

Albert Einstein in Bern, 1905 — Bern welcomes EPS13 in 2005

Martin C.E. Huber, EPS President

In 1905, the 26-year-old Albert Einstein lived in Bern. In that year he wrote within a few months five papers, which changed the foundations of physics and our understanding of the Universe. The year 1905 therefore is referred to as Einstein's wonder year or *annus mirabilis*. The probably most famous among the five papers deals with what today is called the theory of special relativity. Later on, Albert Einstein received the Nobel Prize in Physics for his revolutionary article on the quantum nature of light.

As described in the last issue of *europhysicsnews*, the centennial of the *annus mirabilis* will be commemorated as the «World Year of Physics» in a large number of events taking place around the world. Bern, Einstein's place of residence and place of work during his *annus mirabilis*, will celebrate the centennial with a broad variety of cultural and scientific events that will culminate on 9 July 2005 in a Day of Celebration — the «Festtag» — and in the ensuing General Conference of the European Physical Society, EPS13, which will take place in the week 11 to 15 July in the University of Bern, where Einstein was a lecturer (cf. www.eps13.org).

Participants in EPS13 will be offered an outstanding scientific programme with the theme «Beyond Einstein — Physics for the 21st Century». Following a plenary Opening Session on Monday morning with talks by Thibault Damour on «100 Years of Relativity», by Ferenc Krausz on «Attosecond Physics» and by Pierre-Gilles de Gennes on «Brownian Motion», three Conferences running in parallel will cover the fields unlocked by Albert Einstein during his *annus mirabilis*, namely

- Photons, Lasers and Quantum Statistics
- Relativity, Matter and Cosmology (which will at the same time be the triennial ESA-ESO-CERN Symposium), and
- Brownian Motion, Complex Systems and Physics in Biology.

Each of the three Conferences will feature three to four topical Symposia with ample space being given to contributed talks and posters. Thus we hope that many young scientists will be coming to EPS13 (cf. www.eps13.org). On Friday, 15 July, an Open Day will be organised jointly with the Swiss Physical Society, the Swiss Academy of Sciences, CERN, ESA and ESO. Quite likely, the other four European Inter-governmental Research Organisations (EIROs), i.e., the European Fusion Development Agreement (EFDA/JET) and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), the European Synchrotron Research Facility (ESRF) and the Institut Laue Langevin (ILL) will contribute to the Open Day as well.

Beyond these physics activities, participants in EPS13 will have the opportunity to attend a series of events taking place in the «Kultur-Casino» of Bern towards the end of the week preceding the conference: on Thursday and Friday, July 7 and 8, some of the best Einstein biographers will give talks and debate how Einstein arrived at the revolutionary results presented in his papers of 1905. In the morning of Saturday, 9 July, there will be a Sympo-

sium on «Perspectives of Physics in the Tradition of Einstein» with Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Alan Guth and Anton Zeilinger as speakers. The actual celebration on Saturday afternoon (held mostly in German) will be opened by the President of the Swiss Confederation, will feature the award of the Einstein medal and comprise talks on new facts leading up to the award of the Nobel Prize to Einstein and on what it means to be a physicist today. The musical pieces performed in the course of the official celebration will include pieces by Mozart, a composer held in high regard by Einstein and the violin sonata written by Bohuslav Martinů for the keen amateur violinist Albert Einstein (cf. www.einstein2005.ch).

On excursions to the environs of Bern and into the Alps, EPS13 participants can also learn how the popular Gruyère cheese is made, take a boat trip and attend a wine tasting, or go into the Alps and visit the International Alpine Research Station on the Jungfrauoch.

When in town, participants will be offered a reception on the first evening of EPS13 in the Historical Museum of Bern, where a major exhibition on Einstein's life and work will be presented. Participants can also explore Einstein's tracks in Bern along the newly opened Einstein Path, which gives insights at 90 places in the city on how he lived and worked there (cf. www.einstein2005.ch). EPS13-participants can also visit the «Einsteinhaus», i.e., the house, where he lived with his family from 1903 to 1905 and where he actually wrote the papers on the quantum nature of light and on special relativity. A concert on Tuesday, 12 July, with music written around the time of the *annus mirabilis* might also be an attraction for music lovers among us physicists, while others can in the same evening explore the medieval town of Bern and inspect the ancient clockworks in the «Zytglogge» tower.



EPS13 Beyond Einstein
Physics for the 21st Century

13th General Conference of the
European Physical Society

11–15 July, 2005
University of Bern, Switzerland

INTRODUCTORY LECTURES

"100 Years of Relativity", T. Damour (Bures-sur-Yvette, F)
"Attosecond Physics", F. Krausz (Garching, D)
"Brownian Motion", P.G. de Gennes (Paris, F)

THREE PARALLEL CONFERENCES

Photons, Lasers and Quantum Statistics
Relativity, Matter and Cosmology (with ESA, ESO and CERN)
Brownian Motion, Complex Systems and Physics in Biology

www.eps13.org

THE NEW ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 21 MARCH 2005

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World Year of
PHYSICS
2005