

Time of the meeting: 20 June 2024 at 10H00

Place of the meeting: Uni Mail - University of Geneva [map](#) : room MR060

1. Welcome and agenda.

The chairman welcomes the new Professor Marcelle Soares Dos Santos (UZH).

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Apologies and Proxy votes

Board members with voting rights (as of 13 June 2024): 75

present: Beck, Blanc, Braccini, Caminada, Colangelo, Crivelli, DeCosa, Della Volpe, Dissertori, Donegà, Golling, Hildebrandt, Kilminster, Iacobucci, Isidori, Ita, Lauss, Marchevski, Montaruli, Müller, Paolozzi, Piegsa, Radoslav, Rubbia, Schneider, Schramm, Seidel, Serra, Sfyrla, Shchutska, Signer, Spira, Sanchez-Nieto, Sgalaberna, Signer, Soares Dos Santos, Soter, Spira, Stoffer, Walter, Weber, Wu.

Other participants: Grab (Prof. Em.), Benelli (Admin.), Stocker (Obs. SERI), Türler (Obs. SCNAT)

Proxy: Bernhard Lauss for Klaus Kirch, Mauro Donega for Rainer Wallny, Lesya Shchutska for Olivier Schneider, Ben Kilminster for Laura Baudis

Quorum: 24 votes (= 1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); voters present: present + 4 proxies = XX
The quorum is reached

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2024-01 [March 2024]): minutes approved.

DECISION ITEMS

4. Election of three Executive Board members & the CHIPP Chair

The present composition of the CHIPP EB is the following:

Ben Kilminster: Vice-chair : Jan 2022 – Dec 2022 (1 years) & CHAIR : Jan 2023 – Dec 2024 (2 years)

Tobias Golling: (Jan 2022 - Dec 2023) & (Jan 2024 - Dec 2025)

Paolo Crivelli: (Jan 2023 - Dec 2024)

Michael Spira: (Jan 2023 - Dec 2024)

Ben Kilminster, Paolo Crivelli and Michael Spira finish their term in Dec 2024, and are willing to continue their function in the EB.

The Board re-elect with 29 votes in favour and 3 Abstentions:

Ben Kilminster (University of Zurich) as chairman for an EB term

from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Paolo Crivelli (ETHZ) for an EB term from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026

Michael Spira (PSI) for an EB term from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026

5. **Nomination for election of one Swiss Plenary-ECFA representative**

The present Swiss representatives in ECFA are:

Rainer Wallny Restricted ECFA and Plenary ECFA member until Dec 2026, 1st term

Frédéric Blanc (EPFL), Plenary ECFA member until Dec 2024, 2nd term

Annapaola DeCosa (ETHZ), Plenary ECFA member until Dec 2025, 1st term

Philipp S. Wellenburg (PSI), Plenary ECFA member until Dec 2024, 1st term

The Board submit to the Plenary for election with 32 votes in favour:

Sergio Gonzalez Sevilla (UGe) Plenary ECFA for a 1st three-year term (Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2027)

Philipp S. Wellenburg (PSI) Plenary ECFA for a 2nd three-year term (Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2027)

6. **Nomination for election of the ACCU representative**

Sergio Gonzalez Sevilla served in this function from 2021, and he is willing to stay in this function for the years 2025-2026.

The Board submit to the Plenary for election with 29 votes in favour:

Sergio Gonzalez Sevilla (UGe)

for a second two-year term from January 2025 to December 2026 as ACCU representative.

7. **Re-election of the Education and Outreach representative**

The election of the Education and Outreach responsible belongs to the CHIPP Board.

Katharina Müller is not a CHIPP Board member, but due to the importance of this role - following Art. 22 par. 2 of the bylaws – the EB asks the Board to elect her as ex-officio member of the board for the duration of her function.

The Board re-elect with 31 votes in favour:

Katharina Müller (University of Zurich)

for a new term (Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2026) as the CHIPP responsible for Education and Outreach.

8. **Election of the Deputy Education and Outreach representative**

Postponed.

9. **Re-election of the CHAPS observer**

The College of Helvetic Astronomy ProfessorS (CHAPS) is the astronomy counterpart of the CHIPP Board in particle physics. It can be seen as a consultative, advisory body of the SCFA without being an independent legal entity.

The EB noted also that the exchange of observers between two SCNAT members is in line with the provisions of the CHIPP Statutes (Article 32.3 litt. g), where a close contact is advocated between CHIPP and the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences and its member organisations.

The Board re-elect with 31 votes in favour:

Martin Kunz (University Geneva) as CHIPP observer in the College of Helvetic Astronomy Professors for a renewable three-year mandate from January 2025 to December 2027.

10. **Re-election of one CHIPP Auditor**

Saverio Braccini (University Bern) and Steven Schramm (University Geneva) are serving as auditors. Steven Schramm finishes his mandate in June 2024.

