

AUNSPAC

2026

Welcome to the Atlantic Undergraduate Physics and Astronomy Conference 2026!



In partnership with:



Science Atlantic



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND



General Information

Land Acknowledgement

Since time immemorial, the Mi'kmaq People have walked gently on the traditional territories of Epekwitk, which is where the University of Prince Edward Island is located. We acknowledge that Mi'kma'ki is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people, who, in 1725 first signed Treaties of Peace and Friendship. We recognize Elders past and present who have cared for, and continue to care for, the land. In offering this acknowledgement, we affirm the history, experiences, and resiliency of Indigenous people who are still here today. We are grateful to live, work, and learn here and we are committed to building relationships based in honour and respect.



- 27- Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC)
- 30- Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering (FSDE)

Notes:

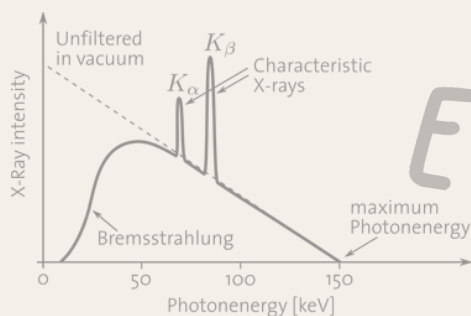
- All FSDE presentations will take place on the first floor, in classrooms 128A and 128B.
- Parking is free throughout the weekend and is best accessed via the MacLaughlin Arena parking lot, as the security gates will remain open.

For general inquiries and questions contact: aupac2026@upei.ca



Friday, March 06, 2026

17:00-19:00	Check in & Registration	FSDE
19:00-19:30	Opening Ceremony	FSDE
19:30-20:30	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Maria Kilfoil	FSDE 128B
20:30-22:00	AUPAC Cup	FSDE



$$W = Fd \cos(\theta)$$

$$E = m \cdot c^2 \quad K.E = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$



Saturday, March 07, 2026

08:30-09:30	Breakfast	FSDE
09:30-10:30	Student Presentations (Session I)	FSDE
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	FSDE
11:00-12:00	Keynote speaker: Dr Laurent Kreplak	FSDE 128B
12:00-13:00	Lunch	FSDE
13:00-14:30	Student Presentations (Session II)	FSDE
14:30-15:30	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Aldona Wiacek	FSDE 128B
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	FSDE
16:00-18:00	Graduate Fair	FSDE Concourse
18:00-20:00	Banquet	AVC
20:00-21:00	CAP Speaker: Prof. Paul Scholz	AVC

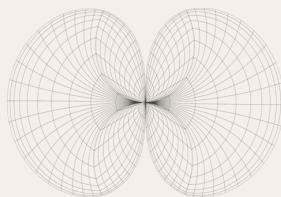
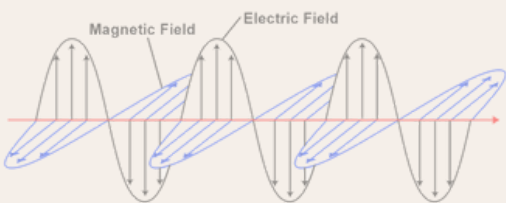


Sunday, March 08, 2026

08:30-09:00	Breakfast	FSDE
09:00-10:30	Student Presentations (III)	FSDE
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	FSDE
11:00-12:00	Keynote speaker: Dr. Turkuler Durgut	FSDE 128B
12:00-13:00	Lunch	FSDE
13:00-14:00	Keynote speaker: Dr. Michael Steinitz	FSDE 128B
14:00-14:30	Awards & Closing Ceremony	FSDE

Code of Conduct:

Every attendee has the right to participate in and enjoy AUPAC to the fullest. This is a space for open discussion where everyone is welcome and we will not tolerate any disrespect or harassment. If you feel uncomfortable at any point, please find one of the student committee members and we will help you.



$$H(t)|\psi(t)\rangle = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle$$



Keynote Speakers

Dr. Laurent Kreplak

Dalhousie University



Dr. Laurent Kreplak is a Professor in the Department of Physics and Atmospheric Science at Dalhousie University in Halifax. His research is a combination of soft matter physics and biophysics. He received a PhD in biophysics from Universite Paris Sud (2001) for work on the structure and mechanical properties of keratin filaments in Hair using X-ray scattering techniques.

He was awarded a fellowship from the Fondation pour la Recherche Medicale (France) to pursue his post-doctoral studies at the Biozentrum in Basel, Switzerland, where he used atomic force microscopy techniques to reveal the extreme extensibility of keratin filaments and other similar fibrous proteins in our body. He joined Dalhousie University in 2007 where he continues to explore the structure and mechanical properties of fibrous proteins as well as methods to produce high-performance protein fibres for tissue engineering applications.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Aldona Wiacek

Saint Mary's University



Dr. Aldona Wiacek (she/her) is an atmospheric physicist who is cross appointed in the Departments of Environmental Science and Astronomy & Physics at Saint Mary's University (SMU) in Halifax.

