IUPAP rejuvenation.

October 2026



Photo by Yuya Makino

Silvina Ponce Dawson

DF, FCEN-UBA & IFIBA, UBA-CONICET

President, IUPAP

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The 2026 IUPAP GA also approved the creation of a new SC on Major Neutron Research Facilities. Fulvia Pilat from ORNL was appointed as its Chair. She carried out conversations with relevant stakeholders and with Silvina to define the ToR which have been shared with the GA.

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In the case of DEI, we expect to have a replacement for Gillian by the end of 2026 (we've already communicated with a possible candidate). This person might work during 2027 to help us set up the SC on DEI and then be replaced by someone else elected by the GA in 2027, or this person might stay and be elected by the GA in 2027.

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- to identify facilities and infrastructures of interest for the physics community not currently covered by IUPAP's existing SCs under Commissions (e.g., fusion);
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Instead of choosing a Chair for WG22, we decided directly on its composition without defining a Chair. The members are 5 IUPAP officers (Michel Spiro, Sunil Gupta, Silvina Ponce Dawson, Sandro Scandolo, Stefano Fantoni) and the Chair of C16 (Ursel Fantz).

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Areas identified for new SCs under Commissions:

- Fusion (there is a proposed ToR)
- Astroparticle Physics (advanced in terms of possible members)
- Advanced Light Source Facilities (planning workshop to discuss)
- Bioimaging (planning workshop to discuss)
- Physics for Sustainability (proposal: transform WG21 into an SC)

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- To make a recommendation on the aspects that IUPAP should prioritize for its future actions related to the matter and the ways in which it should address the issue.

In issuing these recommendations, special care should be taken on how to move forward without disrupting the work on these subjects that is currently done in existing IUPAP Commissions. In this regard, it is important that the WG liaise with these Commissions to achieve a sensible and feasible recommendation.

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Possible names for its Chair:

- Luca Biferale (Professor, University of Rome, works on turbulence).
- David Gross (Nobel laureate, we haven't invited him, but we think it might be difficult for him to accept due to time limitations, he could be an advisor)
- Maria Spiropulu (Caltech professor experimental particle physics at CERN), Karsten Heeger (Yale German-American physicist neutrino experiments), Michael Turner (UChicago emeritus professor cosmology and particle theory, former APS president),
- Cherry Murray (National Academy of Sciences International Secretary with university, national lab, and government experience at high levels, former APS president).

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Clusters of commissions? We might advance with designated chairs in 2027

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- Each IUPAP conference already has its own database. A simple option would be to 1) include a consent box to receive IUPAP communications (emails, newsletter, etc), per GDRP legal requirements; 2) submit such database to IUPAP; 3) have someone at IUPAP maintain it across all Commissions and WGs; ***we've drafted a proposal in this regard but we need to agree on how this could be done while keeping the personal data protected***. 4) showcase an official IUPAP communication package at such IUPAP supported conferences, including QR codes to IUPAP website /newsletter/ social media; ***this has been done for many years now: we need CCs to monitor this*** 5) feature positive feedbacks from such conference support such as student travel awards in various communications channels. ***Not done yet.***
- Various email lists can be established and used effectively. Besides the existing ones (EC, officers, CCs, Chairs of ACs and WGs, LCs, CAM representatives), lists including all Commission/WG members, the grassroot IUPAP community, could be implemented. Certain updates and announcements could go directly to all unit members without requiring unit chairs to relay. Grassroot IUPAP community-wide communications will be used only on special occasions (not to overwhelm people's inbox). ***Not done yet.***

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2. Website

Revamp: not now. Sharing editing: we started with C14 (Physics Education). It worked very well and will expand to other Commissions.

3. Social Media / Newsletter

We appointed an editor for the Newsletter: Manjit Kaur (India).

Subjects we started to discuss which will hopefully lead to proposals in 2027:

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- Reorganization of IUPAP activities on Physics for (sustainable) Development
- Relationship with regional organizations (FEIASOFI, CLAF, EPS). We have advanced with CLAF and initiated discussions with FEIASOFI and EPS.
- Education: We ran a survey for national physical societies to fill out. We will have a dedicated session on physics education at the IUPAP-ICP and GA in Johannesburg in October, 2027, where we expect the ample participation of IUPAP members.
- Liaison with Presidents of Physical Societies (Presidents Forum).
- Initiatives for Early Career Physicists.