

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 NEW IN SWITZERLAND

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### 2025 Joint SPS and ÖPG Annual Meeting - abstract submission deadline

**The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Swiss Physical Society** will be organized jointly with the **Austrian Physical Society (ÖPG)**. It will take place from **18 to 22 August 2025 at the University of Vienna**.

**The abstract submission deadline has been extended to 18 May 2025.** Abstracts can be submitted here.

**Registrations are open until 1 July 2025.** Your contribution will ensure an interesting and successful conference! Further information is available on the [SPS website](#) or the [conference website](#).



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### The Swiss Team won IPT 2025!

Switzerland won the 2025 edition of the **International Physicists' Tournament**, sharing first place with **Germany**. The team was led by students from ETH Zurich, supported by members of EPFL. After 8 months of working on open-ended physics problems, the Swiss team had to present, defend and discuss their solutions in an interactive format



against other students from 17 different countries. Switzerland secured its place in the Grand Finale and led the competition, presenting work ranging from the physics of candles and fluid dynamics to maximising the launch speed of rubber bands. The Grand Final took place in Warsaw, Poland, from 7 to 13 April 2025. At the Grand Final, the Swiss team presented their research on oscillating rings, a problem in which they studied the motion of two concentric rings held by a magnet. The jury of physics professors from around the world gave them the highest marks for their presentation, which included a complete theoretical model, simulations and extensive experimental validation.

The Swiss physics community congratulates the brilliant students of the national selection on their results!

*Image: The Swiss and the German teams winners of the 2025 edition of IPT.*

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## Schläfli Prizes 2025

On 29 April, SCNAT announced the names of the four winners of the **2025 Schläfli Prizes**.

Each year, SCNAT, the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences, rewards the most innovative doctoral theses from Swiss universities. The 2025 laureates are Simona Meiler for Earth Sciences, Ewa Merz for Biology, Hyn Suk Wang for Chemistry and Martin Sarott for Physics.



The winner of the physics prize, **Martin Sarott**, studied materials science at ETH Zurich and worked on light polarization effects in ferroelectric materials.

*Image: Portrait of Martin Sarott, winner of the Schläfli Prize for physics. Photo from Siebe van der Veer.*

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## The International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

2025 is **the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology**, an occasion to celebrate 100 years since the development of quantum mechanics.



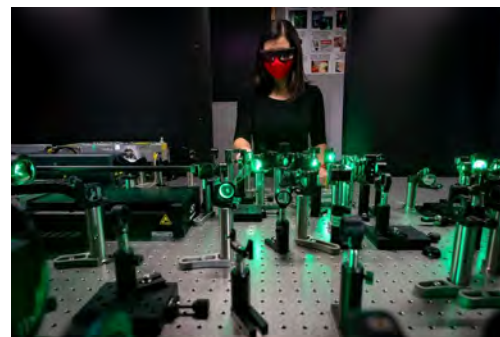
In Switzerland, the celebrations will take the form of a series of very interesting events.

During the month of May, the calendar of **events in Geneva** is particularly rich. On 13 May, Julien Bobroff, professor at the University of Paris-Saclay and an expert in the communication of quantum mechanics, will give a public conference. On 14 May, the **CineGlobe Festival at CERN begins**. On Saturday 17 May, the Physics Department of the University of Geneva will take part in **Musea Night** with a series of events dedicated to quantum science. Finally, from 19 to 21 May, **the Pint of Science** will be an opportunity to discuss quantum science over a drink.

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## Call for Pre-Proposals under the Swiss Quantum Initiative

The **Swiss Quantum Initiative (SQI)** has just launched a **new call for pre-proposals**. The aim of the call is to accelerate quantum technologies in Switzerland towards practical and real-world applications. The call for pre-proposals runs **from 30 April 2025 to 13 June 2025**. Interviews for selected pre-proposals are planned for July and August.



An **information webinar will be held on 14 May 2025**. During the meeting, the idea and objectives of the call will be presented and clarified. There will also be time to answer any questions. The webinar will be hosted by zoom. You can register **here**.

