July 2024 DPF Newsletter

Dear DPF members,

Please find below the monthly DPF newsletter for July 2024. This newsletter will be archived on the DPF website. If you would like an announcement included in the August 2024 newsletter, to be sent out around mid-August, please contact the DPF Secretary/Treasurer. Please keep requests to 300 words and submit them by the **10th of the month** for consideration.

Tulika Bose, Secretary/Treasurer, tulika@hep.wisc.edu

**DOE Comparative Review FY 2025**
**Reminder: Call for nominations for the DPF Executive Committee [Deadline: Aug 15, 2024]**
**APS Comment on Draft South Pole Station Master Plan**
**2025 APS Meeting**
DOE Comparative Review FY 2025

Dear Colleagues,

During the next Fiscal Year (FY), i.e., FY 2025, the Office of High Energy Physics (HEP) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will be continuing the large-scale comparative review of research proposals submitted to our office by U.S. academic institutions. This will mark the 14th round of the process in our office, which will be conducted through the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) titled “FY 2024 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program” [DE-FOA-0003177], which was issued on September 29, 2023.

The FOA is available online: [https://grants.gov](https://grants.gov) and [https://science.osti.gov/hep/funding-opportunities/](https://science.osti.gov/hep/funding-opportunities/).

If you have an existing HEP research grant that has a project end-date between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025, inclusive, and would like to obtain future DOE support; or if you do not currently have a HEP research grant and would like to apply for DOE support; or wish to submit a proposal containing new research scope that is aligned with DOE/HEP’s program and mission; or are a new faculty member joining an existing HEP research group, you are strongly encouraged to apply to the FY 2025 comparative review process described in FY2024 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program [DE-FOA-0003177]. Prior to any submission to this FOA, applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the relevant HEP subprogram managers listed in the FOA to develop applications that properly address program goals.

HEP expects to convene comparative merit review panels in November 2024 for most research subprogram areas, as identified in DE-FOA-0003177. Research applications that are aligned with one or more of those research areas and are received by September 5, 2024, will be considered for merit review by those panels. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit pre-applications by August 1, 2024. Eligible applications that are not subjected to this comparative review process will be reviewed but will likely be assigned a lower programmatic priority than those that are, with any exceptions considered on a case-by-case basis to address program priorities.

HEP will hold a virtual “Office Hour” and Q&A Session on the Comparative Review process on Tue Aug 20 at 2pm ET. More information on the HEP Office Hours and links to register for the upcoming sessions are available at [https://science.osti.gov/hep/officehours](https://science.osti.gov/hep/officehours). All current and prospective applicants are welcome to attend, and a recording of the session will be available on the same website about a week after the live session.

If you have an existing HEP research grant, but it is not due for renewal in FY 2025, you will not need to submit a proposal to the FY2024 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program DE-FOA-0003177 this year—just remember to submit your annual progress report through DOE’s Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS). The FY 2025 continuation of your award funding cannot be processed until your annual progress report has been submitted and accepted. A separate email from PAMS will be forthcoming 120-days prior to the current budget period's end-date of your grant's continuation in order to begin the submission process of the progress report.
Instructions, including PAMS-specific progress report screenshots, for completing the report are provided in Section 9.1 of the PAMS User Guide:


If you wish to submit a new proposal for non-recurring, or non-research, activity (e.g., conferences, workshops, or operations of an existing HEP-sponsored experiment), you should also apply to this same FY2024 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program [DE-FOA-0003177]. Such proposals will not be included in the comparative merit review discussed above.

Many changes from past practices in structuring applications are introduced or extended in this FOA, and applicants are strongly urged to read the FOA carefully and consult the FAQ posted on the HEP website. Some key elements include 1) the introduction of a new merit review criterion involving the “Quality and Effectiveness of the Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan” for all research proposals, and 2) the format and instructions for submitting biographical sketches, current & pending support, and lists of collaborators and other individuals who should not serve as reviewers – all which are to accompany the proposal. Additional information about PIER Plans is available from the Office of Science.

