

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

The Swiss Physical Society wishes you a successful and fulfilling 2026! One month into the new year, don't miss the latest news from the Swiss physics community.

WHAT'S NEW IN SWITZERLAND

Funding to Promote Gender and Diversity in STEM

The GENERA-COPA project was selected as one of only 25 projects funded out of 124 proposals in the latest Erasmus+ call. With the main aim of addressing the critical challenge of attracting and retaining minority groups in science and research, it received €400,000 to implement innovative activities that promote gender and diversity in maths-intensive STEM fields. GENERA-COPA

emerged from collaboration within the [GENERA Network](#), officially launching during its General Assembly at the University of Limerick at the beginning of September 2025.

Armed with this funding, GENERA-COPA is set to make a substantial impact on the European STEM landscape by promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion across higher education institutions.

Image: GENERA General Assembly 2025 and ERASMUS+ GENERA-COPA kick-off at University of Limerick

On September 4/5, 2025.



The final report of the CERN "25 by '25" initiative is available

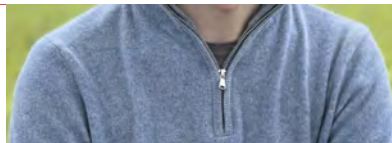
2025 marks the conclusion of the CERN initiative "25 by '25". [The final report was published on 12 December 2025.](#) The initiative, which started in 2021, outlined two objectives that CERN aimed to meet by the end of 2025: addressing 'nationality clusters', where one nationality exceeds 25% of a department or departmental group, and increasing the percentage of women among staff and graduates/fellows to 25%. The full report is available [here](#).

Julian Sonner is the new President of Platform MAP

[Julian Sonner, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Geneva, starts in 2026 as new President of the Platform MAP.](#) He succeeds Ernst Meyer, Professor of Physics at the University of Basel, who served as President for seven years from 2019 to 2025.



Julian Sonner already served in the Presidium of the Platform MAP for four years and is now assuming the presidency during an exciting phase, in which research funding in Switzerland is under pressure and technological developments in artificial intelligence are significantly changing the daily work of researchers.



The Swiss Physical Society wishes Julian Sonner every success in his new role.

Image: Julian Sonner, from SCNAT.

Klaus Ensslin elected as President of the Swiss Quantum Commission

On 11 December 2025, the Executive Board of [SCNAT elected Klaus Ensslin as the new President of the Swiss Quantum Commission \(SQC\)](#). He succeeds Nicolas Gisin.

Ensslin, Professor of Physics at ETH Zurich, took up the position on 1 January 2026, succeeding Nicolas Gisin, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Geneva. In accordance with the SCNAT rules of procedure, the President of the SQC is elected for a term of three years.



Image: Klaus Ensslin, from SCNAT.

New portrait of women in quantum science: Natasha Tomm

In this new [SCNAT portrait](#), quantum optician Natasha Tomm talks about her role as an application-oriented scientist and project manager at Zurich Instruments. She also discusses her collaborations with academic and industrial partners and the interdisciplinary nature of quantum technologies. Don't miss it!

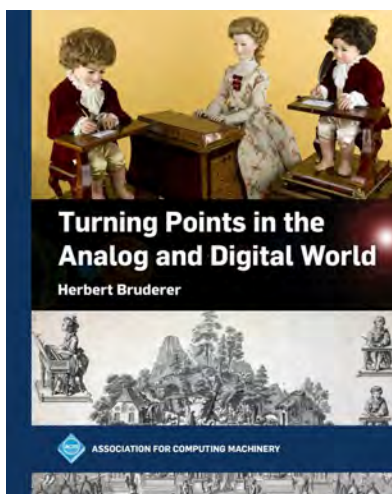
Image: Natasha Tomm, from SCNAT.



The new book by Herbert Bruderer on the history of science and technology

Herbert Bruderer's new book, *Turning Points in the Analog and Digital World*, explores the history of science and technology. Presenting the 'digital age' as a central theme, it covers topics such as digital transformation, social media, artificial intelligence, autonomous drones, mobile robots, and self-driving vehicles. The author also discusses topics such as quantum computers, DNA data storage, 3D printing and the power and influence of technology giants.

To find out more, take a look at the [presentation provided by SCNAT](#).



Sustainable HEP 2026

The **6th edition of the Sustainable High Energy Physics (HEP) workshop** has been announced and it will take place online from July 8 to 10, 2026.

Everyone is welcome to register and participate, and new attendees interested in exploring the topic of sustainability within HEP are particularly encouraged to join! While this is a HEP conference, many of the sessions and talks will be relevant to the wider science community.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS - *At the edge of spacetime: rethinking singularity resolution*

'At the Edge of Spacetime: Rethinking Singularity Resolution' is a workshop that will bring together physicists and philosophers of physics to explore conceptual issues and new results relating to spacetime singularities and their resolution in theories beyond general relativity. **The workshop will take place at the University of Geneva from 19 to 20 May 2026.**

Alongside a series of talks given by invited speakers, the organising committee is offering a limited number of slots for contributed talks. Members of underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to submit a contribution, and financial support may be available upon request.

Anonymised abstracts (maximum 500 words) should be sent as an email attachment to marta.pedroni@unige.ch with the subject line 'Workshop submission' by 15 February 2026. Selected speakers will be notified by 1 March 2026. Please indicate in your submission if you would like to be considered for financial support.

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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