*Image from Argonne National Laboratory.*

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## The International Fusion Week

The **Swiss Plasma Center** and the **Laboratory for Experimental Museology (eM+)** of the EPFL will participate in the international **Fusion Week** (5 to 9 May 2025, from 12 to 16 h) with a series of public events. Visitors will be able to experience a



3D immersion in the world of fusion, followed by a guided tour of the TCV tokamak and a discussion with scientists working in the field. For more details and to register, please follow [this link](#).



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## 21st International Symposium on Laser-Aided Plasma Diagnostics

The Symposium on Laser-Aided Plasma Diagnostics, LAPD2, is the continuation of a biennial series that began at Kyushu University in 1983. It brings together physicists and



chemists in diverse areas of laser-based plasma diagnostics including the physics of nuclear fusion, laser physics and low-temperature plasma chemistry and physics. The symposium aims to promote cross-pollination of these fields via fruitful discussion and covers all diagnostics using electromagnetic waves (lasers and microwaves) applied to fusion plasmas, industrial process plasmas, environmental plasmas, plasmas for medical applications, atmospheric plasmas, plasmas in liquids and other plasma applications. The LAPD21 is organized and sponsored by the Swiss Plasma Center – EPFL. The **2025 edition of LAPD2** will be held from **1 to 5 September 2025 in Saillon les Bains, Saillon, Switzerland**. More information can be found [here](#).

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## New book on plasma physics published

[A book on plasma physics](#) has recently been published as part of the the [IOP Series in Plasma Physics](#). The book focuses on the application of resonant antennas in the plasma industry. This publication is certainly an important resource for the plasma physics community.

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## CERN-Solvay Student camp

The **CERN-Solvay student camps** are week-long residential camps for high school students aged 16 and over who are curious about science. They offer a unique opportunity to experience life at the world's largest particle physics laboratory and to explore what a career in science is really like. Each camp welcomes 30 students from all over the world to the CERN campus.

Applications from Swiss high school students are welcome. The deadline for applications is Sunday 25 May. More information is available [here](#).

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# WHAT'S NEW IN EUROPE

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## 2025 EPS High Energy Particle Physics Prizes

The **European Physical Society** has announced the winners of the [2025 High Energy and Particle Physics Prize](#) for an outstanding contribution to high energy physics in an experimental, theoretical or technological field. The 2025 Prize is awarded [to Jürg Gasser, Heinrich Leutwyler and Martin Lüscher](#) for pioneering contributions to new theoretical methods that have advanced our understanding of the strong interactions in their non-perturbative regime.

[The Outreach Prize](#), for outstanding achievements in outreach, education and the promotion of diversity in connection with high-energy physics and/or particle astrophysics, is awarded to [the CERN and DESY competition "Beamline for Schools" \(BL4S\)](#), a project that gives high school students from all over the world the opportunity to design, prepare and carry out a particle physics experiment at a beamline facility.

[EPS prizes](#)

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# WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD

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## Events registration for the 2025 International Day of Light

16 May is the **International Day of Light (IDL)**, an annual initiative to highlight the role of light in many different fields, from science and culture to education, medicine and sustainable development. 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of international activities on light and the theme of this year's IDL is: "Light, Innovation, Society".



International  
Day of Light

16 May

**The call for events** for the International Day of Light 2025 is now open. Events can now be registered on the [official website](#).

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## A paper on threats to academic research

At the beginning of April, **Science Direct published an interesting article calling for action to address the threats to scientific research** that are affecting academia around the world.

Among the issues addressed in the paper are public distrust of science, challenges in translating academic research into end-user applications, a disconnect between academics and policy makers, emerging barriers to international collaboration, and a reliance on traditional metrics to evaluate academic performance.

This publication, written by authors from several countries around the world, presents various calls to action and promotes beneficial change for researchers, institutions and society. The article is open access at this [link](#).

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## WHAT'S NEW ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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### The podcast "Donne tra le stelle"

A new podcast, "**Donne tra le Stelle**", created by Paola Catapano, science communicator at CERN, was launched in April. It consists of a series of interviews with female scientists who will guide the public through their research. Among the participants are Fabiola Gianotti, Director General of CERN, Patrizia Caraveo and Teresa Montaruli, President of the Swiss Physical Society and Professor at the University of Geneva.

The podcast is in Italian and is inspired by the work of science journalist Rossella Panarese.

All episodes are 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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