

Minutes of the Board meeting 2021-02 on 10 June 2021

Time of the meeting: 10 June 2021 at 14H00

Place of the meeting: Hotel Seaside, Spiez
[Indico page](#)

Welcome and agenda. Rainer Wallny [[slides](#)], the CHIPP chair, welcomes the Board members, the honorary Board members, the observers at the Board and the observer as a future Board member: Marina Marinkovic (ETH Zürich, ITP). The Chair welcomes the new Board member Steven Schramm (UniGE, DPNC).

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Apologies and Proxy votes

The Chair details the proxy votes announced before the meeting¹

Board members with voting rights (as of 10 June 2021): 68

Present: Beck, Braccini, Canelli, Colangelo, Crivelli, De Cosa, Donega, Golling, Greljo, Iacobucci, Isidori, Kilminster, Kunz, Müller, Sanchez Nieto, Schneider, Schramm, Seidel, Sfyrla, Serra, Shchutska, Soter, Wallny (Chair), Weber, Wu. Electronic vote: Crivellin, Dissertori, Hildebrandt, Kirch, Spira.

Online: Caminada, Dissertori, Ritt

Other participants: Benelli (Admin.), Gallo (Obs. SNSF), Grab (Prof. Em), Refregier (Obs. CHAPS), Rivkin (Prof. Em), Salzarulo (Obs. SERI), Türlér (Obs. SCNAT).

Quorum: 23 votes (= 1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); Votes present: 25 present + 5 electronic votes + 3 proxies = 33 → The quorum is reached.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (2021-01 [February 2021]):

The Chair asks for comments concerning the minutes of the previous meeting. Since there are none, the Chair invites the Board to approve them. The minutes are approved (with 35 yes and 1 abstention) and will be published on the [CHIPP](#) website.

DECISION ITEMS

3. Election of two Executive Board members and of the CHIPP Chair

Rainer Wallny and Anna Sfyrla finish their term in Dec 2021, the candidates for the function of vice-chair received by the EB are Ben Kilminster and Tobias Golling. The Chair asks Ben Kilminster and Tobias Golling to present their backgrounds and motivations; their CVs [\[1,2\]](#) are available. Kilminster's research activity is

¹ Florencia Canelli for Cristina Botta, Gino Isidori for Stefano Pozzorini, Ben Kilminster for Laura Baudis.

mainly focused on dark matter searches (DAMIC experiment) and Higgs precision measurements in search of new physics phenomena. He contributes both in the data analysis and in the detector R&D, in particular in the pixel detector of CMS. The main issue he would like to address during his mandate on the EB concerns making sure that the institutions, universities and funding agencies understand the importance of fundamental research, keeping the research in particle physics alive and financing big and small experiments to ensure a variegated portfolio.

Tobias Golling works in the ATLAS experiment and since 2014 has been Professor at the University of Geneva. He shares the view of Kilminster on CHIPP being an amazing tool that allows particle physicists to coordinate priorities and activities and to communicate efficiently to the funding agencies. He is willing to continue the current working strategy of the CHIPP EB.

The Board elects Ben Kilminster (UZH) for a 1st EB term from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 with 31 vote + 2 abstentions.

The Board elects Tobias Golling (UGe) for a 1st EB term from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023 with 30 vote + 2 abstentions.

Michele Weber is willing to serve as a CHIPP Chair for one year, up to the end of his 3rd term in the EB.

The Board elects Michele Weber (Uni Bern) as CHIPP Chair from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 with 31 votes + 2 abstentions.

4. Election of the CHIPP Computing Board Chair

The CHIPP computing Chair is in charge of coordinating the work of the Technical Computing Board and the Steering Computing Board; the Chair is also acting as PI for the FLARE computing requests. This position is important enough that - if the holder of the function is not a CHIPP board member - that person should be elected as ex-officio member of the Board for the duration of their function. Mauro Donegà has been the CHIPP Computing Board Chair since Jan 2019; his term finishes in Dec 2021, but he has agreed to continue serving as CHIPP Computing Board Chair.

The Board unanimously elects Mauro Donegà as CHIPP Computing Board Chair from Jan 2022 to December 2024

5. Nomination for election of two Swiss Plenary-ECFA representatives

The election of the Swiss representatives in the European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) belongs to the CHIPP Plenary, based on a recommendation by the Board.

Rainer Wallny explains briefly the main tasks involved in the positions: the Plenary ECFA decides on all ECFA activities, appoints the Chair and Secretary, approves the final reports of the working groups and terminates their activities, decides on admission of new observers, and makes recommendations to outside organizations. The Plenary ECFA appoints members for a maximum total period of six years after nomination by their country. While the members chosen should be able to represent the views of the high-energy physics community of their country, they are members of Plenary ECFA as individuals. Plenary ECFA normally holds two meetings per year. Meetings are public unless otherwise decided. The Restricted ECFA is composed of one member per country, appointed for at most two three-year periods. Restricted ECFA assists and advises the Chair and the Secretary in the current running of ECFA, and acts as the communication channel to each participating country, its physics community and national institutes and authorities.

