

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](mailto:margherita.boselli@cern.ch)

Kind regards,

*Margherita Boselli*

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## WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND?

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### Call for Nominations SPS Physics Awards – Deadline update

In 2024, the **Swiss Physical Society** will award [five prizes for outstanding scientific work](#) by young physicists. Eligible candidates can't have a permanent position at a university and can't have worked in industry for more than three years. The scientific contributions must have been made in Switzerland or abroad by Swiss citizens. Nominations will be evaluated by a committee of experts who will take into account the impact, quality and originality of the work.



**The deadline for submitting a nomination is 1 April 2024.** A full nomination will include:

- A description of the scientific work and a letter of reference stating the importance and impact of the work in the specific scientific field.
- The candidate's curriculum vitae and a full list of publications, conference presentations, awards, etc.

**Complete nominations can be sent by e-mail to the following address:**  
[awards@sps.ch](mailto:awards@sps.ch)

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### SPS Annual Meeting 2024: Call for Abstracts

The next **Annual Meeting** will be held from **September 9 to 13, 2024, at the ETH Zurich.**

The programme will include the well-established mix of plenary and topical sessions, poster session, general assembly, award ceremony and scientific equipment exhibition. Highlights include a symposium in honour of Louis de Broglie: "[100 years of wave-particle duality](#)", the Women in Physics Career Symposium, and a public lecture by Nobel Laureate Anne l'Huillier.



**The submission of abstracts will start on 1 March,** the registration will start a few days later.

Further information can be found [here](#) (DE) or [here](#) (EN).

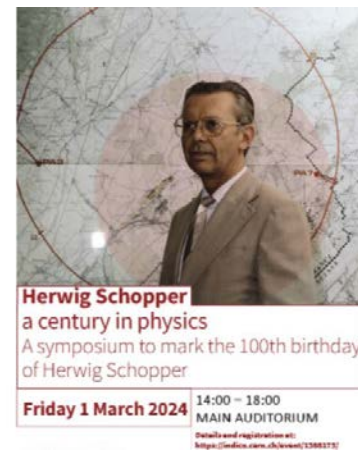
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## Herwig Schopper turns 100 years old

On 28 February 2024, **Herwig Schopper will celebrate his 100th birthday**. Dr Schopper made pioneering contributions to nuclear and particle physics both at DESY in Germany, acting as chairman of the Board of Directors from 1973 to 1980, and at CERN in Switzerland, where he was Director General from 1981 to 1988.

After retiring, he embarked on a career as a science diplomat and was instrumental in establishing the **SESAME** laboratory in Jordan, a synchrotron light facility for the Middle East and neighbouring regions.

The scientific community will pay tribute to Herwig Schopper on **Friday 1 March at 14:00, at CERN main auditorium**, featuring eminent scientists and Herwig himself. Details of the event are available [here](#) and [registration is open](#).



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## CERN 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary

2024 will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CERN.



To celebrate this milestone, a series of events will be organised throughout the year; visit the [dedicated website](#) to find out about the next events.

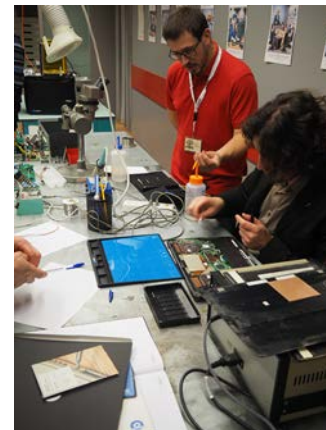
The next event will take place on 7 March 2024 under the title [“From particle physics to medicine”](#) and will provide an overview of the various applications of particle physics instruments and tools in hospitals and medical research.

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## The University of Geneva opens the “Repair’ Lab”

At the beginning of December, the **University of Geneva** opened the [“Repair’Lab”](#), a workspace accessible to all members of the academic community, where users can share their experience and skills in repairing various devices. The lab is located in the basement of the Physics Department. If you work or study in Geneva, don't hesitate to visit it!

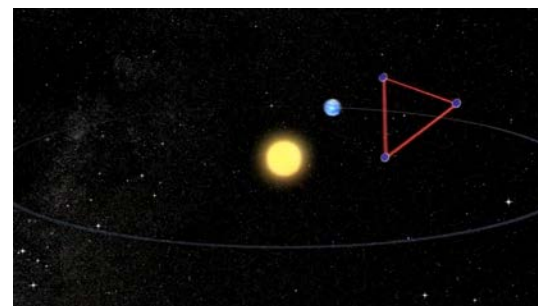
*Image: the Repair' Lab (photo from UNIGE).*



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## LISA mission approved

**LISA (Laser Interferometer Space Antenna)** is a space antenna consisting of three spacecraft millions of kilometres apart that will follow the Earth's orbit around the Sun and record interference patterns to allow scientists to reconstruct gravitational waves in space.



On 25 January 2024, the ESA (European Space Agency) Science Programme Committee carefully reviewed the preliminary studies and test phase and officially confirmed that the mission can go ahead. The launch of the space antenna should take place around 2035.

The LISA collaboration brings together more than 120 research institutes, including the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich. For more information on what to expect from the mission and the involvement of Swiss universities, click [here](#).

*Image: Simulation of the LISA antenna (from AEI, MILDE)*

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## The International Physicists' Tournament approaches

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



The Swiss Physical Society will be following this exciting event, in which teams of young physicists from all over the world will compete to solve a series of open problems. More information will follow soon, stay tuned!

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## Special Event: The Early Universe from the Revolutionary Data of the James Webb Space Telescope

[On 14 March 2024 at 17h30, the University of Bern will host a public lecture followed by a panel discussion](#) on the latest insights into the early universe from the analysis of data produced by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).



The panelists will discuss specific questions such as: "Where did stars form in the first galaxies, and how extreme were they?" "In what ways are the first galaxies unique?" and "Are new discoveries challenging the cosmological framework?". Revolutionary new JWST observations are bringing new energy to the debate about the beginning of the universe and challenging our current understanding.

The event is open to the public (no registration required). So **save the date!**

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## WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD

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### 2024 International Day of Light

[The International Day of Light](#) takes place on **May 16** because it was on this day in 1960 that a laser was used for the first time, by Theodore Maimann at Bell Labs in the USA.



**International Day of Light**

16 May

The International Day of Light (IDL2023) is an annual follow-up day to the Year of Light initiative declared by Unesco in 2015 (IYL2015). The purpose is to promote the importance of science and applications of light, to address challenges in sustainable development, health and education, and to highlight the importance of science education. All interested individuals, groups and institutions are encouraged to plan relevant events and register them in the event calendar.

The event website provides a wealth of information on the organisation of the event, and visitors can review past activities. For example, a project by ITARA - an NGO based in Madagascar. For the International Day of Light in 2023, ITARA organised a photo competition for high school students using the Foldscope microscope. Foldscope is a paper microscope that combines low-cost materials with precision optics, resulting in a high-quality and affordable instrument that can also be attached to mobile phones for imaging.

The success of the IYL/IDL, which exceeded all expectations, prompted Unesco to declare the year 2025 the International Year of Quantum Sciences and Technologies (IYQ2025). Again, it is hoped that this important message from physics to humanity will be repeated every year.

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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.

