

Dear Reader

Starting up with its 1st electronic Newsletter, the Swiss Physical Society invites you to share latest news and up-front information in a variety of domains, whether it is e.g. about a recent discovery, or a new trend in the field of physics, or about a recent development in the life of our society. With this new communication channel the society first of all seeks in improving the interaction with its members but also in reaching out to other physics interested individuals and to the general public. We hope you enjoy this first *SPS Newsletter* and would very much welcome your feedback for further improvement.

50th edition of the *SPG Mitteilungen*

Happy birthday! Whilst the *SPS Newsletter* is born today with its first edition being distributed via e-mail to a wide audience of physics inspired people, we are at the same time celebrating the 50th edition of the *SPG Mitteilungen*, which has recently been distributed to the members of our society. For almost 20 years our bulletin informs about important developments and discoveries, and reports anecdotes and personal stories. All *SPG Mitteilungen* are made available publically a few weeks after the printed version has been published. [\[more\]](#)

Gravitational Waves – PGZ/SPS Joint Symposium

You are cordially invited to the [joint open symposium of the Zurich and the Swiss Physical Societies](#) on Saturday, November 26, 2016, 9:15 - 12:45, at ETH Zurich. The symposium is dedicated to gravitational waves in view of their recent experimental discovery by the LIGO collaboration and of the successful deployment of the LISA Pathfinder spacecraft.



Philippe Jetzer (Universität Zürich/LISA), *Gerhard Heinzl* (Leibniz Universität Hannover/LISA) and *Daniel Sigg* (California Institute of Technology/LIGO) address the theoretical basis of gravitational waves and give a first-hand account of the discovery and of the experimental challenges of present and future gravitational wave detectors. First results are already presented in an article by *Philippe Jetzer*. [\[more\]](#)

From the Quark Model to the Standard Model

'Milestones in Physics', an article series of the *SPG Mitteilungen*, features break-throughs in physics, written by distinguished authors and true specialists in their field. *Heinrich Leutwyler* (Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Berne), explains in his article the conceptual developments, which – in the course of only ten years – led to the Standard Model of particle physics and discusses some of the remarkable qualitative features of this theory. [\[more\]](#)

Bronze Medal at International Physics Olympiad

As best Swiss participant, *Markus Köhler* won an honourable bronze medal at the International Physics Olympiad IPhO2016 that took place in Zürich mid of July this year. Almost simultaneously Markus had to prepare for his high school diploma at the



“Kantonsschule Heerbrug”. After a well-deserved rest, Markus was available for an interview with *Bernhard Braunecker*, editor of the *SPG Mitteilungen*. [\[more\]](#)



Highlights from the 2016 Annual SPS Meeting in Lugano

Over 300 physicists and students gathered in the *Università della Svizzera Italiana* in sunny Lugano for the 2016 annual meeting of the SPS. New results and developments were presented and discussed in plenary talks with distinguished invited speakers, and continued further in topical parallel session talks where students and advanced researchers could present their work to an interested audience. [\[more\]](#)

Elections of SPS Executive Board Members

As every year, following elections by our SPS members at the general assembly, the composition of the Executive Board has now changed. Following the end-of term of several mandates, a new vice president has been elected and a number of sections of our society have a new lead. Another important election took place at the European Physical Society (EPS) who elected our SPS president into the EPS executive board. This further strengthens the good relation of our National Society with the European Society and thus with all the other National Societies in Europe. [\[more\]](#)

Call for Proposals for the SPS Awards in 2017

Every year the Swiss Physical Society awards young physicists with Prizes in different categories. We hereby call for proposals for the SPS Awards in 2017 and look forward to receiving numerous candidatures before 28 February 2017. [\[more\]](#)

PiA – Physics in Advent

Under the slogan “24 Experiments till Christmas” the German Physical Society in cooperation with the Austrian and Swiss Physical Societies offers 24 entertaining experiments in the field of physics to be tried out at home with your family and friends or just for yourself. The Swiss Physical Society is sponsoring special prizes for individual pupils as well as for school classes 5 to 10 from Swiss schools, which will be drawn among the best performing participants. [\[more\]](#)

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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