

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 UP IN OUR ASSOCIATION?

New Section on Energy and Sustainability

Triggered by the large relevance of the topic in the context of the [Energy Strategy 2050](#), the **Swiss Physical Society** founded a new section on **Energy and Sustainability** in the General Assembly on February 26, 2024. Tomoko

Muranaka (Sustainability) from EPFL and Thomas

Christen (Energy) from Hitachi Energy Research in Switzerland were elected as the first co-chairs with the initial task of building up the new section, with the help of consulting experts in the field and a team of further SPS members.



The section's mission is to foster physics research which contributes to a future with sustainable and environmentally friendly energy production, distribution, transmission, storage, and consumption for all, for example, by increasing energy efficiencies and undertaking measures to reduce energy waste. An important role of this section is to raise consciousness on sustainability issues and motivate physicists in R&D to act through their research, especially in the energy sector, with societal and political impact.

As a start-up, a series of invited talks on energy and sustainability-related research in Switzerland is taking place September 13, 2024, in the framework of the annual meeting of the SPS at the ETHZ, with top-level speakers from the EMPA (L. Herrmann), PSI (T. J. Schmidt), ETHZ (G. Hug), CERN (S. Kleiner), and HECAP+ (P. Koppenburg), and a subsequent panel discussion moderated by H. Zbinden (University of Geneva). We are looking forward to meeting many interested scientists and engineers at this promising event.

SPS Commission on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

The next step on the journey towards gender equity in physics is taken in Switzerland. **The Swiss Physical Society (SPS) has established, during its general assembly on February 26, 2024, a new commission dedicated to diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI)**, chaired by the particle physicist Philipp Schmidt-Wellenburg from the Paul Scherrer Institute.



The commission gathers women and men from all sections of the SPS, representing all parts of Switzerland, and a broad spectrum of educational and career stages. It aims to create a more inclusive physics community, by promoting gender equity and fostering diversity. It will address different phenomena that contribute to the low percentage of women in physics, from the scientific stereotypes in the early stages of education to the "leaky pipeline" effect throughout academic careers. In addition to directly encouraging women in physics, this will involve facilitating changes in the institutions and their culture where physics is taught and physicists work, in Switzerland. The commission will continue to organize initiatives such as the very successful "Women in Physics Career Symposium" and the associated mentoring program, bringing together women in physics at different career stages to support early-career researchers in physics. Additionally, It will promote science on science, combine existing data on DEI in Switzerland, and advocate for evidence-based approaches to support marginalized groups in physics for the benefit of science and society.



Image of the "Women in Physics Career Symposium" 2023, from Paul Scherrer Institute/ Marc Janoschek

SPS Annual Meeting 2024: Call for Abstracts

The [next SPS annual meeting](#) will take place from September 9 to 13, 2024 at the Campus Zentrum of the ETH Zürich.



The conference will open this year on Monday, 9 September with the third edition of the *Physics Funding in Switzerland* session. In the afternoon we will continue with the General Assembly, followed by a symposium acknowledging **Louis de Broglie: 100 years of wave-particle duality**. After the symposium, **Anne I'Huillier** (Lund University, Sweden), Nobel Laureate 2023, will give a public lecture, jointly organised by the SPS and the SSPh: *The route to attosecond pulses*. The **Women in Physics Career Symposium**, also with its third edition, will become an integral part of the annual meeting and take place on Tuesday, 10 September. On Friday, 13 September, the new section **Energy and Sustainability** will have its inaugural session with a special program

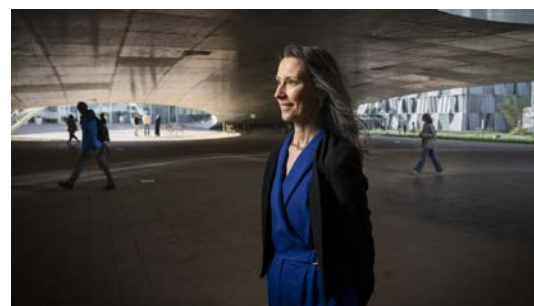
The [abstract submission](#) is open **until May 1, 2024** and [the registrations](#) until **August 15, 2024**.

