

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 Merry Christmas and
a wonderful 2024!

WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND?

SPS Communications No. 71

The printed version of SPS Communications No. 71 was distributed in November, and the pdf version of the journal is now available [online](#).

This issue is full of interesting papers reporting on the latest advances in physics, written in an accessible way. Three articles are particularly noteworthy: one on 'The Pauli Principle and the Stability of Matter'; one on the inauguration of the Stachelschützenhaus in Basel as an EPS Historic Site, where Daniel Bernoulli (1700-1782) conducted research; and a quantitative assessment of 'Fukushima tritiated water release - what is the polemic all about?', which shows that the hysteria generated by the media worldwide has no physical basis.



The Charpak-Ritz Prize 2024 is awarded to Frédéric Mila

[The Charpak-Ritz Prize 2024 is awarded to](#)

[Frédéric Mila](#)

for his contributions to the theory of strongly correlated systems. The work of Frédéric Mila includes the successful analysis of several experimental results in systems ranging from high-temperature superconducting cuprates to frustrated quantum magnets thanks to the investigation of various strongly correlated system models and to a close collaboration with experimental groups.



The Charpak-Ritz Prize is jointly awarded each year by the [French](#) and Swiss Physical Societies to physicists who have made outstanding contributions to the field, also highlighting the tight relationship between the two societies. Named after physicists [Georges Charpak](#) (French) and [Walther Ritz](#), the prestigious award celebrates excellence in physics, fostering a deeper understanding of the physical world.

Portrait of Prof. Frédéric Mila. Photo: EPFL

The University of Geneva has a new rector

On 29 November 2023, the **Geneva State Council** [appointed Professor Audrey Leuba](#) as Rector of the University of Geneva for the period from 1 April 2024 to 14 July 2028, thus confirming the election of the University Assembly. This is a historic decision, as Professor Leuba is the first woman to head the University of Geneva since it was founded by Jean Calvin 464 years ago.



Portrait of Audrey Leuba. Photo: Niels Ackermann

13th DiNat-Forum

On Thursday 25 and Friday 26 January 2024, the thirteenth **Forum on the Didactics of Natural Sciences and Geography** will be held at the Department of Formation and Learning, the SUPSI Integrated Pedagogical High School.

This is a biannual event organized by the [Swiss Association for the Didactics of Natural Sciences \(DiNat\)](#) and the [Swiss Association for the Didactics of Geography \(ADG\)](#), which brings together the scientific communities involved in the didactics of these disciplines in the Swiss context.

The CERN Solvay camp is looking for Swiss candidates

With the **CERN-Solvay student camps**, CERN offers 30 high-school students the opportunity to spend one week on CERN's campus as an international group, each participant coming from a different country. **The organizers are specifically looking to include a participant from Switzerland** in each of the upcoming camps.



The camps feature an array of engaging activities, including:

- Hands-on laboratory workshops in our new science center, Science Gateway
- Visits of CERN's accelerators and detectors, such as ATLAS, CMS or the Antimatter Factory
- Lectures and Q&A sessions with CERN scientists, offering research insights and career advice
- Working in small groups for one day in a physics or engineering lab at CERN
- Cultural exchange with like-minded students from all corners of the world.

Applications for the next two camps are open until [15 January 2024](#). Those camps will take place from [25 May – 1 June](#) and from [5 – 12 October 2024](#). **Attending the camp is free** of charges. However, selected students must independently arrange and finance their travel to and from CERN. Funds are available to provide travel grants for a select number of students.

To find out more and apply, visit the CERN-Solvay [website](#).

Photo: CERN.

The International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

The proposed [International Year of Quantum Science and Technology](#) (IYQ) has reached an important milestone. On November 13, the 42nd General Conference of all member states of UNESCO recommended that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaims 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology. The resolution was put forward by an impressive 60 member states — led by Mexico. The next step is to include the proposal on [the agenda](#) of the 78th UN General Assembly which will meet in spring 2024 in New York for final decision.

Presentation of the European Astroparticle Physics Strategy Mid-Term Update

On December 7, 2023, the APPEC Scientific Advisory committee presented the [Mid-Term Update to the European Astroparticle Physics Strategy 2017-2026](#). During the special event, that took place in Brussels, Belgium, the APPEC Scientific Advisory committee met various stakeholders and discussed the future of particle physics in Europe.



2023 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Iranian Physicist Narges Mohammad

The 2023 Nobel Peace Prize [has been awarded](#) to the **Iranian physicist Narges Mohammadi** “for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all”. Narges Mohammadi is the third physicist to win this prize after [Andrei Sakharov](#) in 1975 and [Joseph Rotblat](#) in 1995. An interesting article on [Physics World](#) depicts her profile.



Portrait of the Iranian physicist Narges Mohammadi. Photo: Reihane Taravati.

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.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage profile](#) | [About](#)

[Subscribe as new user](#)