

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

WHAT'S NEW IN SWITZERLAND

The SPS Annual Meeting is approaching

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Swiss Physical Society is organised jointly with the Austrian Physical Society and will take place at the **University of Vienna from 18 to 22 August 2025**.

The Annual Meeting is the most important event in our Society's calendar and provides the perfect opportunity for members and other scientists also from other partner societies to come together and discuss advances in physics research.

The detailed [programme](#) is available and was published in the July issue of SPS Communications, which was distributed to all our members a few days ago. In the first day of the meeting the General Assembly of the society will take place and its agenda is in the Communications.

This year's Annual Meeting will open with a series of satellite events. On the morning of August 18th, the [Energy Day](#) will take place, co-organized by the Energy, Sustainability and Environment (ESE) section and the respective section of ÖPG, featuring a plenary talk by Anna Fontcuberta, the newly elected EPFL President, and other Austrian speakers. In the afternoon, **the fourth edition of the Women in Physics Career Symposium (WiP)** will be held alongside a symposium celebrating the work of Wolfgang Pauli and Erwin Schrödinger: **100 Years of Quantum Physics**.



International Physics Olympiad: Results of the Swiss Team

The 55th [International Physics Olympiad \(IPhO\)](#) took place at the École Polytechnique in Palaiseau, Paris, from 18 to 24 July, bringing together talented high school



students from 89 countries. Switzerland was represented by a team of five students, who travelled to Paris with two students from Liechtenstein. Participants were required to solve experimental and theoretical physics tests covering a variety of topics, including intriguing phenomena such as the behaviour of gas bubbles in a champagne bottle and the movement of rovers on the surface of Mars. David Reichmuth, from Luzern, was awarded a bronze medal for his performance.



Image: The Swiss team at the International Physics Olympiad. Credits: Physics Olympiad committee.

STELLAR: it's a wrap

Almost 56 years after humans took their first steps on the Moon, Geneva's physics community celebrated this anniversary with a successful public event at CERN: [STELLAR](#).

On Saturday 19 July, a variety of events took place at the CERN Science Gateway, lasting from 16:00 to midnight. The Auditorium hosted three conference sessions featuring Nobel Prize Laureates, physicists and astronauts. The laboratories were open to the public and offered hands-on activities. The public had the



opportunity to interact with astronauts and meet authors who were available to sign copies of their books. All participants could also enjoy live music in the Science Gateway Plaza.

STELLAR has been co-sponsored by SPS and also conceived and promoted by IUPAP and the University of Geneva during the [International Cosmic Ray Conference ICRC 2025](#) running from 14-24 July 2025. STELLAR local committee included the SPS president. ICRC brought 1300 scientists to Geneva for a 10-day intense exchange of information with 4 plenary talks in the morning and 5 parallel sessions of about 20 talks each afternoon.

STELLAR was an emotional event that brought science closer to the public. All the talks were recorded and are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAFvnKBCBOs>

Image: one of the sessions of STELLAR. Image from CERN.

SwissMAP research Les Diablerets: call for proposal

The **SwissMAP Research Station**, a joint venture between the University of Geneva and ETH Zurich, is in the mountain village of **Les Diablerets**. It organizes topical conferences and workshops in the fields of mathematics and theoretical physics. Inaugurated in 2021, it welcomes around 12 week-long events per year during the winter and summer months.

SRS

The programme for 2026 has been published and is available [here](#). Among a series of specialised events targeting university students and beyond, one event of particular interest is 'Les Marmottes', a University of Geneva initiative aimed at promoting mathematics among young girls aged 13–17.

Applications to organize an event at the SwissMAP Research Station in 2027 are now open. All information is available [here](#).

Call for nominations for the SwissMAP Junior Researcher prize

[SwissMAP](#) is promoting the **awarding of prizes** to young researchers as one of its initiatives. SwissMAP and G-Research are now inviting nominations and applications for the [SwissMAP Junior Researcher Prize](#).

Up to three prizes are awarded each year to PhD students or postdoctoral researchers enrolled in a Swiss institution at the time of application, in recognition of significant achievements in mathematics and theoretical physics. The prizes are supported by [G-Research](#). The deadline is 15 September 2025.

La quantique décodée

To celebrate the [International Year of Quantum Science and Technology](#), the [Geneva Quantum Centre](#) and the University of Geneva organised a temporary exhibition on quantum mechanics, open to the public, at the Geneva Museum of the History of Science: **'La quantique décodée'**.



The exhibition was organised in collaboration with the group '[La physique autrement](#)' (University of Paris-Saclay) and [ID Quantique](#). Through this exhibition, visitors can discover more about this fundamental science and learn about its applications.

Entry is free and the exhibition is open until **20 August 2025**.

WHAT'S NEW ON DEI

Tackling the Glass Ceiling in Physics: DEI Lunch Discussion at the International Conference on Radio Cosmology

On 18 July 2025, during the International Conference on Radio Cosmology (ICRC) in Geneva, a dynamic and engaging panel addressed one of the most pressing challenges in science today: how to promote greater gender equity, diversity and inclusion (DEI) in physics.

Moderated by **Philipp Schmidt-Wellenburg** (Paul Scherrer Institute and SPS Commission for Diversity and Inclusion), the panel featured a distinguished group of experts and researchers:

Margherita Boselli, Patrizia Caraveo, Brian Clark, Teresa Montaruli and Maya Widmer. Together, they offered and discussed personal perspectives, research findings and policy proposals regarding the subtle and structural mechanisms that hinder equity in academic careers.

Including such a session in an international physics conference helps to raise awareness of this issue and facilitate discussion of possible solutions.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD

UPAP-IYQ2025 PHOTO CONTEST

To celebrate the 2025 International [IUPAP Year of Quantum Science and Technology \(IYQ2025\)](#), the [International Union of Pure and Applied Physics \(IUPAP\)](#) is launching an **international photography competition**. The competition aims to capture the beauty of quantum processes and showcase the presence and impact of quantum science and technology in our daily lives, as well as the various ways in which quantum research and education are conducted around the globe.

The IUPAP photo contest has been approved as an [IYQ2025 global event](#).

Submissions are open from 9 June to 31 August 2025. Winners will be announced on 17 October 2025.

Submissions are open in two categories: 'Beyond our Eyes', for images obtained through scientific equipment or numerical simulations of quantum processes; and 'At a Glance', for all other photos, including those illustrating the aesthetic value of scientific equipment and visible quantum effects in nature, such as light, as well as anything else within the photographer's imagination.

It should also be noted that it is important to register past and future quantum events in the global database of events at [IYQ2025 global event](#).

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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