

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 UP IN SWITZERLAND?

CERN Science Gateway opens its door to the public

On October 7, 2023, CERN inaugurated a new space for science education and outreach: [the Science Gateway](#). The building's distinctive structure, inspired by the CERN's accelerator tubes, is divided into five separated spaces. They are designed to house exhibitions, laboratories and an auditorium that can be divided into three areas, depending on requirements. The building also includes a shop and a restaurant, the Big Bang Café. The five spaces are connected by a transparent glass bridge, symbolising CERN's commitment to fostering collaboration across international boundaries and different cultures, and to making open science accessible to all.



Designed by world-renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Science Gateway will allow CERN to expand its range of education and outreach initiatives. "For me, personally, the Science Gateway is a dream that has become a reality" said Fabiola Gianotti, CERN's Director-General, "and I am deeply grateful to all the people who have contributed."

The new facility is expected to welcome some 500,000 visitors a year from all over the world. The Science Gateway will be accessible free of charge and will be open six days a week, from Tuesday to Sunday.

Image: President of the CERN Council, Eliezer Rabinovici, President of the Swiss Confederation, Alain Berset, CERN Director-General, Fabiola Gianotti, Chair of Stellantis, John Elkann, and architect Renzo Piano, during the official inauguration of the building on October 7. From CERN.

Interview with the organizers of IPT 2024

In 2024, Switzerland will host the final phase of the [International Physicists' Tournament](#). The event will take place from April 2 to 6 at the ETH Zurich and is supported by the Swiss Physical Society.



Alberto Rolandi and Mathieu Soter, former participants turned organisers, are the promoters of this initiative. The SPS met them and has just published an [interview](#) in which they talk about their role in the local organising committee and how this experience has shaped their research careers. Don't miss their insights into this exciting journey!



Physics in Advent is coming to town

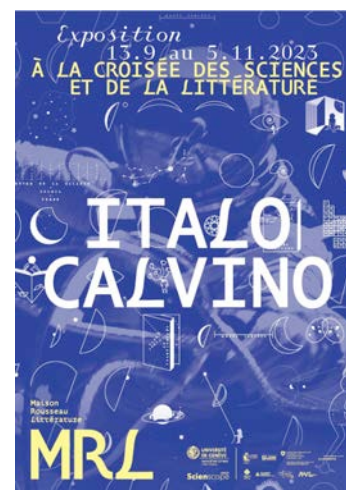
[Physics in Advent](#) is a special and unique Advent calendar, where **young researchers, school classes** and **anyone interested** can try out a do-it-yourself physics experiment at home or at school every day from the 1st to the 24th of December 2023.



Participation is particularly rewarding for Swiss students and school classes, who can win special prizes offered by the Swiss Physical Society. [Registration](#) will open on **November 1, 2023**, don't miss this opportunity!

Italo Calvino: a journey through the world of literature and science

2023 is the centenary of the birth of the Italian writer **Italo Calvino**. To mark this occasion, the [Italian Department of the University of Geneva](#) in collaboration with [Sciencescope](#) has organized an **immersive exhibition** to discover the work of this eclectic writer.

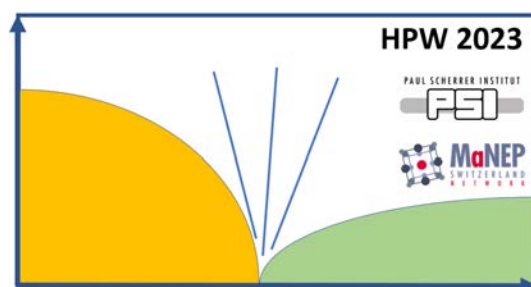


The visit is structured around three themes: Cosmicomics read by scientists, with focus on mathematics, chemistry, biology, astrophysics and geology, the "Atlante Calvino. Letteratura e Visualizzazione" - a project developed by Professor Francesca Serra - and finally Calvino and the OuLiPo.

Free guided tours on Sundays, October 1 and November 5 at 4 p.m. Admission is free and no registration is required. Further information is available [here](#).

High Pressure Physics workshop at PSI

The Paul Scherrer Institute is organising a [High Pressure Workshop](#) to be held on November 22, 2023 at the PSI Auditorium building. The workshop aims to bring together researchers who use high-pressure methods in the fields of physics, chemistry and material science. The exciting scientific advances made possible by high pressures, as well as



technical developments in the field, will be represented at the workshop. Challenges and achievements in laboratory-based experiments and large-scale facilities will be presented to demonstrate the complementarity of these approaches and to open new collaborations.

The Swiss Plasma Center celebrates its 30th anniversary

The [Tokamak à Configuration Variable \(TCV\)](#) turned **30 years old** and this anniversary was celebrated on September 21, 2023 at the Rolex Learning Center of the EPFL. Several prominent Swiss and European scientific and political personalities attended the event, including Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor



responsible for the Department of Economy, Education, and Research, Tony Donn , General Director of [EUROfusion](#), Marc Lachaise, Director of [Fusion for Energy \(F4E\)](#), and Alain B coulet, Deputy General Director of [ITER](#).

Launched in 1992, TCV is one of the most important European facilities on nuclear fusion. Over the past 30 years, it enabled critical discoveries including the proposal of the innovative plasma shapes such as the “snowflake” or the “negative triangularity” ones. TCV is currently contributing to the development of fusion reactors capable of providing carbon-neutral energy.

Image: Ambrogio Fasoli, Director of the Swiss Plasma Center, during the ceremony. Picture by EPFL.

Interview with ETH Zurich’s new Vice President for Research

Christian Wolfrum has been Vice President for Research at ETH Zurich since the beginning of the year. [In an interview](#) recently published by ETH Zurich, he outlines the next challenges for the research and the strategies to tackle them. One of the key messages of the interview is the central role of the dualism between “basic” and “applied” in research.



Image: Portait of Christian Wolfrum, Vice President for Research of ETH Zurich. Photo by ETH Zurich.

WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD

Nobel Prize in Physics 2023

The **2023 edition of the Nobel Prize in Physics** has been awarded to **Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier** for their work on experimental methods to generate attosecond light pulses, which allow the study of electron dynamics in matter.



In 1987, Anne L'Huillier discovered the production of light overtones when infrared light is transmitted through a noble gas. Professor L'Huillier is currently affiliated to the University of Lund in Sweden.

In the early 2000, Pierre Agostini, affiliated to the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA, worked on the production of a series of consecutive light pulses, each 250 attoseconds long.

In 2001, Ferenc Krausz, working at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Garching, Germany and Professor at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit t M nchen, Munich, Germany, succeeded in isolating a single light pulse that lasted 650 attoseconds.

Image: from left to right, portraits of Pierre Agostini, Anne L'Huillier and Ferenc Krausz. Illustrations of Niklas Elmehed, Nobel Prize Outreach.

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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