The Board re-elect with 25 votes in favour:

Steven Schramm (UGe) as CHIPP account auditor for a three-year mandate from Jun 2024 to Jun 2027.

11. Re-election of the CHIPP Computing Board

Computing board chair coordinates the work of the Technical Computing board and steering board, acts as PI for the FLARE computing requests

Current computing board composition:

Mauro Donega chair 2019-2022 (1st term) & 2022-2024 (2nd term)
Clemens Lange (PSI) CMS
Steven Schramm (U.Ge) ATLAS
Lesya Shchutka (EPFL) LHCb
Thomas Schultess (CSCS)

The Board re-elect with 31 votes in favour:

Mauro Donega (ETHZ) as CHIPP Computing Board Chair from Jan 2025 to Dec 2027

12. Re-election of the ECT* representative

The ECT* (European Centre for Theoretical Studies in Nuclear Physics and related areas) has in its mission to be the centre of frontline research in theoretical nuclear physics, to promote active contacts between theory and experiments and related areas of research, and to further training young researchers.

Gilberto Colangelo (University of Bern) has promoted the Swiss participation in ECT* in August 2017 when he presented his proposal to the CHIPP Board (Board 2017-02).

The SNSF in late December 2017 has agreed on supporting the Swiss membership in ECT*.

The Board re-elect with 31 vote in favour:

Gilberto Colangelo (University Bern)

as Swiss representative to the ECT* for a new term from September 2024 to September 2026.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. ECR representative at the CHIPP Board.

The CHIPP EB has received recommendations from the ECRs and RECFA for ECRs to have an observer on the CHIPP Board. The EB endorses this recommendation. After discussion, the CHIPP Board accepted the decision to have an ECR representative on the Board, following the definition of ECR as per RECFA. The observer will not have voting rights. The observer to the Board will be nominated by the CHIPP Plenary and approved by the EB.

"Members are, in general, PhD students and postdocs, either with a non-permanent contract or within 8 years after obtaining their PhD." ([definition of ECR](#) as in RECFA)

Up to now, we had two liaison officers from the CHIPP ECR group: Armin Ilg (UZH) and Robert-Mihai Amarinei (UGe). They served as the contact between the ECRs and the EB. Additionally, there are four ECR officers invited to the ECFA Plenary: Armin Ilg (UZH), Elisabeth Niel (EPFL), Marco Pesut (UZH), and Giuseppe Lospalluto (PSI). Armin Ilg has reached the end of his mandate, and the CHIPP EB has received the nomination of Pantelis Kontaxakis (UGe) to replace him starting January 2025.

The new composition of ECR ECFA representatives from January 2025 is:

- Elisabeth Niel (EPFL) end July 2025
- Marco Pesut (UZH) end July 2025
- Giuseppe Lospalluto (PSI) end July 2025
- Pantelis Kontaxakis (UGe) end Dec 2026

It is proposed to have one ECR liaison officer (to be chosen from the four ECR ECFA representatives) who will also function as an observer to the Board. The organization of the ECRs is left to their discretion; they will form a committee for the organization of events.

Each ECFA country and CERN has three ECR representatives (+1 if country has an LDG lab). All of them together form the [ECFA ECR panel](#). The ECFA ECR panel selects five people among the panel that represent the panel in Plenary ECFA. Only these five are invited to the non-open PECFA meetings. One of these five PECFA ECRs is observer to [RECFA](#) as well.

Further discussion on this will be continued in the next CHIPP Board meeting.

14. CHIPP Roadmap preparation

The Chairman introduces the road map update process status. Editors were appointed, and their inputs have been incorporated into the drafts. This was discussed in the January 2024 road map meeting.

Pillar One Update:

- Tobias Golling and Paolo Crivelli have completed the first draft of the high and low energy sections for Pillar One. This draft will serve as a template for the entire pillar community to comment on.

Pillar Two Update:

- Michele Weber and Davide Sgalaberna have produced a white paper focusing on 2025-2028 and beyond, highlighting infrastructure updates and big experiments.

Pillar Three Update:

- Teresa Montaruli has drafted a white paper requiring additional input from various experiments. This draft includes societal impacts and technological advancements, aiming to be adapted into the road map format.

Other Sections:

- Sections on technology transfer, health, and education are being handled by different team members. References to existing documents and new developments will be included.

The board discusses on the need for new infrastructure and continued support for existing projects.

European Strategy Update:

- Francesca Stocker (SERI Observer) mentions that the European strategy for particle physics will be updated, with inputs due by the end of March 2025. This will align with the finalization of our road map.

Action Items:

- Review and finalize pillar drafts by the end of July.
- Gather additional inputs and finalize white papers by the end of August.
- Prepare the final document for review and comments by early October.
- Schedule a board meeting to review and approve the final road map document by the end of October.