The Office of Science hosted a webinar describing the FY 2024 comparative review process as implemented in funding opportunity DE-FOA-0003177 on October 19, 2023 at 1:30 PM (Eastern Time). A recording of the webinar can be found on the HEP website. Aside from the dates, the process for FY 2025 is mostly unchanged from FY 2024. A key difference includes the addition of the Computational HEP program in the FY 2025 comparative review.

I would like to thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we begin the next round of our review process. In particular, we will need a significant cadre of experts to assist with the merit reviews. I fully expect the outcome will be a stronger U.S. HEP research program.

If you have any further questions regarding specific research program areas, please contact the respective HEP personnel listed in Section I.5 the FOA. For general questions regarding the review, please email sc.hepfoa@science.doe.gov and reference FY2024 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program [DE-FOA-0003177] in your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Glen Crawford

U.S. Department of Energy

Director, Research and Technology Division

Office of High Energy Physics
Reminder: Call for nominations for the DPF Executive Committee

The APS Division of Particles and Fields Nominating Committee requests your assistance in identifying candidates to stand for office in this fall’s DPF elections. This year, we will be electing people to these offices:

- Vice Chair (1 position, 2025, then Chair Elect in 2026, Chair in 2027, and Past Chair in 2028)
- Secretary/Treasurer (1 position, 2025-27, and Past Secretary/Treasurer in 2028)
- Executive Committee Member-at-Large (2 positions, 2025-27)
- Early Career Member-at-Large (1 position, must be a postdoctoral researcher, 2025-2026)
- Graduate Student Member (1 position, 2025, can serve two consecutive terms)

We invite you to nominate outstanding colleagues to be on this year’s ballot. Nominations should be submitted here by the extended deadline of August 15, 2024. Self-nominations are welcome. The Nominating Committee works to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in all elections, so we ask you to suggest nominees who will represent the diversity of our division membership in all its forms.

The membership of APS is diverse and global, and the Executive Committees of APS Units should reflect that diversity so that all voices are involved and empowered to have an impact on our community. Nominations of members belonging to groups traditionally underrepresented in physics, such as women, LGBT+ scientists, scientists who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), disabled scientists, scientists from institutions with limited resources, and scientists from outside the United States, are especially encouraged. Students and early career members are also encouraged to participate in all unit leadership committees.

All elected candidates will begin their terms on January 1, 2025. More details about current officers and related governance information can be found on the DPF Website.

Governance of DPF is an important act of service to our community, and we thank you in advance for helping identify excellent candidates.

Laura Reina (on behalf of the DPF Nominating Committee, reina@hep.fsu.edu)
APS Comment on Draft South Pole Station Master Plan

DPF, in coordination with the LHC Users Organization, the SLAC Users Organization, and the Fermilab Users Executive Committee, drafted a public comment on the NSF’s Draft South Pole Station Master Plan to express concerns about the impact of the plan on CMB-S4 and upgrades to the IceCube experiment.

The comment was approved by the APS Physics Policy Committee, and signed by APS President Young-Kee Kim. The comment is linked above, and may be found here.
For 2025, the APS “April” meeting will for the first time be held jointly with the APS “March” meeting, **16-21 March 2025**. It should be an exciting opportunity for APS members to both hear talks on the latest results in the areas covered by DPF, as well as the new and exciting results from every area of physics. The conference will be held in Anaheim CA, with separate, adjacent buildings for the “April” meeting and the “March” meeting. More information can be found at [https://www.aps.org/events/2025/joint-meeting](https://www.aps.org/events/2025/joint-meeting).

Note due to the complexity of the conference, along with the earlier date, the deadlines for submission of contributed abstracts is not far away. **The submission of contributed abstracts for the 12 minute talks starts 9 Sep and the deadline is 18 October.** You may wish to start to think now if you or a member of your group would like to submit an abstract.

Best
Sarah Eno
Chair, program committee for DPF contributions to APS25