IRL PPC
Particle Physics & Cosmology International Research Laboratory

# Spring 2026 Newsletter

## Edito

Dear colleagues,

This spring issue highlights a particularly dynamic period for the IRL PPC, marked by concrete opportunities and strong scientific activity across our community.
We are pleased to announce the opening of a CNRS postdoctoral position in neutrino physics in Chicago within the IRL PPC, in connection with the appointment of Dr Laura Zambelli as Visiting Scholar for the next two years. In parallel, the CNRS–UChicago Joint PhD program has awarded two positions in our field of science. These recruitments represent an important step in building the next generation of researchers within our collaboration.
This momentum is reflected in the many visits, seminars, and exchanges that continue to shape the life of the IRL—from Chicago to Fermilab and Argonne.
As we await the results of several key calls, I encourage you to remain engaged with the opportunities and initiatives presented in this issue.
Warm regards,

**Cédric Cerna**
Director, IRL PPC

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## PhD & Postdoctoral Positions

### CNRS – Uchicago Joint PhD positions

We are pleased to announce that, among the proposals selected for funding through the **CNRS–University of Chicago Joint PhD Grant** program, two projects fall within the scientific scope of the **IRL PPC (Particle Physics and**

**Cosmology)**. The positions are now open, and recruitment is currently underway. The awarded projects are:

**Exploiting Liquid Argon Instruments for sub-GeV Neutrinos**

- Project description: "Exploiting Liquid Argon Instruments for sub-GeV Neutrinos" (ELAIN), bringing together the DUNE team from the Astroparticle and Cosmology (APC) laboratory in Paris and a team from the Enrico Fermi Institute (EFI) at Chicago working on the Short Baseline Near Detector (SBND) detector at Fermilab.
- APC/CNRS Principal Investigator: Jaime Dawson / UChicago Principal Investigator: David Schmitz
- Application Link

**Dark matter and hidden sector : direct and indirect detection**

- Project description: “Dark matter and hidden sector: direct and indirect detection”. This PhD project is part of the DAMIC-M experiment, currently under construction at the Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane (France).
- Irène Joliot-Curie Lab (IJCLab) Principal Investigator Olivier Deligny / UChicago Principal Investigator: Paolo Priviter
- Application link

### Postdoctoral position

- A post-doctoral position is now open at the **IRL PPC**, based at the **EFI of the University of Chicago**, in the field of **neutrino physics**. The successful candidate will contribute to both the **Short-Baseline Near Detector (SBND)** and **DUNE** experiments.
- https://inspirehep.net/jobs/3147418

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## Visiting Scholar



Laura Zambelli, a senior scientist at CNRS and researcher at the **Laboratoire d’Annecy de Physique des Particules (LAPP, CNRS)**, has been appointed

**Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago for a two-year term**, beginning in summer 2026. During her appointment, she will join the **IRL PPC** and collaborate closely with the neutrino group at the **Enrico Fermi Institute (EFI)**.

Specializing in long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiments, Laura currently serves as ProtoDUNE analysis convener within the DUNE collaboration.

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## 17 April-15 May : Visit by Carlos Redondo Herrero



Carlos Redondo Herrero, a **Joint PhD Awardee (2025)** from the **IJCLab Laboratory (CNRS–Université Paris Saclay)**, is currently staying at **Argonne National Laboratory**. A specialist in **Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD)**, Carlos is focusing his research on **ultrahigh-performance superconducting RF resonant cavities**.

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## Recent Events and Visits

### Visit to Fermilab by Charlotte Montel, Consul General of France in Chicago



On **February 3, 2026**, Charlotte Montel, **Consul General of France in Chicago**, accompanied by the **Scientific Service of the Consulate General**, visited **Fermilab**. The delegation was warmly received by **Fermilab's Director, Norbert Holtkamp, and also met with the two DUNE project spokespersons, Sowjanya Gollapinni and Sergio Bertolucci.**

## Night of Ideas




On **March 7, 2026**, the **Night of Ideas**, organised by Villa Albertine, returned to Chicago at the Intuit Art Museum, featuring a marathon of talks, performances, and cultural exchanges. **Cédric Cerna (IRL PPC, CNRS)** delivered a short science talk titled **"When Light Reveals Dark Matter"** as part of the program.

## Cécile Jollet's seminars at UChicago and Fermilab

### "Initial Performance and First Measurement of Oscillation Parameters at JUNO"

**On March 19th and 20th, Cécile Jollet** (LP2I Bordeaux, Université de Bordeaux), CNRS's Principal Investigator for the **JUNO experiment**, delivered two seminars on JUNO's initial performances and first oscillation measurements, captivating a transatlantic audience at **Fermilab (Wine & Cheese Seminar)** and the **University of Chicago (Enrico Fermi Institute Colloquium)**. This visit, supported by the **France Chicago Center** and organized in collaboration with the **Neutrino Physics Center (Fermilab)**, highlighted the strength of international scientific cooperation.



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# Calls for proposals'upcoming results

**Research Partnerships**

**France and Chicago Collaborating in The Sciences (FACCTS)**

- 15 May
- Website : https://fcc.uchicago.edu/faccts/

**UChicago International Institute of Research in Paris (IIRP) Faculty Grants**

- Before the end of Spring Quarter
- Website : https://centerinparis.uchicago.edu/research-institute/iirp-faculty-grants

**Student and Scientists Mobility**

**Chateaubriand Fellowship**

- End of May 2026
- Website: https://www.chateaubriand-fellowship.org

## Stay Connected

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

**LinkedIn:** IRL PPC on LinkedIn

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