1. Elected Officers

President: Sandra de Vega
Vice President: Juan Miguel Pérez Rosas
Secretary: Pamina Winkler
Treasurer: Sarah Keary

2. Current Chapter Members:

Blanca Chocarro Ruiz
Josep Canals Casals
Sandra de Vega
Jonas Fischer
Kavitha Gopalan
Lara Laparra Cuervo
Rinu Maniyara
Jordi Morales-Dalmau
Anuja Padhye
Shahrzad Parsa
Juan Miguel Perez Rosas
Raju Regmi
Vikas Remesh
Roland Terborg
Pamina Winkler
Sarah Keary
Lisa Saemisch
3. Activities during August 2016 – August 2017

3.1 Seminars/Panel discussions

The members of ICFO-SPIE student chapter organize a series of discussions at ICFO.

This year we replaced the ICONS seminars with a combination of scientific seminars and panel discussions on relevant topics affecting the lives of scientific researchers.

The speakers are mainly PhD Students and Post-doctoral researchers, but we also encourage PIs and undergrads to join in the discussions with their own insight and experiences.

The panel discussions were a big success and we managed to promote healthy discussions on different topics, such as high impact factor syndrome, discrimination through the hiring processes and fraud in scientific publications. We will continue to coordinate this type of activity along with ICFO staff and expand the topics to present.

3.2 ICONS T-shirt design contest

As ICFO turned 15 years we organized a logo design contest to celebrate it. The intention was to come up with designs that not necessarily had go along institutional line but rather to mix different elements of our lives as scientists and ICFOnians.
3.3 ICONS Social Fridays

This is a regular activity that we started organizing during the summer, but have now expanded throughout the year, as long as the weather permits it; the goal is to get ICFOnians together in a relaxed atmosphere, to discuss science, or any topic. We gather outside our institute and offer drinks and snacks. We have usually between 40 and 50 attendees.
3.4 International Food Festival

Like every year, we organised the International food festival where ICFOntians form teams from different nationalities and cook delicacies from the different countries. This year we had participation from 10 different teams and 180 people.

3.5 Tutorials for professional development:

Arduino, POV-Ray and summer school

We continued the activity "Arduino Tutorial" from the previous year, where we provided the students a kit with Arduino UNO, LEDs, resistors and other electrical parts to develop small examples.

The tutorial started with an introduction of Arduino UNO, all its components and technical characteristics and examples of nice projects developed with Arduino. 18 participants joined us in the tutorial and enjoyed the possibilities of open source. We also did this activity for an external summer school that was organized at ICFO.

A postdoc from ICFO who is well known for the figures in his papers, gave a tutorial on how to design scientific schematics using POV-Ray, a ray tracing software that generates images from text-based scene description.
We also participated in the workshop: Diversity in the Cultures of Physics Summer School Barcelona - Berlin 2017 where we guided the students and presented our activities.

3.6 Monthly ICONS meeting

To organize the activities of the ICFO-SPIE student chapter, we meet up to discuss upcoming activities ranging from outreach to inter-chapter exchange meetings. Usually this is held during the first week of every month with a treat of pizza.

It is a common platform for the Ph.D. students to come up with new ideas, to encourage more people to join the chapter and to raise awareness of the ongoing activities. Attendance is quite variable ranging from 12 to 20 people depending on the month.

3.7 ICFO Day-ICONS Poster contest and On a lighter note session

ICONS organized and sponsored the poster session of the ICFO day. The ICFO day is a yearly activity that brings together all departments at ICFO for one full day of networking. ICONS always joins in on the organization lending a hand, and taking the lead in some of the activities of the day.

Last time we put together an ICFO poster contest whose winners were chosen by a committee made out of ICFO group leaders.

We also included a session we called “On a lighter note” were Prof. Maciej Lewenstein along with three ICONS members and PhD students gave a review of noteworthy Ig Noble prizes.

3.8 SPIE Visiting Lecturer

We hosted Prof. John Rogers from University of Illinois as SPIE Visiting lecturer. He gave a talk on Bio integrated and Bio inspired photonics. ICFO PhD students were also
given the opportunity to interact with him on a more informal manner in the ICONS Coffee session after the lecture.

More details on: http://icons.icfo.eu/
4. Upcoming Events

1) KTT ignite – workshop on scientific entrepreneurship and technology transfer.

2) PhD seminars – short sessions where students put presentation and communication skills in practice.

3) Seminar on the applications of quantum machine learning.

4) Continuance of regular activities.

5. Financial details

A grant by the SPIE for 900 USD destined for student activities was used to partially fund some of these activities. Specifically:

- ICONS Poster award: 400 USD
- ICONS Photo Contest award: 250 USD
- ICONS Social Friday+ Pizza meeting: 250 USD

The current balance of our chapter (Joint account for OSA, SPIE and EPS) is 2000 Eur.