C4 Commission on Astroparticle Physics – Activity Report

This report covers the period October 2025 – October 2026.

1) Membership of C4

Elected members (years of election given in parentheses)

Ralph Engel (Chair)	Germany (2017, 2021, 2025)
Christina M. S. Cohen (Vice-Chair)	USA (2017, 2021, 2025)
Carola Dobrigkeit Chinelatto (Secretary)	Brazil (2021, 2025)
Yvonne Wong	Australia (2025)
Zhiguo Yao	China (Beijing) (2021, 2025))
Rami Vainio	Finland (2025)
Pankaj Jain	India (2021, 2025)
Elena Amato	Italy (2025)
Shoichi Ogio	Japan (2025)
Sergey Troitsky	Russia (2021, 2025)
Du Toit Strauss	South Africa
Riccardo Catena	Sweden (2025)
Yuan-Hann Chang	China (Taipei) (2021, 2025)
Subir Sarkar	UK (2021, 2025)

Associate members

Stefano Gabici	France
Hyunsu Lee	South Korea
Marica Branchesi	Italy
Samaya Nissanke	NL/Germany

Associate members as contact persons to particle physics community

Caterina Doglioni	UK
Albert de Roeck	Belgium

2) Sponsored conferences in 2026

Type B conference

(i) ***23rd International Symposium on Very High Energy Cosmic Ray Interactions (ISVHECRI 2026)***

July 5–10, 2026 in Lecce, Italy. See https://agenda.infn.it/event/47390/

A statistics summary of the meeting is given below

- Total participants: 91 70 male, 21 female
- Countries: 18 Algeria, Brazil, China, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Russia, Spain, Taiwan, United States.
- Presentations (81 in total, including round table discussions):

invited	35	24 male, 9 female
contributed	34	29 male, 5 female
poster	9	6 male, 3 female

The next symposium in this series, the 24th ISVHECRI 2028 will be held in Jinan, China (July 17 – 21, 2027). Also, the location of the follow-up symposium has been decided already. It will be Osaka, Japan in 2030.

3) Commission meetings

As the main task of C4 is the organization of the International Cosmic Ray Conference (ICRC) series, all discussions in the period between October 2025 and September 2026 and decisions (for example, the selection of conferences for sponsorship) were done by email exchanges. An online meeting of C4 is planned for November to start the organization of ICRC 2027 and to update the announcement of prizes (see below).

Two conferences were proposed for funding in 2027:

- Type A: 40th **International Cosmic Ray Conference** - The Astroparticle Physics Conference (ICRC2027) in Buenos Aires, Argentina (July 20 – 29, 2027); contact person Federico Sanchez (federico.sanchez@iteda.cnea.gov.ar)
- Type B: The 20th **International Conference on Topics in Astroparticle and Underground Physics** (TAUP2027) in Munich, Germany (August 30 – September 3, 2027); contact person Stefan Schönert (schoenert@ph.tum.de)

4) Prizes

The C4 prizes are awarded every other year during the opening ceremony of the International Cosmic Ray Conference (ICRC). Correspondingly, two *Early Career Scientist Prizes* are awarded at the ICRC and none in even years.

There are several prizes and awards given for early career scientists and similarly for lifetime achievement of very well established scientists.

Following a suggestion of the chair of C4 for establishing a new prize in the field for **mid-career scientists** a proposal for the ***"V.S. Berezinsky Prize in Astroparticle Physics"*** to be awarded at the ICRC like the other prizes given under the auspices of IUPAP C4, has been received. If approved by IUPAP, this prize will be awarded for the first time at the ICRC in 2027. The prize will be endowed by funds organized by the Gran Sasso Science Institute GSSI, with the contact person being Roberto Aloisio (roberto.aloisio@gssi.it). A first description of the scope and a possible implementation of the *Berezinsky Prize in Astroparticle Physics* is attached to this report.

Ralph Engel
Chair, IUPAP C4 – Astroparticle Physics
October 23, 2026

GRAN SASSO SCIENCE INSTITUTE
SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES
Scuola Universitaria Superiore

Establishment of the V.S. Berezinsky Prize in Astroparticle Physics

In recognition of the profound contributions of the late **Veniamin Sergeyevich Berezinsky** to the development of astroparticle physics, and in honour of his enduring influence on the international scientific community, the Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), in collaboration with the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), hereby establishes the **Veniamin S. Berezinsky Prize in Astroparticle Physics**. The funding for the prize has been approved by the GSSI's Academic Senate on October 23, 2025.

The Prize shall recognise a scientist who is actively engaged in research and whose current or past work has made an outstanding contribution to astroparticle physics. It is intended to celebrate research of exceptional originality, depth, and significance that advances our understanding of the fundamental connections among particle physics, astrophysics, and cosmology.

The Prize shall honour a major scientific achievement, an influential programme of ongoing research, or the development of ideas, methods, observations, experiments, or theoretical frameworks that are actively shaping the field and opening new directions of inquiry. Particular consideration shall be given to work that demonstrates intellectual courage, scientific vision, rigour, and the potential to have a lasting influence on the future development of astroparticle physics.

Candidates may be nominated by scholars from any country and may work in theoretical or experimental astroparticle physics. Nominees must be actively involved in scientific research at the time of nomination. The Prize shall be made without distinction as to nationality, institutional affiliation, gender, career path, or career stage. Nominations should include a letter detailing the scientific motivations, and two letters of support provided by independent scholars.

Recipients shall be selected by an independent committee of internationally recognised scientists appointed by IUPAP and GSSI. The selection process shall be guided by the principles of scientific excellence, fairness, transparency, and freedom from conflicts of interest. In assessing nominations, the committee shall give primary weight to the significance, originality, and impact of the candidate's research activity. To avoid conflicts of interest, nominations of scientists currently working at GSSI will not be accepted.

The Prize shall be presented biennially during the opening ceremony of the International Cosmic Ray Conference. It shall consist of a certificate, a medal and a monetary prize of 2,000 euros. The recipient shall be invited, in the two years following the Prize ceremony, to the GSSI, to deliver the **Veniamin S. Berezinsky Prize Lecture**, addressing the scientific work for which the distinction is conferred or a broader topic of significance to the future of astroparticle physics.

Through this Prize, GSSI and IUPAP seek both to preserve the scientific legacy associated with Veniamin Sergeyevich Berezinsky and to encourage the same qualities of originality, rigour, curiosity, and far-reaching vision among scientists who are actively advancing the field of astroparticle physics today.