 BC. It contains a fragment from a proto-trigonometric table that is known in mathematics as Pythagorean triples, integer solutions of the equation $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, a thousand years before the age of Pythagoras. Two Australian mathematicians assert that this tablet was a tool for working out trigonometrical problems. [\[more: ScienceDirect; SCI-NEWS\]](#)



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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