DPG Spring Meeting in Dresden March 8-13, 2026

At the 2026 DPG Spring Meeting in Dresden, there were approximately 375 submitted contributions (talks and posters) in the CPP section. This was slightly more than at the previous meeting held in Dresden (2023). You can find the entire **CPP program** here.

We would like to thank all invited speakers, focus session organizers, session chairs, presenters, poster authors, and members of the poster committee for their contributions to the success of the SKM meeting in Regensburg. Furthermore, we thank the local organizers, the staff of the DPG headquarters, and the organizers of the interdisciplinary symposia.

This year we had a special focus session: "75 Years Division Polymer Physics," which was organized by the CPP management under the leadership of Christine Papadakis. We had a series of distinguished speakers, including **Volker Abetz** (Hamburg), **Matthias Ballauff** (Berlin), **Paul A. Janmey** (Philadelphia), **Jenny Nelson** (London), and **Michael Rubinstein** (Durham), who provided a great overview of the thematic breadth and depth of the CPP.

Another focus session titled "**Theoretical Modeling and Simulation of Biomolecular Condensates**" was organized by A. Nikoubashman, T. Harmon, and L. Stelzl. This session presented a highly topical and rapidly developing research field: phase separation in cell biology. The two invited talks introduced central topics that structured the program over two days. On the first day, Susanne Liese presented the significance of biomolecular condensates for biology and demonstrated how chemical reactions can generate non-equilibrium properties, such as stationary material flows around droplets. This invited contribution was followed by further talks on non-equilibrium phenomena, including condensates in elastin networks (Oliver Paulin, Göttingen) and chromatin localization (Arghya Majee, IPF).On the second day, Giulio Tesei introduced the thermodynamics of biomolecular condensates and presented current developments in coarse-grained simulations, which provide insights into the formation of condensates in cells. This invited talk was followed by further contributions on thermodynamic questions, including the long-term relaxation kinetics of condensates (Hugo Le Rov, Genoa). The focus session was very well attended across all career stages and was characterized by lively discussions.

Alexander Schlaich, K. Amann-Winkel, and M. Bonn organized the focus session "**Water – from Atmosphere to Space.**" This focus session impressively highlighted the current state of molecular water research. The invited speakers illustrated the diversity of the topics addressed: Nønne Prisle (DESY, University of Hamburg) presented the connection between the protonation of water at interfaces and the resulting impacts on climate change via aerosol particles in the atmosphere. She utilized X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy for her investigations. In her talk, Christina Tonauer (University of Innsbruck) examined the structure and phase behavior of water in aqueous alcohol mixtures using X-ray scattering. In contrast, the presentation by Matej Kanduč (Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana) used molecular simulations to shed light on how trees can efficiently transport water under negative pressure. Altogether, 21 talks and two posters in the focus session provided a comprehensive overview of various experimental and theoretical aspects of water research. Alongside numerous national and international contributions, current research initiatives in Germany were strongly represented, including the Center for Molecular Water Science/DESY Hamburg, the Max Planck Liquids Initiative, and the Cluster of Excellence BlueMat at TU Hamburg.

A roundtable discussion on "**New Opportunities for Cooperation between France and Germany in Neutron Research**" was organized by Benoit Coasne and Christine M. Papadakis. This one-hour event was moderated by Julian Oberdisse and Frank Schreiber. They presented the opportunities that neutron scattering offers in the physics and chemistry of condensed matter, as well as in biophysics, at neutron sources in France and Germany, and also at the European level.

Six panelists, representing the French and German neutron sources and their respective user communities, answered numerous questions from the audience, such as how to gain access to neutron experiments. In this context, the increasingly available virtual instruments ("digital twins"), which can be used to estimate measurement times and statistics for specific sample types, represent an attractive tool for preparing beamtime applications. Furthermore, the unique opportunities offered by neutron experiments, which are often complementary to X-ray experiments, were discussed. Another topic of the lively discussion was data analysis and new developments involving artificial intelligence.

Overall, it became clear that many societal challenges can be addressed with the help of neutrons, for example in the areas of energy, climate and environment, health and nutrition, mobility, cultural heritage, and innovation. This highlighted the broad spectrum of scientific and professional opportunities for young researchers trained in neutron research, who can make a significant contribution to such topics and thus to the corresponding economic sectors. This applies to French, German, and European neutron sources as well as to upcoming compact sources. These activities are strengthened, among other things, by the joint Franco-German research program of the ANR and DFG. A longer summary in English can be found here.

The CPP division was also involved in the following interdisciplinary symposia: "Soft, Active and Alive: Emergent Properties in Living Matter," a German-French symposium with **J. Brugués** (Dresden), **A. Diz Munos** (EMBL Heidelberg), **A. Dupont** (Grenoble), **G. Gompper** (Jülich), **N. Nassif** (Paris), and **M. Théry** (Paris); and "The Sustainability Challenge: A Decade of Transformation," with **B. Höcker** (Bayreuth), **J. Plane** (Leeds), **U. Riedel** (DLR Cottbus), **H. Sayama** (Binghamton), and **T. Schubatzky** (Innsbruck).

The **2026 CPP Poster Prizes** were sponsored by Elsevier Publishing (2x) and Swabian Instruments (1x). They consisted of a certificate and prize money of 250 EUR, and were awarded to:

- Joshua Krieger (Münster): Modeling Electron Transfer at Electrode-Electrolyte Interfaces
- Cristina Abril Gutierrez Ortigoza (Leipzig): Study of nuclear magnetization transfer between water and ice phases in nanoporous solids
- Leonie Beer (TU Darmstadt): Regulation of HUVEC Adhesion by Mechanical and Biochemical Tuning of PNIPAM Microgel Coatings

We would also like to point out once again that the prize money is only awarded in person at the general assembly (MV), and unfortunately, the prize money is forfeited in the event of a no-show. We thank all poster jurors for their excellent work and warmly congratulate the winners!

FigCaption: A representative of Swabian Instruments presents the poster prize to Leonie Beer (TU Darmstadt).

The **CPP general assembly** on March 12, 2026, provided valuable discussion and feedback. Prof. Dominik Wöll (RWTH Aachen) was elected as the new 2nd deputy speaker. We warmly thank the outgoing speaker, Christine Papadakis (TU Munich), for her outstanding conference organization and her constructive contributions over the past three years.

FigCaption: The newly elected co-speaker Dominik Wöll together with the outgoing speaker Christine Papadakis (TU Munich).

The excellent **plenary talk** by Peter Müller-Buschbaum (TU Munich) on "On the sunny side - polymer-based organic solar cells" and the somewhat historically inclined **awardee talk** by Kurt Kremer (MPI for Polymer Research, Mainz) on "Polymers / Soft Matter as Model Systems for Physics" attracted a large audience from many divisions and were very well received. To conclude the meeting, we had an outstanding "**highlighted invited**" talk by **Jens-Uwe Sommer** (Dresden) on "Biomolecular Condensates: Challenges for Polymer Physics". This concluded the Dresden SKM meeting, which graced us with plenty of sunshine this year.