

## 2018 Annual report, EPFL Photonics Chapter (EPC)



On the 7th of February 2018, the EPFL Photonics Chapter held its 2018 General Assembly. This was 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 2018 team :

Palmieri, Tania : Présidente [tania.palmieri@epfl.ch](mailto:tania.palmieri@epfl.ch)

Krizek, Jan : Vice-Président [jan.krizek@epfl.ch](mailto:jan.krizek@epfl.ch)

Anderson, Miles Henry: Trésorier [miles.anderson@epfl.ch](mailto:miles.anderson@epfl.ch)

Dedic, Jan: Secrétaire [jan.dedic@epfl.ch](mailto:jan.dedic@epfl.ch)

Kakkava, Eirini : Membre de l'association [eirini.kakkava@epfl.ch](mailto:eirini.kakkava@epfl.ch)

Tarrago Velez, Santiago : Membre de l'association [santiago.tarragovelez@epfl.ch](mailto:santiago.tarragovelez@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

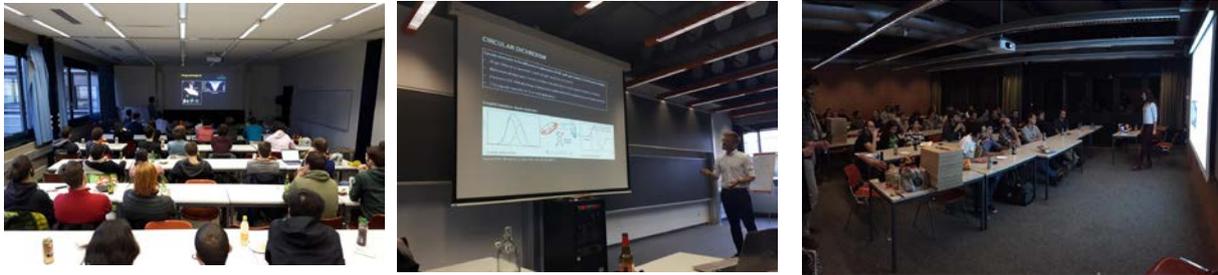


*A list of our current members can be found in attachment to this document.*

## Chapter activities

**“Pizza-optics-beer” seminars** – Once per month, we had the pleasure to organize EPFL Photonics Chapter (EPC) “Pizza-optics-beer” (POB) seminars. 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 50 people on average, from bachelor students to postdocs. Here are some of the topics covered in POB during the past year:

- Time-resolved circular dichroism in six laser shots
- Multimodal imaging with multi-plane microscopy
- Unidirectional isolator-free fiber lasers
- Polarimetric angle-resolved second harmonic scattering
- Temporally and spatially resolved wide-field nonlinear imaging
- Multi-photon fabrication of compact optical waveguides
- Interaction between site-controlled quantum dots and photonic crystal cavity structures



**Company visits** - After the company visits of 2013 (Optotune), 2014 (Süss micro-optics), 2015 (Schott) and 2017 (Bobst), last February 15 members of our Chapter had the opportunity of visiting Safran Vectronix (Heerbrugg, in the swiss optics valley). Safran vectronix is a global leader in state-of-the-art optronic equipment, systems and sensors for military and civil applications, and rely on over 90 years of Swiss tradition and excellence in optics and precision engineering.

**EPC-Swissphotonics workshop** - On October 11<sup>th</sup>, the EPFL Photonics Chapter organized the fourth 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.



**Celebration of the International Day of Light** – On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the EPFL Photonics Chapter organised the celebration of International day of light on the EPFL campus. We first had a presentation to explain the reasons behind the celebrations, and then invited Prof. Demetri Psaltis to talk about the history of optics with a lecture addressed to a broad audience. We also hosted a photo contest with the theme of Light in science, art, and everyday life (>20 exhibitors). 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, and to raise awareness on the role of light in everyday life and research.



**Summer BBQ** - In September we held the fifth 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, and where we recruited 3 new members that will join our chapter next year.



**SPIE Visiting lecturer** – Thanks to the SPIE Visiting Lecturer program, in June we had the pleasure of inviting Prof. Zeev Zalevski to visit our chapter in Lausanne. After a meeting in the morning, we organized lab visits and meeting with students, and organized a lunch with current and previous chapter members. The lecture took place in the afternoon, and was followed by an apéro. We received a very positive feedback from both the participants and Prof. Zalevski, who thanked us for the hospitality during its day at EPFL.



**Journée des Classes** - As the largest engineering school in the region, EPFL gives the opportunity to school children and their teachers to attend various demonstrations and lectures on different scientific topics during the *Journée des Classes* on July 12<sup>th</sup>. We hosted a workshop under the theme of optics, which was titled “What is a LASER and what is it good for?”. We hosted six classes of students and demonstrated the fundamentals of light and its different properties, through many exciting hands-on experiments. We also showed them some of the everyday applications that make use of light technology.



**EPFL Photonics Day** - As every year we participate in the organization of the EPFL Photonics Day. It is the event with more than 200 attendees, where the photonics community on campus meets to present their latest research, discuss potential collaboration, and network. It is a good costume to invite the representative from one of the other student chapters, last year we had the pleasure to host member of the Paris chapter. This annual event has a great impact on the professional development of students and the scientific community. EPC took part in organizing and giving the best poster award and hosted an apéro at the end of the day for the students.

## Planned activities:

- In January and August respectively, we are planning the Winter and Summer Hikes, inviting chapters from other universities.
- In January, one of our officers will travel to Italy to collaborate and support the SPIE Chapter from University of Trento in the organization of the 10th Optoelectronics and Photonics Winter School in Andalo (IT).
- Given the success of last May, we plan to celebrate again the International Day of Light at the EPFL campus.
- We plan to take part in the university Open House event in September 2019 that marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federalisation of the EPFL school. These events usually gather several thousands of visitors in a couple of days, especially families with children, and are an ideal occasion to teach optics to future little scientists.
- A summer BBQ, two visiting lecturers and other activities will be held in 2019.

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

## Financial information

| 2017-2018 Income |                            | 2017-2018 Expenses |                   |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Amount           | Source                     | Amount             | Event             |
| 649.95 CHF       | SPIE Grant (2018)          | 2,494.30 CHF       | POB events        |
| 700.00 CHF       | OSA Grant (2018)           | 536.20 CHF         | Photonics BBQ     |
| 2,400.00 CHF     | EPFL Doctoral School Grant | 695.20 CHF         | Outreach events   |
|                  |                            | 454.70 CHF         | Visiting lecturer |
|                  |                            | 200.00 CHF         | Best poster award |
|                  |                            | 60.00 CHF          | Banking fees      |
|                  |                            |                    |                   |
| <b>Total</b>     | 3,749.95 CHF               | 4,440.40 CHF       |                   |
| <b>Balance</b>   | - 690.45 CHF               |                    |                   |

## 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 Palmieri*  
For the EPC team

## **EPFL Photonics Chapter Members (with SPIE membership)**

Miles Anderson

Enrico Chinello

Jan Dedic

Paul Delrot

Eirini Kakkava

Jan Krizek

Xiaokang Li

Tania Palmieri

Serhii Polishchuk

Manon Rostykus

Michail Symeonidis

Santiago Tarrago Velez

Arin Can Ülkü