

Isaac Upsal

The RHIC/AGS User's Executive Committee merit award is given to Isaac Upsal for his indispensable contributions to the successful commissioning of the Event Plane Detector Upgrade for the STAR experiment and for his pioneering work which led to the first observation of global polarization in heavy ion collisions.

Dr. Upsal earned his Ph.D. in 2018 from the Ohio State University (OSU). During his graduate career at OSU he took a leadership role in the design and commissioning of the Event Plane Detector, a high priority upgrade to the STAR experiment. Isaac's leadership skills were clearly displayed through his help guiding the EPD project from its early inception to its successful installation and commissioning for the 2018 RHIC run. In addition to his hardware contributions, Isaac also did pioneering work developing new techniques that allowed the first observation of global polarization in heavy ion collisions. His global polarization measurement was published in Nature and featured as a cover story.