

TACO Newsletter
No. 01, February 2026



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Reporting period: December 2025 – January 2026

1. Personnel Developments



[Payal Wadhwa](#), hitherto a postdoc in subproject P03 with [Georg Kresse](#), has left TACO to take up a [position as an assistant professor](#) in her home country, India, at the Indian Institute of Information Technology Vadodara in Gujarat. We thank her for her contributions to TACO and wish her the best of success for her future endeavours!



[Alex Kortstee](#) has recently started as a new PhD student in [Cesare Franchini](#)'s subproject P07. Welcome to TACO, Alex!

Please inform the TACO science manager, [Stefan Uttenthaler](#), about personnel developments in your subproject.

2. Upcoming Events



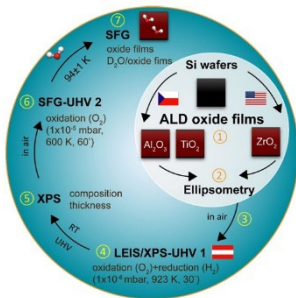
The **TACO PhD Meeting 2026** will take place at the [Seminar and Resort Hotel Flackl](#) in Reichenau an der Rax. The meeting is scheduled from **April 8 to 10, 2026**. The Scientific Organising Committee, comprising [Faith Lewis](#) (P04), [Susanne Gross](#) (P08), and [Tobias Dickbreder](#) (P11), has already successfully attracted a suite of excellent external speakers. These will be (in alphabetical order): **Andrea Auer** (University of Innsbruck), **Sara Blomberg** (Lund University), **Rachael Farber** (University of Kansas), **Erin Iski** (University of Tulsa), and **Zbigniew Sojka** (Jagiellonian University, Krakow).

Unfortunately, Marie-Pierre Gageot (Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne, Paris), who has initially accepted the invitation, cannot come. As a substitute, the SOC has invited **Bernhard Reischl** from the University of Helsinki to give a keynote talk.

The **TACO Colloquium** talks in the summer term 2026 have been agreed upon. The talks will take place again at TU Wien, in [Hörsaal 4](#) in the TU Freihaus. The current schedule is as follows:

Date	Speaker	Title
Mar. 23	Taro Hitosugi (University of Tokyo)	Autonomous Experiments Driven by Machine Learning and Robots
Apr. 27	Yair Litman (MPI for Polymer Research)	<i>tbd</i>
May 4	Paul Erhart (Chalmers University of Technology)	<i>tbd</i>
June 1	Reinhard Maurer (University of Vienna)	<i>tbd</i>

3. TACO Papers



In December, a paper coming from subproject P08 was published. [Xia Li](#), [Susanne Gross](#), [Thomas Haunold](#), et al. were “*Probing the Structure of D₂O Ice Layers on ALD-grown ZrO₂, Al₂O₃ and TiO₂ Thin Films by Sum Frequency Generation (SFG) Spectroscopy*” for the *Faraday Discussions*. It is a special paper for [Günther Rupprechter](#), as this is his 300th scientific publication – congratulations on this achievement!

Please report any new publications to the science manager to keep the [TACO publication list](#) up to date.

4. New Projects and Grants



No new projects or grants were reported in the period December 2025 & January 2026. Some TACO scientists look forward to the FWF board meeting in March, when their proposals will be decided – let's cross our fingers for them!

5. Awards and Achievements



No new awards or achievements were reported in the reporting period.

6. Miscellaneous



The video of Marc Koper's colloquium talk on the "[*Electric Double Layer of Platinum Electrodes*](#)" has gone live on our YouTube channel. It appears to be a popular topic, as the video has already received many views. Check it out!

Please follow our social media accounts and like & share content:



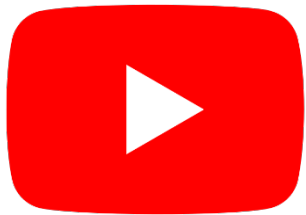
LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/taco-taming-complexity-in-materials-modeling/?viewAsMember=true>



Bluesky:

<https://bsky.app/profile/taco-oxides.bsky.social>



YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/@TACO_Oxides

7. Research fish reporting



To ease the collection of information for the annual and final status reports in [Research fish](#) required by our funding agency, the FWF, you are encouraged to report the following items to this new section of the TACO Newsletter:

- Collaborations & Partnerships
- Next Destination (i.e., career development of former TACO members)
- Research Tools & Methods
- Research Datasets, Databases & Models
- Intellectual Property & Licensing
- Software & Technical Products
- Use of Facilities & Resources

Please contact the Science Manager, [Stefan Uttenthaler](#), to report items or if you have questions about what to report.