

Dear Reader,

You scientists shape this newsletter.

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. With the General Assembly coming up, this brings me to the end of my mandate as a board member of the SPS and as the editor of this newsletter. The SPS is now looking for a new person who would like to help editing this newsletter. If you are interested please send a mail to president@sps.ch.

I'd like to thank all of those who contributed to this newsletter over the last three years by sharing many exciting news and events, and all of you for reading it.

Kind regards,

Céline Lichtensteiger

SPS MATTERS

SPS General Assembly 1 July 2020 14:00

At the General Assembly on Wednesday **1 July at 14:00**, new members of the SPS executive board and a new vice-president will be elected. It will be followed by the Award Ceremony 2020, where outstanding achievements are honoured. It will take place via digital means, using *Zoom*. Only members of the SPS can register to the General Assembly and must do so before **30 June 2020, 18:00**. [\[More\]](#)

SPS Award Ceremony 1 July 2020 15:30

Prizes and Honours

At the digital only Award Ceremony on Wednesday **1 July at 15:30**, the SPS will give prizes to young talents: [Hiske Overweg](#) for her work at ETHZ in General Physics (sponsored by ABB); [Michael A. Becker](#) for his work at IBM Rüslikon in Applied Physics (sponsored by Oerlikon Surface Solutions); [Shantanu Mishra](#) for his work at EMPA in Condensed Matter Physics (sponsored by IBM Research Rüslikon); [Katharina Schmeing](#) for her work at IBM Rüslikon in Metrology (sponsored by METAS); [Frank Schindler](#) for his work at Uni Zürich in Computational Physics (sponsored by COMSOL Multiphysics GmbH). The Charpak-Ritz Prize by the French and Swiss Physical Societies will be bestowed to [Philipp Werner](#) (Uni Fribourg). The CHIPP prize for the best PhD student in Experimental or Theoretical Particle Physics will be given to [Claudia Merlassino](#) for her work with University of Bern at the ATLAS experiment. At the General Assembly, [Ralph Eichler](#) (ETHZ) will be proposed for honorary membership of the SPS. Young talents at Swiss highschoools, who have been winning national and international competitions, will also be recognized. The SPS congratulates all awardees for their well deserved new honours. The Award Ceremony is open to the public and all awardees will present their prize-winning work in a brief presentation. No registration needed. [\[More\]](#)

SPG Mitteilungen No. 61

The print version of the *SPG Mitteilungen* No. 61 is currently under distribution to all SPS members. It includes two fascinating reports

about what happened 60 years ago: the first proton beam was accelerated to 25 GeV at CERN, and the first laser action was demonstrated at Bell Labs. This immediately caused intensive research activities at the University of Bern, which are summarized as special contribution to the Unesco IDL2020 celebration. The article can already be downloaded [here](#). Other articles will be available online as soon as possible.



WHAT'S UP IN SWITZERLAND?

Over 28 billion for training, research and innovation

Parlement.ch

In a press release dated **22 May 2020**, the Committee on Science, Education and Culture of the Council of States transmitted to the Council of States the message concerning training, research and innovation during the years **2021 to 2024** (ERI message, 20.028). It



wants to invest 28.0997 billion francs over the next four years in training, research and innovation. This amount corresponds to an increase of 200.3 million compared to the 27.8994 billion proposed by the Federal Council. Of this amount, it specifically proposes to allocate an additional 6.9 million francs to the Swiss Academies of Sciences for their basic mandate and to release, as incentive, CHF 12.4 million for the digitization of natural science collections. The Council of States will discuss it in its session on **17 June 2020**.

[\[More\]](#)

2020 Award for Excellence in Teaching Contemporary Physics for Dr. Alice Gasparini (UniGe)

Dr. Alice Gasparini, a PhD in Theoretical Physics (Cosmology), is a high school teacher and a collaborator of the SwissMAP education & outreach section and of the physics education group at the University of Geneva. She has developed activities, a course, and a book on the subjects of general relativity and cosmology, exclusively based on high school mathematics and physics. She has received



the 2020 Contemporary Physics Education Project's Excellence in Teaching award for her continuing efforts to introduce her students as well as other teachers to contemporary physics topics, particularly cosmology. More about the award [here](#). Course material [here](#) and book [here](#).