She has 20 years of experience in remote sensing of atmospheric trace gases and aerosols (solid or liquid particles suspended in the atmosphere) involved in air quality and climate change, as well as in aerosol-cloud-climate interactions. Her research includes the development of ground- and satellite-based remote sensing instrumentation and data analysis techniques.

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Paul Scholz

*York University
CAP Lecture Tour*



Dr. Paul Scholz is an Assistant Professor in Physics and Astronomy at York University. He is an astrophysicist whose research centres on observational studies of transient and variable phenomena. He holds a PhD degree in Physics from McGill University.

While a PhD candidate, he discovered the first repetition from an FRB source. This landmark discovery showed that the FRB phenomenon could not be caused solely by a cataclysmic phenomenon. He then was a Covington Postdoctoral Fellow at the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory where he worked on the construction and commissioning of the CHIME Fast Radio Burst instrument. Prior to his appointment at York, Scholz was a Dunlap Fellow the University of Toronto.



Keynote Speakers

Dr. Turkuler Durgut

Mount Allison University

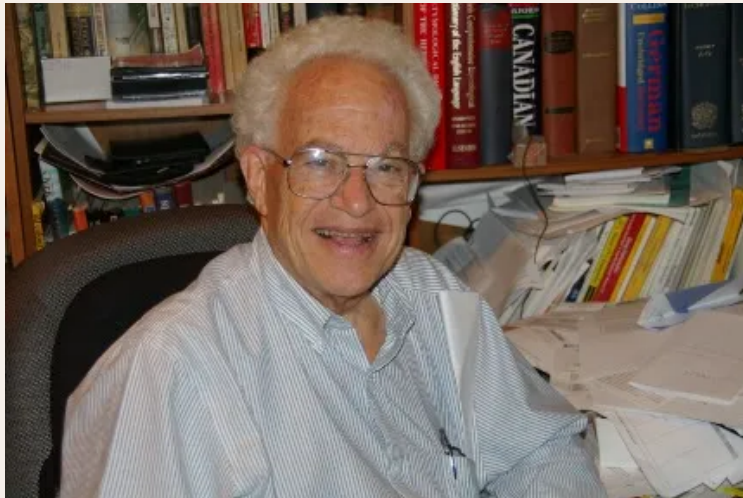


Dr. Turkuler Durgut (she/her) is an assistant professor at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. She obtained her Ph.D. from Memorial University of Newfoundland. She is interested in solving wave equations for rotating, non-charged black holes in arbitrary dimensions to understand the matter behaviour around the event horizon and to analyze the stability of black holes. Her current research is analyzing gravitational solitons, a family of non-trivial solutions to the Einstein Field Equations in negatively curved spacetimes. She also tries to implement equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) components to her teaching and research.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Michael Steinitz

*Emeritus Professor of Physics
St. Francis Xavier University*



Dr. Michael Steinitz is an emeritus professor of physics at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. He has served as president of the Canadian Association of physicists and as adjunct professor at Dalhousie University. For three years he was chair of the board of directors of the Canadian Institute for Photonic Innovation, CIPI, (an NSERC Network of Centers of Excellence headquartered at Laval University in Quebec City). He was editor-in-chief of the Canadian Journal of Physics for 14 years and served on the board of the Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering and on the oversight committee for neutron scattering at the Chalk River nuclear reactor. Michael's research area was experimental Solid State Physics, particularly in magnetism and incommensurate structures using neutron scattering and dilatometry as tools. He received his Bachelor of Engineering Physics from Cornell University in 1965 and his PhD in Materials Science from Northwestern University in 1970. Michael is now serving on Commission 13 (Physics for Developing Countries) of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) and has recently been involved in editing the proposal for an African Light Source (like Canada's CLS in Saskatchewan). He has also run the concert series at StFX for fifty years and was a founder of Debut Atlantic and the Atlantic Presenters' Association.



Keynote Speakers

Dr. Maria Kilfoil

University of Prince Edward Island



Dr. Maria Kilfoil is a Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Prince Edward Island. She obtained her B.Sc. in Physics from the University of New Brunswick and her PhD in Physics from Memorial University for work on molecular orientation and dynamics of flexible polymers using combined NMR spectroscopy, MRI, and rheological techniques. She was awarded a NSERC fellowship (Canada) to pursue her post-doctoral studies at Harvard University, where she used confocal microscopy and rheological techniques to reveal the structure and dynamical properties of colloid-polymer glasses and gels, and the polymeric materials of the cell. She returned to the Atlantic region and joined University of Prince Edward Island in 2021 where she continues to explore the cell's polymeric materials as an active, out of equilibrium form of matter. Maria serves as Chair of the Division of Physics in Medicine and Biology of the Canadian Association of Physics, and on the editorial board of Physics in Canada.

Layout of First Floor of FSDE