15. European Strategy Update in Particle Physics

The Chairman reports that on March 21, 2024, the CERN Council initiated the process for updating the European Strategy for Particle Physics. This process will be overseen by the Strategy Secretariat, which will be established in June 2024. The Secretariat will provide further details and issue a call for input in due course. The deadline for submitting inputs is March 31, 2025, with the entire process expected to conclude in June 2026.

As of now, the specific mandate and scope for the input are not yet available. The CHIPP chair will serve as the Swiss representative in this process. For reference, the input submitted for the 2020 Strategy update, including the Swiss contribution. The Swiss input will be a four-page document.

The discussion centres on the importance of maintaining a conservative approach when considering new research proposals, particularly those outside established international frameworks like CERN. Concerns were raised about the potential bias in decision-making, especially regarding proposals involving projects from other countries, such as China. The group emphasized the need to prioritize existing strategies and support for CERN, while cautiously acknowledging other international projects. The consensus was to continue backing CERN's initiatives, especially through ongoing feasibility studies, justifying the support with physics research interest.

The discussion outlines the steps and schedule for finalizing the road map document, highlighting the alignment with the update process for the European Strategy for Particle Physics. The current plan involves extracting inputs from the 2018 submission and the new road map update. A draft of the road map will be submitted to the SCNAT by the end of October. It is envisioned that pillar editors will synthesize the roadmap

into a draft for the document to submit to the EPPS for discussion in January, aiming for finalization in February and submission in March. However, the exact formulation of the inputs to ESPP is not yet known, and some adjustments might be necessary. There may be additional meetings, including a possible discussion in December, to ensure all input is thoroughly reviewed. The participants agreed with this plan.

16. Long term infrastructure funding & FLARE

The discussion focuses on the upcoming FLARE funding call and the need to review any updates due to changes to the rules and regulations. There is concern that the group's aspirations might exceed the expected program funding, necessitating careful project management to avoid unmanageable cuts.

Additionally, there is discussion about a document from the Swiss research infrastructure, which points out challenges like fragmented infrastructure and short-term funding cycles. The document suggests establishing a new national body for long-term strategic planning, though it is more a reflection on existing issues rather than a concrete proposal.

There is also mention of a declining project funding access rate in the SNF project funding and its impact on long-term planning. The group considers inviting international perspectives to evaluate and improve Switzerland's approach to project funding and research infrastructure. We are expecting guidance for the FLARE program soon and will review the rules and regulations for any changes. Any observations will be shared via email as soon as we receive the call. It's important to align our aspirations with the expected program funding to avoid unmanageable cuts.

Teresa Montaruli (as SPS Chair) has invited the SNF for further discussion to clarify and provide input on project funding issues. It might be beneficial to consider how other countries manage fundamental science funding and infrastructure. An international panel could offer valuable insights, though we want to avoid replicating certain approval systems, like that of the United States. While there are concerns about potential changes, it is an opportunity to address existing issues.

17. RECFA visit report and feedback

The Chairman reports on the recent RECFA visit, during which RECFA issues two detailed reports: one to SERI and another, more comprehensive, to SNF. RECFA is impressed by the organization, effectiveness, and funding mechanisms of the Swiss particle physics community. The reports highlight successes across various areas, including early career support, computing, and research infrastructure, while also offering several suggestions for improvement.

Key recommendations include securing additional resources for specific projects, involving PSI in the FCC accelerator, optimizing efforts in the neutrino research sector, and developing a long-term R&D funding strategy with stable contracts for physicists. RECFA also suggests enhancing high throughput computing capabilities, increasing outreach and education efforts, improving the representation of female students, and strengthening the engagement of theorists in discussions. The Chairman encourages reviewing the reports for further guidance and potential discussions.

18. CHEF updates

Ben Kilminster gives an update on CHEF. He reports that UZH has sent an expression of interest based on the SERI roadmap to support future developments with CERN, which has been acknowledged and is moving through the necessary channels. UZH expects an invitation to apply within a few weeks, with the application due around October or November. A CHEF administrator will start full-time later this year to help with the application process.

So far, CHEF/UZH have received positive responses from PSI and Bern for a joint CHEF initiative, and encouraging indications from EPFL. Discussions with other institutes are ongoing. Additionally, CHEF has been renamed from "Experimental Physics for the FCC" to "CH High-Energy physics for the FCC" to be more inclusive of theorists, who play a crucial role in the success of the FCC.

19. CHIPP CODE OF CONDUCT

Ben Kilminster reminds the board of the discussion at the previous meeting in March regarding a code of conduct. The CHIPP Statutes outline exclusion criteria for members, but their enforcement lacks legal backing.

