

---

# **Users Meeting subcommittee report**

---

**Reddy Gandrajula, Sophie Middleton**

**UEC Meeting, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

# 54th annual Users Meeting in 2021

- Users Meeting subcommittee organizes the annual Fermilab Users Meeting, invites the whole scientific community to show what new results were obtained by HEP at Fermilab, highlights the past and future experiments and gives young scientists a platform to present themselves to the user community.
- Items to discuss: where we stand since last UEC meeting --- made some progress, we need to finalize theme and who to invite to give our keynote talk
  - Propose dates
  - Meeting Theme
  - Keynote speaker:

# We have tentative dates for UM 2021

< June 2021 >							< July 2021 >							< August 2021 >						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	<del>31</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>2</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>4</del>	5	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	<del>7</del>	<del>8</del>	<del>9</del>	<del>10</del>	<del>11</del>	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	<del>12</del>	<del>13</del>	<del>14</del>	<del>15</del>	<del>16</del>	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	<del>21</del>	<del>22</del>	<del>23</del>	<del>24</del>	<del>25</del>	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31	1	2	3	4

- June seems busy time, late July or early August seems to be best
- Tentative dates: **week of July 26-30th or week of August 2-6th, 2021**
- We are going to communicate these tentative dates with the conference office and the Directorate office later today, if there are no objections from the UEC & FSPA

# Semi-virtual or fully virtual event

- Lab's plans on bringing users onsite during this summer: Given the ongoing pandemic, we are keeping the option of holding the Users meeting either fully virtual or considering semi-virtual depending on the lab's onsite access permissions:
  - **Lab is currently allowing a few hundred (~1000 (800 are employees, 200 contractors)) essential employees to access the Fermilab's Wilson hall**, we asked Kenney, Amber ES&H section approval to reserve a few conference rooms including the auditorium for onsite employees to attend in-person users meetings events by obeying the COVID social distancing policies.
  - If essential people can attend in-person users meeting events, we might plan on inviting a few speakers (including the keynote speaker) to onsite to give their talks depending on their willingness to give onsite or virtual talks
- We will start the doing the necessary paper work in the Fermilab's events portal for organizing the (semi) virtual users meeting in this summer

# Semi-virtual or fully virtual event

- Amber (EES&H) just updated us on:
- Katie Swanson (cc'd), the Division Safety Officer who supports PPD, has volunteered to be your safety point of contact as you plan the users meeting. She has the support of the entire ESH team and can coordinate special needs if necessary. And as we discussed, **we can help with a final venue decision in April/May before you publicly announce the dates.**
- And Joy Pomillo (cc'd) manages the conference office and can provide some guidance on how/when to use the Events Portal or point you in the right direction.

# UM-2021 Budget numbers

- We need to provide budget request numbers for two scenarios semi-virtual (Best hope scenario, Covid cases go down, and vaccines rolls out quickly) or fully virtual (covid cases goes up)
- For a reference usual budget for a “normal” in-person UM is about \$20K, and in fully virtual case we utilized ~\$1100

## URA travel support

- Another important thing which needs to be done soon is to apply for the URA Visiting Scholars Program travel grant to support eligible early career scientists to attend Users Meeting/NewPerspectives 2021 (**Spring 2021 Submission Deadline is Monday, February 22, 2021**). Sophie Middleton volunteered to put this years URA VSP proposal request.

# Theme for UM-2021

- Propose meeting theme for UM-2021:
- **Challenges, Resilience and New Horizons of Our Community**
- **Beginning the decade together, Our research in science and its impact in the Broader World**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bhhGpM1g74ysOMwYRGMMtWHAI0oRFV3Hv5k0fInPBng/edit>

2017: 50th Anniversary

2018: A vision of Science and Culture

2019: Your Community, your Science. It's about everyone that makes it happen

2020: Defining the decade (An inclusive gathering to highlight leading-edge-science, celebrate Fermilab achievements and look to our future as a community)

# Keynote speaker

- **Andrea M. Ghez.** She was one of the recipients of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics for “**the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the center of our galaxy**”. She is a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. We haven’t have a women keynote speaker at the Users meeting for a longtime.
- [3 members of the Event Horizon Telescope Project: **Katie Bouman, Shep Doeleman, and Avery Broderick.**] Each of these physicists was brought up as a candidate due to their work on last year’s **groundbreaking black hole image**.
- **Nigel speaker recommendation:** Ashley asked Nigel at Virtual Neutrino Social who would be his dream speakers to invite to speak at Fermilab (e.g. at the UM). He mentioned **Max Tegmark** (who he used to be colleagues with) - or someone else in cosmology.
- **Max Tegmark** Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the scientific director of the Foundational Questions Institute. He studies the impact of Artificial Intelligence in society. Several UEC members, including those who worked on AI-related topics, mentioned that they found the broader focus of the impact on society much more compelling a topic than policy or methods, particularly to the public.
- **Keynote speaker:** it helps if the plenary speaker ties in with the theme

List from last year is here (Please add your input here): <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ex9wCzS9ob6jCdYNfETxEXXF6HYVLBXqgkvXF5cFoNs/edit>

# special talks, activities, workshops, etc.

- Agenda from 2020: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/23109/timetable/#20200810>
- Richie is working with Sandra Charles's EDI office on connecting her office to the broader users, and planning D+I event at the UM 2021
- Scientific Job Skills Panels (how to give a good talk, job applications, mentoring)
- Science Communication training, Community Fair, with local vendors and resources
- Celebrations: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the commissioning of the Main Injector and Recycler accelerators,
- What else can we offer our community?  
Examples: Public speaking skills workshop, career advice/panel, more inclusion and diversity talks/activities, more training?
- We will collect the Feedback on improving the UM at Meet-and-greet.

# Summary minutes from UM sub-committee

## Action items:

- Dates
- Themes
- Speakers

## Points

- We have tentative dates for organizing the UM-2021: First choice is the **week of July 26-30th** and **second choice is the week of August 2-6th, 2021**
- We planning for semi-virtual meeting in the best case scenario with Covid cases going down and vaccines are rolled out quickly in this summer, or fully virtual meeting if the Covid cases goes up
- We will start the doing the necessary paper work in the Fermilab's events portal for organizing the (semi) virtual users meeting in this summer and Email the conference office with the proposed dates
- Payments: do we pay for reserving conference rooms - no
- Celebration events? Poster broads - expenses
- We are working on the URA Visiting Scholar program proposal request for supporting early career members travel to participate in UM2021 - deadline Monday, February 22nd 2021
- Keynote: **Andrea M. Ghez**. She was one of the recipients of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics for “**the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the center of our galaxy**”. She is a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. We haven't have a women keynote speaker at the Users meeting for a longtime.
- [3 members of the Event Horizon Telescope Project: **Katie Bouman, Shep Doeleman, and Avery Broderick.**] Each of these physicists was brought up as a candidate due to their work on last year's **groundbreaking black hole image**.
- More women - as a keynote speaker?
- We will collected the Feedback on improving the UM at Meet-and-greet.