

The International Association of Physics Students
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Affiliated Commission 5 Report of Financial Year 2023-2024 for IUPAP Executive Council & Commission Chairs and General Assembly 2024

The International Association of Physics Students (IAPS) as AC5, experienced continuous growth during the financial year 2023-2024, characterized by structural improvements, strengthened collaborations, and key achievements. As the IAPS Executive Committee formally represents AC5, the AC5 Council as an IAPS internal structure manages daily operations and tasks related to collaboration with IUPAP, ensuring the effective implementation of its initiatives. Among a variety of important decisions made during this period were the establishment of Memorandums of Understanding with the Fondazione Internazionale Trieste (FIT) as well as discussions on the initiation of partnership with the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP).

Under the leadership of Cyrus Walther as Chair of AC5 and Niloofar Jokar as Chair of the AC5 Council, a strategic restructuring of the council took place to better align with its objectives. The revised structure, approved by the IAPS Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024, includes key officials and six elective positions, focusing on critical areas namely the **Early Career Scientist Prize**, **Physics and Industry**, **Inclusion and Outreach**. These developments have positioned AC5 to more effectively address the needs of its members and strengthen its collaboration with IUPAP.

AC5 Annual General Meeting 2024

This year the AC5 Annual General Meeting, held during the International Conference of Physics Students (ICPS) 2024 in August in Tbilisi, Georgia, served as a central gathering for the AC5 community. Key decisions were made:

- A new Executive Committee was elected for the 2024-2025 financial year, with Niloofar Jokar in the role of Chair of AC5 and Dimitris Gkavakos as Chair of the AC5 Council.
- The hosting committees for IAPS major events in 2026 were appointed, with the Netherlands chosen to host the PLANCKS 2026 and Morocco selected to host the ICPS 2026. This decision is particularly significant, as it represents a milestone for the ICPS, being the first time the conference will be held in the African continent. This development reflects AC5's commitment to fostering global participation and expanding the reach of its events within diverse geographical regions.



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ICPS 2024: Tbilisi, Georgia

From August 4 to 11, 2024, the Georgian Association of Physics Students, in collaboration with the Free University of Tbilisi, hosted the International Conference of Physics Students (ICPS) 2024, welcoming over 350 students from all around the world. The conference featured keynote lectures by esteemed physicists, covering a wide range of topics, including astrophysics, particle physics, and biophysics. The event included a well-balanced program that offered both scientific and cultural activities, providing participants with an invaluable platform to engage in scientific discussions through posters, presentations, and workshops while also experiencing the rich culture of Georgia.

IUPAP's neutral affiliation notably enabled participants from Russia to attend this event, facilitating the involvement of all member countries of IAPS. We uphold our vow to empower students to peacefully collaborate, transcending sociopolitical obstacles, uniting them through their passion for physics. This inclusivity was vital for upholding IAPS's Charter and Regulations and enhancing the event's diversity. IAPS expressed sincere gratitude for IUPAP's support, which played a significant role in the conference's success.

IUPAP President Michel Spiro kindly addressed the attendees via a recorded message, reinforcing IUPAP's support for the event and providing attendees with valuable insights about the organization. This engagement helped familiarize participants with IUPAP, fostering a greater understanding of its mission and initiatives within the global physics community.

PLANCKS 2024: Dublin, Ireland

PLANCKS 2024 took place from May 23 to 27, hosted by the Institute of Physics and Trinity College Dublin. This event as an international theoretical physics competition, hosted about 200 participants, including 47 teams and 22 observers from around the globe, providing a competitive yet educational experience. Participants engaged in challenging problem-solving tasks while immersing themselves in the rich culture of Ireland, fostering both academic and cultural exchanges. We were immensely grateful for IUPAP's support, which played a significant role in the success of the event.

IUPAP President Michel Spiro kindly addressed the attendees via a recorded presentation, emphasizing IUPAP's role in the global physics community which inspires and motivates the next generation of physicists.



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AC5 Early Career Scientist Prize (ECSP)

The AC5 Early Career Scientist Prize celebrated outstanding contributions that exemplify both academic and scientific excellence, as well as associative engagement and contributions within the international physics community. This year, AC5 recognized the first, second, and third places. The winners are as follows:

1st place: Conor Ryan2nd place: Leonor Andrade

• 3rd place: Mikołaj Zawadzki & Maurice Rieger (joint award)

Collaboration with IUPAP Working Groups: Physics and Industry (WG 16) & Women in Physics (WG5)

Throughout the year, AC5 explored collaboration with IUPAP's Working Group 16 on Physics and Industry to enhance engagement between academia and the corporate sector. The goal was to develop a framework providing value to IUPAP Corporate Associate Members (CAMs) and AC5 members. By enabling organizers of IAPS events, such as ICPS and PLANCKS, to offer structured sponsorship opportunities to CAMs, this initiative sought to foster meaningful connections between industry and the international physics student community while increasing incentives for CAM membership, benefiting both corporate members and students.

In line with its commitment to diversity and inclusion, AC5 also prioritized representation in IUPAP Working Group 5 (Women in Physics). Niloofar Jokar joined WG5 as an associative member, representing IAPS and advocating for gender equality and inclusivity in the physics community.

IAPS as AC5 remains committed to advancing the goals of IUPAP and ensuring that physics students worldwide are supported, empowered, and connected within the global scientific community.