Rather than establishing a formal, enforceable code of conduct, the proposal is to add a general statement to the website that emphasizes professional respect and inclusivity. This statement will indicate that any issues should be reported and managed by the respective institutions of the members, which have the legal authority and oversight to address such matters. Enforcement of behavior standards would therefore fall to the institutions to which members belong, rather than to the organization itself. This approach aligns with previous discussions and acknowledges that the organization does not have the capacity for legal enforcement. The focus remains on maintaining a respectful and inclusive environment while utilizing existing institutional mechanisms for handling issues.

There is a request to amend the proposed text to include a sentence explicitly stating that any of the EB members can serve as contact points for reporting misconduct.

20. Computing Report Summary

Switzerland maintains a national membership in the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI), which supports software updates for Tier 2 computing pledges for LHC. This requires a payment to EGI and 10% Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) effort for administration. Currently, a computer scientist at Bern covers this 10% FTE, funded by Bern institute, which is unsustainable as it should not fall to a specific group or particle physics alone.

A potential solution is to include this in the Tier 2 FLARE proposal, as it is essential for maintaining Tier 2 infrastructure. However, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) previously opposed this. If funding is not secured, support might cease, risking the functionality of computing grid software. Efforts will continue to secure funding, including potentially redistributing existing FTE or finding matching funds. The matter remains ongoing, with further attempts to resolve the issue anticipated.

COMPUTING Board updates

Mauro Donegà's report covers recent developments and issues in computing infrastructure.

Performance Overview: Data from April 2023 to March 2024 shows varied performance. The new cluster ran poorly, and there are delays and unmet pledges in computing resources. Storage and transition issues have affected performance.

Resource Allocation: There is a need for diversification in computing resources. A proposal includes integrating different types of resources to improve efficiency. Current limitations are due to central power constraints at CSS (Swiss Computing Center), which might affect future operations.

Challenges and Costs: Moving Tier 3 computing to CSS has proved expensive. Tier 3 prices are higher than Tier 2, and the expected costs for maintaining this infrastructure are not feasible. Efforts are ongoing to find a more cost-effective solution. Plans include potentially relocating Tier 3 operations or diversifying resources to improve performance and manage costs

The report emphasizes the need for strategic planning and resource management to address current issues and improve overall computing performance.

INFORMATION ITEMS

21. CHIPP Prize 2024:

The CHIPP Prize jury honors Gabriela Rodrigues Araujo for her significant and novel contributions to experimental techniques in the GERDA, LEGEND, MONUMENT, and PALEOCCENE experiments in neutrino physics. Her work has set record limits on neutrinoless double beta decay and initiated innovative experimental techniques.

Michael Spira reported that there were 12 applications for the prize, with five candidates selected for half-hour interviews. Gabriela Rodrigues Araujo was chosen as the outstanding candidate, with some of her projects being her own initiative.

CHIPP PostDoc prize:

The Chairman introduces the proposal for the new postdoc award that was initially discussed in the Executive Board (EB) meeting. The aim is to recognize career achievements over a two to three-year

period. The award should reflect significant contributions and achievements during the postdoctoral period, distinguishing between individuals with varying levels of experience. The evaluation should be based on a two to three-year period to normalize the differences in achievements among candidates with varying lengths of postdoctoral experience. The application should include a summary of research achievements, publications, and letters of recommendation from within the institute.

Some members expressed concerns about the proliferation of awards, suggesting it may dilute the significance of existing awards for PhD students, talks, and posters. There was a debate on whether introducing another award is necessary and whether it might lead to a subjective comparison of candidates' achievements. There was a discussion on whether the award should consider achievements made during a postdoc in Switzerland versus those made internationally, and decided that the applicants should be working for a CHIPP institution, i.e., not Swiss mobility postdocs who could be considered for awards in other countries. However, the work should be of relevance to the international community, and so the importance of external letters of recommendation was highlighted, ensuring that the evaluation is not solely based on internal supervisors. The board discussed the need for a clear mandate to ensure fair judgment of candidates' work within the stipulated time frame.

A poll is conducted to gauge the committee's interest in pursuing the proposal further. The majority vote is in favor of continuing to explore the implementation of the award, with some members abstaining and a few not in favor of a new award. (16 yes, 2 No, 6 Abs)

It is decided to address and refine specific criteria and processes in subsequent meetings. The EB will work on clarifying the criteria and processes for the award. A follow-up discussion will be scheduled to finalize the implementation details. The diversity and composition of the judging panel will be reviewed to ensure impartiality.

22. SCNAT funding requests & future events

- new Swiss summer-student research program → Luigi Marchese
- Dialog → Katharina Muller
- International Particle Physics Outreach group (IPPOG) → Katharina Muller
- Winter School → Lesya Shchutska & Björn Pennig

23. New professorships at CHIPP institutes: report from each institute

No news.