Launch of the MAP Open Data Survey

Are you an active researcher in Switzerland? If yes, this survey is for you. Get your voice heard! The Platform Mathematics, Astronomy and Physics (MAP) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) is launching this survey as a response to recurring comments, questions and



sometimes concerns expressed by scientists on the evolution towards Open Research Data. Following on other activities of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences like the **Open Data Workshop** and the **factsheet on Open Science in Switzerland**, the survey aims at collecting the various opinions of active researchers in Switzerland on this important topic. The results are foreseen to be published in autumn upon decision by the MAP Plenum. The more of you participate, the more weight this could have in shaping the evolution of Open Science in Switzerland. **Please, take 10-15 minutes to have your say on the evolution of Open Data in Switzerland. Thank you!** [\[Survey\]](#)

«Physics for Health»

Hands-on Workshop 6-8 November 2020, at CERN IdeaSquare, Geneva

The Technology and Innovation Group of the European Physical Society (EPS_TIG) is organizing its 2nd 'hands-on' workshop «Physics for Health» on **6-8 November 2020** at 'IdeaSquare'-CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. MSc-level to PhD students, and post-docs are invited to apply for participation. The number of participants is limited to 25 for better interaction. Compensation up to 200 Euros will be offered per accepted participant for travel and housing costs, and catering will be provided during the workshop, courtesy of EPS and 'IdeaSquare' at CERN. Applications are accepted as of **18 June** and the deadline is **4 September 2020**. Candidates will be informed in late September about the outcome of their application. The organization of the event is naturally subject to any possible remaining pan-European action related to COVID-19. [\[More\]](#)



WHAT'S UP IN EUROPE?

Claire Donnelly receives the 2020 Young Scientist Award of the European Magnetism Association (EMA)

Claire Donnelly, former PhD student and Postdoc in the Laboratory for Mesoscopic Systems, ETH Zurich - Paul Scherrer Institute, is winner of the **2020** Young Scientist Award of the European Magnetism Association (EMA) "For advances in the experimental characterization of spin textures and their dynamics in three dimensions with X-ray techniques."



Established in **2019**, the Young Scientist Award is awarded every year to a young scientist, for theoretical or experimental work performed mostly in Europe, in fields of fundamental or applied magnetism, and Claire - who also won an SPS award in **2018** - will be the first recipient of this award. [\[More\]](#)

Collection of the 2019 EPL Highlights

Free access to papers that triggered high interest in 2019

Europhysics Letters (EPL) is providing free access (until **31 December 2020**) to papers that triggered high interest in **2019**. The EPL Highlights are papers that have received high and immediate interest from the international community, measured by the high number of downloads or citations, or interest on social media. Many of these highlights were labelled "Editor's Choice" by the Editorial Board, or are "Perspective Papers", written upon invitation by an Editorial Board member. The **2019** Highlights are available in electronic format. [\[More\]](#)



Two bronze medals for Switzerland at the Nordic-Baltic Physics Olympiad

The Nordic-Baltic Physics Olympiad (NBPhO) is a competition for young people from Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Sweden. This year, the exam was conducted online because of the coronavirus. In exchange, participation was open to students from 8 countries outside the Nordic-Baltic region. Spontaneously and without preparation, 4 finalists of the Swiss Physics Olympiad took up the challenge on **16 May 2020**, and two of them even obtained a bronze medal. Congratulations to all four of them. Read more [here](#).



WHAT'S UP IN THE WORLD?

200 TeV neutrino coincident with a tidal disruption event

On **1 October 2019**, the IceCube Neutrino Observatory reported the detection of a 200 TeV neutrino event, named IC191001A, triggering a world-wide neutrino follow-up program of various telescopes. Seven hours later, the Zwicky Transient Facility at the Palomar Observatory in California reported a



Tidal Disruption Events (TDEs) compatible with the direction of the 200 TeV neutrino. TDEs are rare transients phenomena that occur when stars pass close to supermassive black holes that are sources for ultra-high energetic cosmic rays.

[Read [ScienceNews](#) and [arXiv](#)]

Swiss physicists are active in multi-messenger high-energy astrophysics as summarized [here](#) by Teresa Montaruli from Uni Geneva.

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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