

## 2017 Annual report, EPFL Photonics Chapter (EPC)



The 22th of February 2017, the EPFL Photonics Chapter held its 2017 General Assembly. The occasion to celebrate the successes of the past year and to plan the year to come. A new committee has been elected.

Our new 2017 team :

Mohamed, Sabry : Présidente [mohamedsabry.mohamed@epfl.ch](mailto:mohamedsabry.mohamed@epfl.ch)

Palmieri, Tania : Vice-Président [tania.palmieri@epfl.ch](mailto:tania.palmieri@epfl.ch)

Christos Edouardos Athanasiou : Trésorier [christos.athanasiou@epfl.ch](mailto:christos.athanasiou@epfl.ch)

Jan Krizek: Secrétaire [jan.krizek@epfl.ch](mailto:jan.krizek@epfl.ch)

Albert Adiyatullin: Membre de l'association [albert.adiyatullin@epfl.ch](mailto:albert.adiyatullin@epfl.ch)

Miles Henry Anderson: Membre de l'association [miles.anderson@epfl.ch](mailto:miles.anderson@epfl.ch)

Delrot, Paul : Membre de l'association [paul.delrot@epfl.ch](mailto:paul.delrot@epfl.ch)

Javerzac-Galy, Clément : Membre de l'association [clement.javerzac-galy@epfl.ch](mailto:clement.javerzac-galy@epfl.ch)

Ozdemir, Cenk : Membre de l'association [cenk.ozdemir@epfl.ch](mailto:cenk.ozdemir@epfl.ch)

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Walger, Thomas : Membre de l'association [thomas.walger@epfl.ch](mailto:thomas.walger@epfl.ch)

More details on our team can be found on our website (team page): <http://photonics.epfl.ch/page-101682-en.html>

As a short reminder of our chapter history, you can have a look on the dedicated page of our website <http://photonics.epfl.ch/page-101686-en.html>. We are a joint chapter with the EPFL OSA Student Chapter. The OSA and the SPIE chapters are grouped under the EPFL Photonics Chapter (EPC) which is an officially recognized association from the EPFL administration. The creation of the EPC was needed to be able to organize events on the campus and in the same time was mandatory in a legal point of view according to the Swiss law.

The events we are organizing are held under the SPIE or the OSA banner depending on the funding we receive from both societies.

By regrouping the chapters under the same entity we can assure the durability of the activities we do on campus.

We are the EPFL student organization gathering all the photonics enthusiasts on campus and promoting optical science and technology. Our mission is to provide exciting networking, educational and outreach activities for the EPFL community. If you are interested or already passionate about photonics, come attend our events!

EPC is a joint OSA and SPIE Student Chapter.



Student Chapter  
EPFL

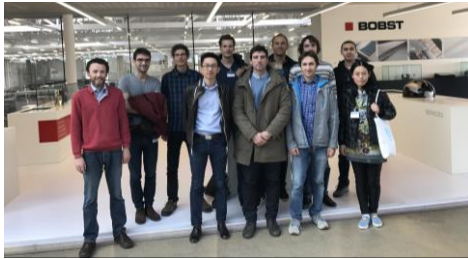


A list of our current members can be found in attachment to this document.

## Chapter activities

“Pizza-optics-beer” seminars - Every first Wednesday of the month, we had the pleasure to organize EPFL Photonics Chapter (EPC) “Pizza-optics-beer” (POB) seminar. This is our regularly held event and it gathers a large portion of the EPFL photonics community. In these events, one member of the optics community at EPFL presents his latest results and a discussion follows in an informal atmosphere. We provide pizza and drinks for everyone, about 40 people on average. Here are some of the topics covered in POB during the past year:

- Microstructured optical fibers
- Quantum dots and photonic crystals
- Plasmonics for sensing devices
- Optical tomography
- Optical Kerr frequency combs



Company visits - After the company visits of 2013 (Optotune), 2014 (Süss micro-optics), and 2015 (Schott), this year we organized the visit to Bobst (Mex, Switzerland), which is one of the world’s leading suppliers of equipment and services to packaging and label manufacturers in the folding carton, corrugated board and flexible materials industries.

