

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.

WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND?

Call for SPS Awards 2018

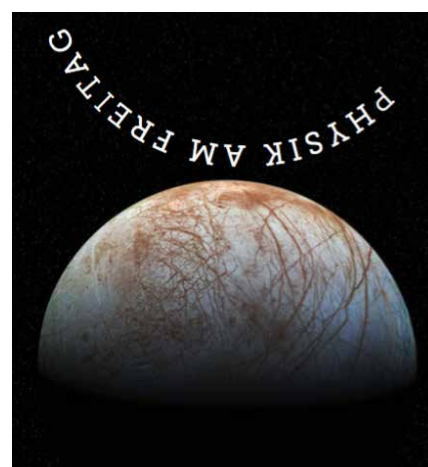
Since 1991, the SPS awards prizes for exceptionally good research by young physicists. With the prizes in various categories, donated by well-known institutions and companies, the SPS wants to make its contribution to ensuring the high quality of research in Switzerland. The prizes - each doted with 5'000 CHF - reward outstanding research works in different field: general physics (donated by ABB), condensed matter (donated by IBM), applied physics (donated by Oerlikon Surface Solutions), metrology (donated by METAS) and computational physics (donated by COMSOL). Deadline: **28 February 2018**. [\[more\]](#)



Public lectures - *Physik am Freitag* - Bern

The Department of Physics and Astronomy together with the Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics of University of Bern are organizing a series of lectures primarily intended for gymnasium students and open to the broad public.

All five lectures can be attended for free and no registration is required and take place **on the coming Friday afternoons** at 16:30 in the lecture theater 099 of the building for exact sciences at Sidlerstr 5 in Bern. Please refer to the web for the talk titles, abstracts, and speaker names. [\[more\]](#)



International Masterclasses - Hands on particle physics

Each year more than 13.000 high school students in 52 countries come to one of about 215 nearby universities or research centres for one day in order to unravel the mysteries of particle physics. Lectures from active



scientists give insight in topics and methods of basic research at the fundaments of matter and forces, enabling the students to perform measurements on real data from particle physics experiments themselves. At the end of each day, like in an international research collaboration, the participants join in a video conference for discussion and combination of their results. International Masterclasses 2018 will take place from **15 February to 28**

March 2018.

In Switzerland, under the patronage of the Swiss Institute of Particle Physics ([CHIPP](#)), the universities of Bern, Geneva and Zurich (with the ETHZ) invite students interested in taking part in Bern on **6 March 2018** (in german), in Geneva on **8 March 2018** (in french) or in Zurich on **23 March 2018** (in german). More on Masterclasses ([here](#)), CERN teacher programmes ([here](#)) and particle physics ([here](#)).

OSA Advanced Photonics Congress - Zurich

The OSA Advanced Photonics Congress will take place in Zurich on **2-5 July 2018**. The conference will bring together an international community of researchers working on a variety of topics including integrated photonic circuits, nano-photonics, quantum devices, novel materials for photonics and photonic sensor and information processing technologies. [\[more\]](#)



Science is universal and unifying - a message by the CERN DG at the WEF

The history of humankind is often told as the epic rise and fall of great empires, clashes of civilizations and epoch-defining conflicts. But another narrative is possible: a narrative in which human progress is chronicled as a smooth and continuous passage towards betterment for all. This is the narrative of ideas, and in particular, of scientific ideas that is brought forward to the World Economic Forum by the CERN Director General Fabiola Gianotti. [\[more\]](#)



WHAT'S UP IN EUROPE?

EPS Survey - Open Science and Career Development

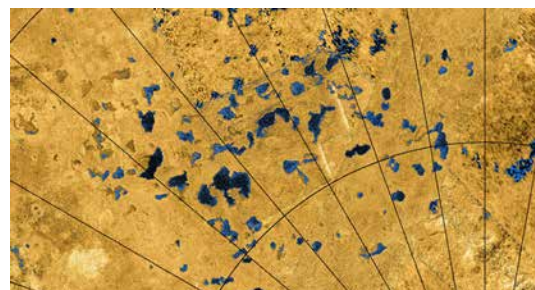
Physicists in Europe are invited to express their views in a survey on 'Open Science and Career Development' by the European Physical Society (EPS) in collaboration with the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (Eurodoc) and with the Open Science Policy Platform (OSPP) of the European Commission. This survey is aimed at all types and stages of researchers in Europe and particularly encourages early-career researchers to respond. The results of this survey will be used to guide European policy on open science and to improve the career development of researchers. In particular it will help EPS to provide specific advices and solutions related to needs and expectations of the European community of physicists. The deadline is **1 March 2018**. [\[more\]](#)



WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD?

Most complete map of Titan reveals connected seas and cookie-cutter lakes

Planetary scientist Paul Corlies of Cornell University and colleagues released a map of the Saturnian moon's topography - based on all the data from NASA's Cassini mission, which ended in September - in Geophysical Research Letters on **2 December 2017**. One of the first scientific results from this map is that liquid methane and ethane flow through a subterranean plumbing system on Titan, which drains lakes and connects seas. More in ScienceNews [here](#). Read the full paper [here](#).



IBM Q Awards Contest Program

The IBM Q Awards are a series of prizes for professors, lecturers and students who use the [IBM Q Experience](#) and [QISKit](#) in the classroom or for their research. The program consists of four separate contests - for developing course materials for a lecture series, building Jupyter Notebook tutorials with QISKit, publishing a scientific paper that makes use of QISKit (open to students or postdocs), and contributing specific code modules to the QISKit SDK. Selected submissions will be contributed to open source. [\[more\]](#)



Trump's Disdain for Science: read the article in the New York Times

After almost a year in office, President Trump has yet to name a science adviser and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Since World War II, no American president has shown greater disdain for science - or more lack of awareness of its likely costs. [\[more\]](#)



Top 10 science anniversaries in 2018

To end this newsletter on a lighter note, read the ScienceNews article of the top 10 science anniversaries in 2018, including the centennial of Noether's theorem, Richard Feynman's 100th birthday, and the 150th anniversary of the discovery of helium. [\[more\]](#)



To this prestigious list, one can add also the EPS 50th anniversary, with its photo contest as advertised in our December Newsletter. The deadline for the submission to the photo contest is **31 January 2018**. [\[more\]](#)

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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