The Board unanimously submits to the Plenary the proposals of:

- the re-election of Frederic Blanc (EPFL), Plenary ECFA for a 2nd three-year term (Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2024)
- the re-election of Mike Seidel (EPFL/PSI), Restricted and Plenary ECFA for a 2nd three-year term (Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2024)
- the election of Philipp Schmidt-Wellenburg (PSI), Plenary ECFA for a 1st three-year term (Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2024)

6. Re-election of a CHIPP Auditor

Since Ben Kilminster has been elected as Vice-chair, he cannot serve as CHIPP auditor; for this reason the CHIPP EB will ask for nominations for this position and the election will be held at the next CHIPP Board in October 2021.

7. Election of the APPEC General Assembly scientific delegate

Switzerland has been a member of the AstroParticle Physics European Consortium (APPEC) since 2013. Xin Wu explains that existing challenges are ahead of the astroparticle community, especially regarding the experiments in the field of Gravitational Waves and gamma-rays.

The Board unanimously re-elects Xin Wu for a 2nd term (Jan 2022 – Dec. 2023) as APPEC General Assembly scientific delegate.

8. Re-election of the CSR representative

The Committee on Space Research (CSR) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) coordinates and stimulates space research in Switzerland. It maintains contact with international organizations such as the European Space Agency ESA and the Committee of Space Research COSPAR. Since October 2014, CHIPP has been invited to nominate a person who would serve as official link between CHIPP and the CSR. Xin Wu reminds the Board that the funding for the projects under the umbrella of the CSR come from Prodex, a separate funding mechanism from FLARE. Prodex promotes the close collaboration between the academy and industry.

The Board unanimously re-elects Xin Wu (University of Geneva) for a 4th term (Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2023) as CSR representative.

9. Re-election of the IPPOG representative

The International Particle Physics Outreach Group (IPPOG) is a network of scientists, science educators and communication specialists working across the globe in science education and public outreach for particle physics. IPPOG bring new discoveries in this exciting field to young people and conveys to the public that the beauty of nature is indeed becoming understandable from the interactions of its most fundamental parts - the elementary particles.

The Board unanimously re-elects Katharina Müller (University of Zurich) for a 3rd term (Sep. 2021 – Sep. 2023) as IPPOG Swiss representative.

10. Election of the CHAPS representative

After a year of service in the position of CHIPP observer to CHAPS, Rainer Wallny, who took the responsibility as CHIPP Chair to provide this service, has expressed his desire to step down from this responsibility. 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. For this reason, the CHIPP EB has asked for the nomination of a candidate to be observer to the CHAPS for the period Jan 2022 – Dec 2024.

The Board unanimously elects Martin Kunz (University Geneva) as CHIPP observer in the College of Helvetic Astronomy Professors for a renewable three-year mandate from January 2022 to December 2024.

11. Nominations for admission of new honorary members

The Chair reminds the Board about honorary memberships as described in the Statutes. The admission of Honorary Members is at the discretion of the CHIPP Plenary, based on a recommendation by the Board. He reminds us that there are two types of membership: for the Board or the Plenary.

The CHIPP Chair has received the following request for Honorary Membership as Honorary Board Member: Mikhail Chapochnikov (EPFL).

The Board unanimously confirms that the applicant fulfils the requirements for being granted the status of Honorary Board Member by the end of 2021 according to the Statutes; The Board unanimously submits to the Plenary the proposal of the candidate for Honorary Board Membership by the end of 2021, thereby recommending his admission in the respective category.

12. Nominations for Swiss Scientific Delegate to CERN

The decision regarding the scientific member of the Swiss delegation to CERN Council belongs to the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). However, as mentioned in the CHIPP Statutes (Article 27, litt. m) the Board can nominate the candidate(s) for the appointment by SERI. Günther Dissertori is finishing his 1st three-year mandate as the scientific member of the Swiss delegation to CERN Council at the end of 2021.

The Board unanimously recommends to SERI Rainer Wallny and Florencia Canelli as candidates to be scientific member of the Swiss delegation to CERN Council from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. Third party funding for Swiss Particle Physics

Valentina Gallo, the SNSF observer at the CHIPP Board is present at the meeting; Thomas Werder (SNSF) joins the meeting via ZOOM; they present their [slides](#). Werder explains that Switzerland is in a privileged situation; overall, research funding by the state has increased at a rate of around 5% per year in the last 20 years. The success rate of the FLARE grants for both CHIPP and CHAPS proposals is high, with typical budget sharing of 85% CHIPP versus 15% CHAPS projects. For the current ERI period two-thirds of the budget has been allocated and the rest will be allocated with the call in 2022.

As regards project funding, from the presented plots, it has become clear that the number of submitted proposals for the CHIPP disciplines has decreased, but the amount of money requested per proposal has greatly increased. Unfortunately, the budget SNSF has available does not proceed at the same pace as the requests; for this reason, the success rate has decreased. The success rate is defined as the number of grants funded among those submitted, independently of the percentage funded (so every proposal counts as 0 or 1). There is an artefact in the data due to the change of funding regulations in 2016. From then on, the number of proposals has decreased since PIs could only submit up to two grants and the funding period was increased to up to four years. Both effects lead to submission and possible approval of larger grants. The CHIPP Board asks to have the plots redone with the funding granted per year, not in a cumulative way where the total sum is attributed to the year of the request. In addition, the CHIPP community underwent a concerted effort to bundle the research projects in larger grants for better strategy alignment. The discussion unveils that the recently observed trend to reject a large proposal encompassing several projects of a PI in its entirety instead of targeted cuts is a consequence of the budget situation described at the beginning of Werder's talk. Werder states that there is an ongoing discussion on how to treat budgets in the Research Council. At present, the policy is to apply specifically motivated cuts but no global budget reductions.