EPC-Swissphotonics workshop - On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the EPFL Photonics Chapter organized the third edition the [Swissphotonics workshop](#) about "Photonic opportunities and companies in Switzerland". The event took place at the SwissTech Convention Center in Lausanne during the FORUM EPFL, the biggest student job fair in Switzerland. We were encouraged by the very positive feedback from the participants over the past editions, as they have found the event to be a great opportunity to interact with potential employers and plan their career path. During the workshop, representatives from several companies gave testimonies on their work experience, how they found their job, and explained to the students what skill set is needed to succeed in their respective fields. Case studies were discussed amongst students and the company representatives, which were then presented in front of the audience. The participants were given the opportunity for networking and informal exchange at the end of the day.



Summer Hike and Winter Hike + cheese Fondue: we held in January the second edition of EPC Winter Hike and Fondue, inviting the ETHZ chapter from Zürich (Switzerland) to join us for a fondue party and hiking trip around Lausanne. We also organized our second summer hike in Corbières to Bulle and enjoyed the beautiful view of Gruyère's lake.

Optics City Quest - This October, the EPFL Photonics Chapter organized an interactive scavenger hunt named "Optics City Quest". The main difference of this event compared to traditional science outreach is that it involves physical activity, where the participants need to solve the tasks and find the locations, thus moving across the whole city. This is something that perfectly suits the weekend and therefore attracts people who want to walk around the city. We found an elegant way to include some basic facts about optics and photonics as part of the quest to reach the finish line. We hosted an apero at the finish line that was open to the public, where we installed posters presenting fundamentals of light as well as aspects of research on photonics conducted at EPFL. The event was a great opportunity to inform newcomers about the chapter and the field of optics.



Summer BBQ: In July we held the fourth edition of our Summer BBQ, open to all members of the photonics community at EPFL. Around 60 people joined us for this unformal event that helps networking within the University.



Journée des Classes - During the month of June, nearly 100 classes were invited to EPFL for the "Journée des classes" ([check out](#) the program for more details). During this event, school children and their teachers have the chance to attend various demonstrations and lectures on different scientific topics. We hosted a workshop under the theme of optics, which was titled "What is a LASER and what is it good for?". We gave the students a

demonstration on the fundamentals of light and its different properties, including that of a LASER through many exciting hands-on experiments. We also showed them some of the everyday applications that make use of light technology.

## Planned activities

- In November, EPC co-organizes the annual EPFL Photonics Day, with more than 300 attendees. This is a special event where the photonics community on campus meets to present their latest research, discuss potential collaboration, and network. EPC will host the neighboring photonics chapters from Paris and Zurich to encourage scientific and social exchange between students. Industrial partners will also be present to showcase their products and give presentations. This annual event has a great impact on the professional development of students and the scientific community. EPC will take part in organizing and giving the best poster award, and will host an apero at the end of the day for the students.
- We are planning the second edition of the Winter and Summer Hikes, and host the chapters from other universities.
- More outreach, a summer BBQ, two visiting lecturers and other activities will be held in 2018.

Find all the info and news on our website: [http://photonics.epfl.ch/epc\\_en](http://photonics.epfl.ch/epc_en)

## **SPIE member roster**

Dan Assouline

Christos Athanasiou

Enrico Chinello

Paul Delrot

Clément Javerzac-Galy

Dong Cheon Kim

Jan Krizek

Mohamed Sabry Mohamed

Tania Palmieri

Serhii Polishchuk

Giorgio Quaranta

Manon Rostykus

Grégoire Smolik

Irene Viola

## Financial information

2016-17 Income			2016-17 Expenses	
Amount	Source	Amount	Event	
CHF 492.05	Grant from SPIE (2016)	CHF 1'626.65	POB events	
CHF 2'400.00	Grant from EPFL Doctoral School	CHF 423.55	Photonics BBQ	
CHF 1'713.53	OSA grants (2017)	CHF 1'310.45	Outreach events	
		CHF 438.10	Visiting lecturer	
		CHF 200.00	Best poster award	
		CHF 60.00	Banking fees	
<b>Total</b>		CHF 4'605.58		
<b>Balance</b>		CHF 546.83		

## Conclusion

Our young chapter (founded in 2011) is growing and has become a key organization for the PhD students of our Photonics Doctoral School, as well as other members of the photonics community of EPFL. We now have regular events, such as our student-industry workshop, summer BBQ, visiting lecturer series and university outreach program participation. Thanks to your support, we are able to continue this work and attract more people towards optics, as well as grow a network between our members and the photonics community of Switzerland.

Best regards,

Tania  
For the EPC team