



Report

RHIC S&T Review July 22-24

J. Sowinski

Chair UEC

Outline and Thanks

- **Outline**

- About the UEC
- Recent Activities and Concerns
- Relationship with BNL
- Summary

- **Thanks on behalf of users!**

- DOE Office of Science – Office of Nuclear Physics – Program managers and directors for funding and stewardship of the program
- Susan White-DePace and her staff at the Users Center for support and advocacy of users

Who are and What is the RHIC & AGS Users Group

- Members are users of RHIC, the AGS, the National Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL), the Accelerator Test Facility (ATF), and Tandem (external and employees).
- Charter
 - Channel for interchange of information between the laboratory administration and the users
 - Means for group to inform administration of users' needs
 - Means for Administration to inform users of current and future plans for the Lab

Demographics of Users

Collaboration	Number
Total RHIC	937
RHIC Faculty, Staff	463
RHIC Post-Docs	58
RHIC Students	338
RHIC Remote Users	77
AGS, ATF, NSRL, Tandem	543
ATLAS, Daya Bay, LSST, NYBlue	654
Foreign Users	1097
Users from Sensitive Countries	363

Demographics by Experiment

Collaboration	Number
RHIC Users	937
PHENIX	471
STAR	404
PHOBOS	21
BRAHMS	27
eRHIC/EIC	17

Led by Users Executive Committee

- **Officers (cycle 1 yr each position)**
 - Chair: Jim Sowinski (Indiana U.)
 - Past Chair: Abhay Deshpande (SUNY –Stony Brook)
 - Chair Elect:Helen Caines (Yale U.)
- **Elected Members - 9 with 3 yr staggered terms**
 - Christine Aidala (LANL)
 - Mei Bai (BNL)
 - Manuel Calderon (UC Davis)
 - Carl Gagliardi (TAMU)
 - Jiangyong Jia (BNL)
 - Brant Johnson (BNL)
 - Peter Steinberg (BNL)
 - Rusty Towell (Abilene Christian U)
 - Carla Vale (BNL)
- **Elected Student/Post-doc Members 1yr terms**
 - Megan Conners (SUNY – Stony Brook)
 - Terry Tarnowsky (Michigan State U)

UEC Members cont'd

- **Appointed Members – 2yr terms**

- Ken Barrish (UC- Riverside)
- Jana Bielcikova (NPI – Czech Republic)

- **Ex-Officio Members**

- Sam Aronson – Lab Director
- Doon Gibbs -ALD
- Tom Ludlum – Physics Chair
- Derek Lowenstein – CAD Chair
- Phil Pile – Exp. Suppt. Division Head
- Thomas Roser – CAD Division Head
- Steven Vigdor - ALD
- Susan White-DePace – Dir. Users Center

Regular Meetings

- Annual Users meeting – June 1-5, 2009
 - Physics Program
 - Thesis awards
- 4 Open Forum Meetings – full membership
 - DNP meeting, Spring APS meeting
 - Winter, Annual Users meeting
- Monthly meetings
 - UEC closed business meeting
 - General meeting including invited guests on current issues

2009 Users Meeting

- Topical Workshops - June 1-2
 - 7 RHIC HI, 2 Spin, 1 EIC
- Pedagogical Symposium on Accelerator Physics - June 3
- Plenary sessions June 4-5
 - Run performance from CAD and experiments
 - Recent physics highlights
 - View from funding agencies and lab director
 - Future accelerator and physics programs
 - Lab long term plans
 - Career Forum organized by junior members
 - Poster presentations, poster and thesis awards

UEC Organized into Working Groups

- **Site Access and Science (Susan White-DePace)**
 - Physical access, computer access, computing
- **Funding, Politics & Programs (Jim Sowinski)**
 - Funding for science
 - Political action: OSTP, OMB, Congress
- **Meetings Communication and Outreach (Helen Caines)**
 - Users' meeting and open forums
 - Outreach to broader community
- **Quality of Life (Abhay Deshpande)**
 - Housing, transportation, site improvements
 - Liaison to Association for Students and Post Docs (ASAP)

Site Access and Science

- Susan White-DePace and her staff are advocates for users within the laboratory
- GUV center is single point of access to get entry (real or virtual), badges, RHIC access cards, safety training coordinated etc.
- Most get through access process quickly
- Access for users born in sensitive countries serious ongoing problem
 - visa to get in country
 - State Dept. has announced plan to improve Mantis review
 - access to lab and computing
 - Currently 77 requests waiting 30-181 days
 - Continues to require extraordinary effort on part of GUV center staff.

Funding, Politics & Programs

- John Henry Scott from OSTP at DNP Open Forum
- Encouraging users to participate in contacting Congress at appropriate times
- National Users Facility Organization
 - Leadership from BNL
 - Susan White-DePace, Rene Bellwied, Brant Johnson
 - NUFO member of Science Task Force
 - Poster session for Congress sched. Oct. 15
- Funding for Nuclear Science ongoing concern for UEC and all users

Meetings Communication and Outreach

- Winter open forum at BNL – Perspectives from Tom Ludlum
- Spring APS moved to Quark Matter where a Career Forum was held – well attended
- Career Forum at Users meeting – well attended
- Outreach
 - RHIC related film clips on YouTube
 - Linked network for RHIC “Graduates”
 - Adopt a physicist program – Outreach to high schools
 - Long term – Science museum at front gate
 - RHIC news successful – editor Peter Steinberg

Quality of Life

- Strong communication with Assoc. of Students and Post-docs (ASAP)
 - Opportunities @ SBU
 - Women and minority issues at BNL (awareness)
- BNL Café – UEC initiative
 - Effort to enhance support – admin. and users
 - Recent meetings with Nayyersons – expand offerings, enhance usage and revenue, advertising by us and them
- Laundry area in apartment area for dorm residents
- Lighting and transportation to RHIC – ongoing priority
- Housing – more for less – highly constrained
 - Big concern for juniors stationed at BNL for interm. to long term

Relations with BNL and Management

- Overall good
- Management is willing to listen to our concerns and act when possible
 - Get prompt replies
 - Willing to join our meetings and seek solutions
 - At times solutions are not easy but we are heard
 - On some issues we need to keep working
- Below upper levels sometimes users are forgotten
 - Example: internal vs. external web – simply forget users can not see announcements
 - New policies may not reflect Users' needs - examples:
 - Implementation of ssh keys originally did not account for all the needs
 - Robo calls to check for modems hit apartments and dorms in middle of night
 - Severe weather evacuation of dorm and apartment residents

Relations with BNL and Management cont'd

- UEC can act after the fact
- Pro-active takes a voice at the table
 - Susan White-DePace and staff advocates
 - Steve Vigdor a recent user now on inside
 - Experiments have user contacts
 - General: Tim Hallman, Brant Johnson
 - Computing: Jerome Lauret, Carla Vale
 - BNL scientists on UEC
- Science issues mostly through collaborations -
Appropriate

Summary

- Relations between users and BNL are good
- There are always things to work on
- The UEC will continue to work creatively with management to resolve issues to mutual benefit