

John Lajoie - Statement of Candidacy for Spokesperson of the ePIC Collaboration

It is with a mix of enthusiasm and humility that I submit myself as a candidate for the office of Spokesperson of the ePIC Collaboration. I am excited by the opportunity to serve the ePIC Collaboration at this delicate time in its formation. While my background is in RHIC heavy-ion and spin physics, I have benefitted greatly from the warm welcome of the EIC community over the past two years. I look forward to learning even more about the rich physics of electron scattering as we work together to build a detector to realize the EIC science program. I bring to this position my previous experience building the Level-1 trigger systems for the PHENIX experiment, as Deputy Spokesperson for PHENIX from 2013-15, and as the Level-2 manager for construction of the sPHENIX hadronic calorimeter systems. I will use this experience to help realize the ePIC detector.

Success in the coming years will require a dedicated leadership team. For this reason, I have asked Silvia Dalla Torre to serve with me as Deputy Spokesperson. Silvia's extensive experience and expertise with experiments at CERN, the ECFA Detector and R&D panels, EIC R&D, and as a member of the INFN Directorate Board uniquely position her to help address the many technical challenges we face on the road to DOE CD-3. I am thrilled to have Silvia as a partner, and we are both dedicated to spending the vast majority of our professional time on ePIC in the coming two year.

The coming years will be at various times complicated, thrilling, challenging, and enormously rewarding. To meet these challenges, Sylvia and I, in conjunction with the Steering Committee, have developed a detailed management plan tailored to the current phase of ePIC. This plan is distributed as a separate document and builds on the high-level management structure in the ePIC Charter. The management plan emphasizes distributed leadership and provides an efficient structure that will enable collaborators to use their talents to make ePIC a success while receiving recognition for their efforts. At the same time, the decision-making process is built-in to the scientific structure, providing transparency to this process for the ePIC Collaboration. We will establish strong ties and clear lines of communication between the Spokesperson's Office, the Collaboration Council, and EIC project management. We envision an Executive Board that will play a major role in assisting the Spokesperson's Office. Most importantly, the next two years will establish the culture of the ePIC Collaboration. To be successful we will not only need to grow the ePIC Collaboration but take full advantage of the skills, talents, and capabilities of all our collaborators. Silvia and I are committed to making ePIC a collegial, friendly, safe, and welcoming environment for everyone. We look forward to discussing our detailed management plan further with the collaboration.

It has been a long road to get us to the first leadership election in ePIC, but Silvia and I are very excited about the future. Having the opportunity to design and build a new collider-detector is a rare opportunity and working together we are confident we can set ePIC on the path to realizing the EIC science program. We respectfully ask you to place your confidence in us for the opportunity to serve the ePIC Collaboration.