Do not hesitate to send your contribution!

WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND

Anna Fontcuberta appointed president of EPFL

On March 27 the [Swiss Federal Council](#) appointed [Anna Fontcuberta i Morral](#) as new President of EPFL. Professor Fontcuberta will succeed Martin Vetterli on January 1, 2025, after a transition period of 9 months.



Anna Fontcuberta i Morral is a physicist and material scientist specialized in semiconductor physics. She obtained her PhD in 2001 from the Ecole Polytechnique in Palaiseau, France; before joining EPFL in 2008 she was visiting scientist at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, where she co-founded the company Aonex Technologies, and she led a team at the Technical University of Munich, Germany. The full CV of Professor Fontcuberta is available [here](#).

The nomination of Professor Fontcuberta is a historical decision because she will be the first woman to lead EPFL since its foundation in 1855.

The Swiss Physical Society wishes Anna Fontcuberta i Morral all the best for her new position.

The 2024 International Physicists' Tournament is about to start

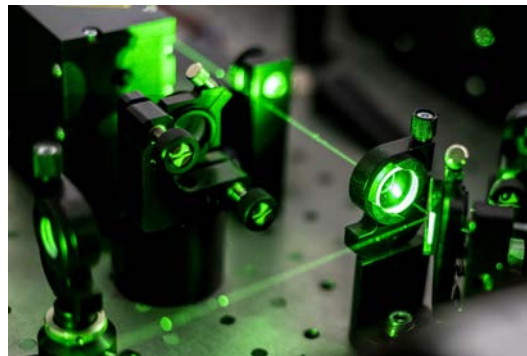
The final phase of the [16th edition of the International Physicists' Tournament \(IPT 2024\)](#) will take place at ETH Zurich from April 2 to 6, 2024.



This event sees teams of young physicists challenging each other on the solution of a series of open problems. The Swiss Physical Society will follow the event, stay tuned!

Young physicists Forum 2024

[The Young physicists Forum](#) brings together physics students from all Swiss universities for a weekend of exchanges and interesting lectures on a selected topic. [The 2024 edition](#) will take place from 26 to 28 April, 2024, at EPFL in Lausanne and will focus on “**Ultra Fast Laser Physics**”.



More information is available [here](#) and interested students can register [here](#).

SCNAT Symposium on Open Research Data

On May 31, 2024, the Swiss Academy of Sciences is organising a [Symposium on Open Research Data \(ORD\)](#). It will take place in Bern from 15h00 to 17h00 and [registrations](#) are open until May 20, 2024.



The aim of this Symposium is to discuss and reflect on the developments of the ORD strategy, published in 2021, and the Action Plan, published in 2022. The goal of this initiative is to ensure the availability of scientific data for reproducibility and reuse purposes, two pillars of scientific research.

Mathematical Physics Summer School

SwissMAP is inaugurating [The Mathematical Physics Summer School \(MAPSS\)](#). MAPSS will take place in Les Diablerets (VD) from July 14 to 19, 2024. This Summer School is intended for **Masters and beginning PhD students** and it offers introductory lectures to different aspects of mathematical physics.



This year's program will focus on Cohomology, Stokes Phenomenon, Hamiltonian Reduction, General Relativity, Characteristic Classes, and more.

For this first edition only masters students and beginning PhD students from **Swiss institutions** are invited to apply. Participation in this event is free of charge, and meals and accommodation will be provided.

The Registration deadline is on May 31, 2024. [Register through this link](#)

WHAT'S NEW ON DEI

2024 portraits of women in science in the fields of MAP

Since the beginning of the year, SCNAT

published a news series of [portraits of women in science in the field of MAP](#). Have a look at the outstanding career of a series of women who are contributing to the national scientific environment.

Image: Cristina Poretti, mathematician, and expert of radioprotection at the National Emergency Operations Centre. Photo: Benedikt Vogel.



Education: interesting insights on the role of online teaching material

[An article highlighted by EPFL](#) discusses the effect of live streaming and recorded lectures on university students' habits and performances. This article is based on a study carried out at the University of Geneva and on three surveys performed at EPFL.



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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