

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 SWITZERLAND?

SPS Communications Nr. 64

The May issue of **SPS Communications**, the journal of our society, has been distributed to our members. Among the interesting articles present on the current issue, it is worth mentioning an overview about the current state of the research in the field of superconductivity, the second part of a very complete article about the origin of the elements of the periodic table and an interesting interview with Daniel Borel, Co-Founder of Logitech International S.A. The pdf version of this issue will be available [on the SPS website](#) starting from mid June.

We take this opportunity to remind you that the [Joint Annual Meeting of the ÖPG and SPS](#) will take place from August 30 until September 3 2021 at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and that the **deadline for the [abstract submission](#) is May 31.**

2021 Edition of the Young Physicists Forum

The 2021 edition of the [Young Physicists Forum](#) took place online at the end of April and it hosted a series of lectures about **exoplanetology** given by researchers and professors of Swiss institutions. The event lasted for two days, on April 24 and 25, and it consisted of eight very exciting interventions. During the forum, the participants learnt about many aspects of the research in the field of exoplanets, some of the talks focused on the experimental observations, others on the theoretical models of planets populations and even on the search of life in the universe. The lecturers were professors, senior researchers and PhD students at the universities of Bern, Geneva, Zurich and ETHZ.



The minutes of the event, including the recordings of some of the talks, will be available soon on the [YPF website](#). The next edition of the Young Physicists Forum is scheduled for the Spring 2022.

Science Exploratorium UZH

Pushing boundaries, expanding knowledge, deciphering the world and the universe: What drives our researchers? To which scientific



questions are they currently seeking answers? In the [Science Exploratorium UZH](#), researchers from the Faculty of Science of the University of Zurich present their current projects, and thus themselves.



The newly opened Science Exploratorium UZH hosts temporary exhibitions in which researchers share their enthusiasm for their research topics. Explanatory videos, interviews and experiments give insights into the projects and portraits of the researchers introduce the people behind the academic titles. Currently the exhibits consists of: BOTMUS (about the world of botany), CERN (about the effort of researchers from all over the world to understand the building blocks of matter), Crowd Water (about the role of citizen science to predict periods of drought and flooding), Superconductors (about the work of the UZH researchers to understand this fascinating phenomenon in experiments and theory) and XENON (about the research on Dark Matter).

Interested? Come and visit: **the Science Exploratorium UZH is open every day from 12:00 – 17:00 and offers guided tours.**

The Role of the light pulse shape on the perception of vision

A multidisciplinary group of scientists including physicists from the University of Geneva, and researchers from the EPFL Lausanne and the Geneva's Hôpitaux Universitaires (HUG) performed an intriguing study of the response of the eye's retinal proteins to light pulses, published at the end of April on [Science Advances](#).



Recent experiments performed on retinal proteins in solutions showed that, when hit by a light pulse, these molecules change their shape within the ultrafast time scale of 50 femtoseconds. The authors of this work pushed further this investigation, performed a non-invasive analysis of the retinal proteins' response in living mice, and compared their observations with dynamic simulations. The results of this study show that the retina's response to light does not only depend on the intensity of the light but also on the temporal shape of the signal and it is sensitive to a manipulation of the light excitation on a femtosecond time scale.

The full press release is available [here](#).

Artistic representation of the arrival on the retina of a femtosecond light pulse, from Scientify UNIGE.

WHAT'S UP IN EUROPE?

Open position as General Secretary of the European Physical Society

The [European Physical Society \(EPS\)](#) is a non-profit association that advocates and promotes physics research and its contributions to the economic, technological, social and cultural advancement in Europe. Federating 42 national Member Societies, institutional and corporate Members from academia and industry, and more than 3'500 Individual Members, the EPS represents a community of more than 130'000 scientists. As announced at EPS Council this year, the society has now begun its search for the **next EPS Secretary General**. [Secretary General](#).



The Secretary General heads the EPS Secretariat which supports the activities of the President, the Vice President, the Executive Committee, and all other bodies of the Society. The person to be recruited should have a university degree, preferably in physics or another field in natural sciences, with several years of experience in science management and administration. A degree in political science, business administration or similar may also be suitable. The Secretary General shall be responsible for all

administrative and financial matters of the EPS. The person supports the activities of the President, the Vice President, the Executive Committee, and all other bodies of the Society. Employment is expected to begin in autumn 2022, the applications with a detailed letter of motivation and a Curriculum Vitae should be addressed **not later than 30 June, 2021** to the EPS President, Dr. Luc Bergé (president@eps.org). Further information may also be obtained from the present Secretary-General David Lee (d.lee@eps.org). The detailed job description is available [here](#).

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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