From the CHIPP Board discussion, it becomes clear that this new development has a huge impact on the continuity of research: for an Institute it becomes impossible to continue long term projects and to fulfil their obligations towards the experiment. Werder suggests to the CHIPP Board that PIs investigate the possibility of applying for a grant in advance to avoid gaps. He stresses that it is highly appreciated by the SNSF if a realistic budget is given, without anticipating a possible cut. The time for resubmission is very short, usually a week; the Board asks to consider extending this time. At the voiced expression of concern about the future of fundamental science research, Thomas Werder assures the support of the SNSF; research driven by curiosity continues to be of fundamental importance for Switzerland.

The CHIPP EB suggests creating a dedicated working group to reflect the changes and suggestions discussed today and brainstorm a possible strategy. The core group will consist of the Vice EB chairs but anyone is welcome to participate. The CHIPP board members who serve in the SNSF research council (Schneider, Wallny) will excuse themselves from the working group but will make themselves available for questions. The Chair and the full Board cordially thank the SNSF observers for the fruitful and open discussion.

INFORMATION ITEMS

14. SCNAT funding requests

The SCNAT every year offer financial support to some projects we organise. As in the past CHIPP plans to ask for support for:

- IPPOG membership fee
- many years ongoing project DIALOG, financing a journalist to write interviews; reporting scientific results to be published on the CHIPP/SCNAT webpage
- the Zuoz PhD school that has already been approved but postponed because of the Covid pandemic; it will take place in August 2022

Another CHIPP PhD school was alternating with the Zuoz school, the Winter PhD school, which has been cancelled twice already due to the pandemic. For this reason, the CHIPP Board ask for a volunteer to organise again this very much appreciated school and give the possibility to a generation of PhD students of profiting from the very enriching experience of lectures, networking, and skiing together.

15. CHIPP Computing Board updates

Mauro Donegà presents his [slides](#). The TIER2 computing FLARE request has been granted. The computing steering board has been reduced to one representative per experiment. The level of membership to the EGI is being discussed.

16. AGORA (SNSF) funding of Outreach project

Katharina Müller presents her [slides](#). She presents the possibility to organize a major exhibit in one or more of the leading national museums. Suitable places are identified in Bern, Wintherthur and Luzern. Outreach Enthusiasts are required to help write an AGORA grant proposal.

17. SPS/OPG joint annual meeting in Innsbruck

The SPS annual meeting 2021 will be held in collaboration with the Austrian Physical Society in Innsbruck from the 31 August to the 3 September. CHIPP, as always, will participate in the organisation of the TASK session. Due to the Covid pandemic, it is not guaranteed to have an in-person meeting; further information about this will be given in the first half of the month of July. In the impossibility of meeting in person, a full online event will be organised.

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

Basel: Stefan Antusch informs: ttAP position at the University of Basel, in the area of Theoretical Particle Physics and Cosmology, with application deadline 30.9.2021. The ad can be found at the usual resources, including INSPIRE (<https://inspirehep.net/jobs/1866785>).

Geneva: Xin Wu has been appointed Full Professor, Steven Schramm has been appointed Assistant Professor, Lorenzo Paolozzi has been appointed Professor with a joint position between the U. of Geneva and CERN.

Zurich: A new position has been opened for a professor to work on Gravitational Waves and multi-messenger analysis.

EPFL: Victor Gorbenko should start in February 2022 as Professor at the EPFL. The EPFL president will propose his nomination at the next meeting of the ETH Board in July.

ETHZ: Marina Marinkovic has been appointed Assistant Professor of Computational Physics in the Department of Physics.

19. A.O.B.

Anna Sfyrlla presents the two FCC-ee Workshops that she is organising with Florencia Canelli the 7 September at the University of Geneva and in January 2022 at the University of Zurich.

Fostering CH collaboration towards a FCC(ee)

Florencia Canelli & Anna Sfyrlla

1


**7 September 2021**
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1040241/>
Registration open!


**Physics, detectors and accelerators:**
status of existing efforts within the FCC study and explorations of Swiss interests & expertise applicable to a future high-energy circular collider


**Introduction to international FCC efforts and identification of common grounds of activities within Switzerland**


**UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE**
Host:

2

**26-28 January 2022**
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1041452/>

**Physics, detectors and accelerators:**
expressions of interest for participation to concrete projects

**Identification of interested parties for collaborative activities; potentially also participating to common efforts for fund raising (e.g. FLARE)**

**University of Zurich**
Host:

Workshops sponsored by the UniGe and the UZH; supported by CHIPP;

Attendance open to all! Please join!