IRL PPC
Particle Physics & Cosmology International Research Laboratory

# Summer 2026 Newsletter

## Edito

Dear colleagues,

As we reach the summer of 2026, the IRL PPC continues to grow as a key platform connecting researchers from CNRS, the University of Chicago, and our partner institutions across the United States and France.
Over the past months, our community has expanded through scientific exchanges, student mobility programs, and new collaborative initiatives spanning particle physics, astroparticle physics, cosmology, and instrumentation.
This newsletter highlights some of these activities, including the international mobility of young researchers and the launch of new opportunities for doctoral exchanges and collaborative research.
I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to continuing these collaborations in the coming months.
Warm regards,

Cédric Cerna
Director, IRL PPC

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## Scientific Highlights

### Aashay Pai Awarded by a Chateaubriand Fellowship



Aashay Pai is a graduate student at the KICP at the University of Chicago. He is preparing his doctoral thesis under the supervision of Prof. Alex Drlica-Wagner, Fermilab scientist and Associate Professor in the Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics at the University of Chicago. He was awarded a **Chateaubriand Fellowship** entitled "Searching for Ultra-Faint Dwarf Galaxies in the LSST Survey." Aashay will spend several months at the Laboratoire de Physique Subatomique et de Cosmologie (LPSC) in Grenoble, France, working with Dr. Marine Kuna's team.

## French-American Doctoral EXchange « The Dark Side of the Universe »

Luca Scotto Lavina (LPNHE) and Cédric Cerna (IRL PPC) are organizing a one-week scientific program in France during Fall 2026 for ten outstanding US-based PhD students working in Dark Matter research.
The initiative has received support from the FADEx (French-American Doctoral Exchanges) program, organized by the Science and Technology Office of the Embassy of France in the United States.
https://france-science.com/french-american-doctoral-exchange-the-dark-side-of-the-universe/
The program will include visits to CNRS laboratories, participation in a Dark Matter workshop, opportunities for students to present their research in a "Three-Minute Thesis" competition, a visit to the Modane Underground Laboratory (including DAMIC and the future TESSERACT experiment), and a tour of CERN's major infrastructures (ATLAS, MADMAX, the Neutrino Platform, ProtoDUNE, etc.).
The selected students will be announced after the summer, and we expect UChicago students to be among the participants.

# Open Calls for Applications

## Scientific Mobility

### Fulbright-Tocqueville Distinguished Chair Award

- For eminent scholars of all disciplines
- Duration of stay: 1 semester in France
- Starting dates: September 2027 (1st semester) or January 2028 (2nd semester)
- Deadline to apply: September 15, 2026
- Website : https://fulbrightscholars.org/award/fulbright-tocqueville-distinguished-scholar-award-all-disciplines-4

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# Forthcoming Calls for Applications

## Research Partnerships

### France and Chicago Collaborating in The Sciences (FACCTS) (2027)

- The FACCTS program provides seed funding for new and potentially fruitful collaborative research projects.
- Submission period: October 2026-February 2027
- Website : https://fcc.uchicago.edu/faccts/

## Joint PhD Call

### CNRS-UChicago Joint Research Program (2028-2030)

- Funds up to three years of a PhD fellowship on the CNRS side and supports mobility expenses for both teams over a three-year period.
- Requirement: a CNRS PI and a UChicago (or CASE associate) PI
- Submissions period: from September to November 2026
- Website : https://uchicago.inforeadv4.com/#competitionDetail/1994579

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## Stay Connected

**Website:** https://ppc.in2p3.fr

**LinkedIn:** IRL PPC on LinkedIn

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