

OLGA EVDOKIMOV

CANDIDATE STATEMENT – I am privileged to be nominated to stand in this election for the ePIC Collaboration Council Vice-Chair position. For those who do not know me closely, I "grew up" in STAR – an international collaboration of (now) more than 60 Institutions from many countries. Over the years, I was fortunate to serve my collaboration in various leadership positions, including convenorship and coordination (physics working group, embedding, shifts, run period), Deputy Spokesperson, and multiple committees of different levels. My experience as a STAR Collaboration Council Chair is most relevant for this election. This path allowed me to observe (and actively participate in) experimental collaboration's inner workings from all angles and learn about collaboration dynamics. If elected, I hope this experience will allow me to fulfill my duties efficiently. My physics interests revolve around the experimental exploration of phases of nuclear matter under extreme temperature conditions with STAR/RHIC and CMS/LHC Collaborations. I study a variety of subjects, spanning collision dynamics, mechanisms of QGP hadronization, and jet-medium interactions.

My journey towards EIC began in 2019 with involvement in the Yellow Report effort as one of the four Physics conveners. I am grateful for this experience not only for broadening my physics interests but for granting me a valuable opportunity to connect with the "cold QCD" part of the Nuclear Physics community I was much less previously familiar with (a sidenote to all my YR colleagues: this was a stressful, but one of the most rewarding experiences of my career and thank you all!). I was elected Chair of the EICUG Institutional Board in 2021 and served in this capacity through the transition to collaboration formation. I helped reshape the Charter for the User Group as a member of the EICUG Charter Committee. I was a member of the Steering Committee for the ATHENA proposal and was asked to co-chair (with Douglas Higinbotham) the drafting of the Charter for the to-be-formed ePIC Collaboration. (I list these "high-level" activities as they are most relevant for the position, but I am not shy of other work: I am there with you "in trenches," currently co-convening Jets & Heavy Flavor working group, which until recently was so small, that there was little distinction between "convener" and "developer" for most practical purposes).

Back to the ePIC Charter – the process, the product is what I would like to use as an illustration for the "statement" part of my statement: an early, still "living" document, it was a *consensus* proposal with core values: *democratic governance*, a *welcome, inclusive, equitable, professional* environment, scientific *excellence* with voice for *all* groups and members. I firmly believe in the importance of open communication. If it pleases the Council to have me serve in the Chair-line, I will put every effort into engaging directly and facilitating regular exchanges with the ePIC management office and EIC project team, as well as National Labs and Funding agencies. I will provide support to the ePIC CC committees as they develop and solidify Collaboration Policies. I will strive to help us find the right balance for engagement, responsibilities, and professional recognition between large and small groups at labs or universities. Lastly, there is little point in building ePIC without the next generation of scientists taking over the reins: I will emphasize culture and policies for supporting and promoting the early career members and hope to further work with you in this direction.

This nomination is a high honor for me. I realize well the challenges of this position (and all the challenges of successfully designing and building the ePIC) and do not take it lightly. If elected, I plan to work closely with all of you to face and address these challenges. Thank you!

BIO SKETCH – Olga Evdokimov is a Professor of Physics and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Illinois Chicago. She received her PhD in 1999 from the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (Dubna, Russia) and Ivanovo State University (Ivanovo, Russia). Her research expertise is in High Energy Nuclear Physics, focusing on experimental exploration of phases of nuclear matter. She is conducting experimental studies of the hot nuclear matter under extreme temperature conditions within two major international collaborations, STAR and CMS, at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in Upton, NY, and the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland. Her research interests span a variety of subjects and include investigating collision dynamics, hadronization mechanisms in Quark Gluon Plasma, statistical jet reconstruction, and jet-medium interactions. She is also actively engaged in the developments contributing to the future program for the new upcoming collider facility in the U.S. – the Electron-Ion Collider (EIC). Professor Evdokimov's research accomplishments have been recognized nationally and internationally, as demonstrated through her professional leadership appointments in various organizations in the field. She served as a member of the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee to the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation, as a Chair of the STAR Collaboration Council, and the Institutional Board for the EIC User Group, among others. She serves on Advisory Boards for the EIC Theory Institute at the Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Centre of Excellence in Quark Matter of the Academy of Finland. At UIC, Professor Evdokimov is involved in curriculum development and educational policy matters and has served on the Educational Policy Committees for the LAS and now continues serving on such a committee for the Physics Department.

