

LCLS UEC Meeting Minutes: 2021-07-30

Present: A. Gleason, M. Cammarata, Y. Cao, L. Conradson, M. Dunne, G. Doumy, T. Gorkhover, J. Kern, B. Lamesh, E. McBride, M. Mitrano, B. Ofori-Okai, R. Sension, P. Sun, H. Wen, G. J. Williams, C. Knotts, M. Dunne A. Marinelli, C. Rajendran, D. Rolles, E. Snell

Absent: E. Biasin, M. Khalil

Guests: P. Jones, S. Holder

Mike Update:

- Run 20 proposal demographics: 137 proposals, ~ 10% more than run 18 or 19
 - AMO is back at previous levels,
 - Bio is low compared with historical levels – need analysis as to reasons and path forward.
 - Proposal numbers are important because the amount of beamtime allocated depends on the number of applications
 - Proposals are out to PRP chairs. PRP will meet in September. Expected provisional decisions in late September
- Run 20 will run from mid-Jan to mid-June, coincident with LCLS-II commissioning.
 - Cryo plant has demonstrated sustained cooling
 - In March-June, ramping of Superconducting accelerator
 - Early-mid summer, undulator commissioning
 - The plan is to go back and forth between commissioning and operations – nominally for 2 weeks periods. This will complicate the scheduling of experiments.
- BES and DOE has given permission to increase spending on additional capabilities as part of the LCLS-II Project
 - Building a second OPCPA laser in NEH,
 - Proceed with the first phase of the TXI instrument (enabling high repetition rate beam for the hard X-ray beamline)
 - Increasing data storage,
 - Improving data processing consistent with the high rates for LCLS-II data reduction pipeline and online analysis
- Unfortunately, case rates for COVID have risen, and we are back to on-site face coverings regardless of vaccination status.
 - Unvaccinated and those declining to state have additional protocols
- Flooding in ASTA has caused one UED experiment to be cancelled
- National academies study on HED science upcoming, with particular focus on pipeline development
 - Will include virtual site visits.

Question: Does these numbers include the Campaign proposals?

- Yes, as well as with the renewals. Campaigns take up about 10%.

Question: How does the COVID protocols change affect user presence? Does this affect hutch searches?

- LCLS is still accepting users on site, consistent with their ability to travel to SLAC.
- Onsite user groups will be trained to aid in searching hutches, to help avoid problems with staff availability – particularly during the swing and owl shifts

Question: Any update on the TMO leadership?

- James Cryan has been appointed as the principal scientist for the TMO instrument.

Comment: On stabilizing of the number of Bio proposal numbers, there may be value in having a proposal workshop to help bring in people who are interested in beamtime but unsure of how to write the proposals

- Good suggestion. Will follow up offline

Young Investigator Award update:

- Seeking additional submissions. **All UEC members are asked to submit a name.**
- Extending deadline to August 25th.
- Discussion about changing criteria of award to expand eligibility.
- Proposed changes to Young Investigator award. UEC will vote
 - Include graduate students as eligible
 - Increase eligibility to <7 years after PhD.
- Changes in criteria to apply for next year

Demographics update on LCLS Users organization

- An analysis has been performed of the demographics of applicants for LCLS beamtime, and of the user groups who receive beamtime. The intent is to understand the current situation to help inform actions that can be taken to drive improvements.
- Looking at demographics in terms of proposals submitted and then experiments fielded.
- Overall, there isn't a lot of variability over time. 70-75% proposals from White candidates, see a slight increase in proposals from Asian PIs.
- Lower numbers for URMs.
- Male/Female ratio is about 80/20
- Diversity seems to be higher for experiments that are fielded than for submitted.
 - Hard to read into this too much, as the composition of teams can change after a proposal is accepted
- For gender, the numbers indicate that there is still work to do. ~20% female PIs

Questions: Is it possible to breakdown the data more based on scientific area/field?

- Challenging, because some experiments are not well confined to one category, but the User Office will look at what data is available

Update on getting a survey to the user community of their experiences at LCLS. Aim to include questions about climate of the user experience, accessibility, and others.