

### **ePIC CC Vice Chair statement – Peter Steinberg:**

With the ePIC collaboration focused on finalizing the detector design and continuing work toward the TDR, it is crucial to maintain the incredible momentum built-up over the last year by our first CC chair and vice-chair, who have done a fantastic job fostering the new institutions of our new collaboration.

The ePIC charter served as the foundation for this great progress by providing a structure for its evolution into an effective and nimble organization. At the same time, the collaboration is still growing, with new institutions offering new capabilities and new contributions to the epic effort. This bodes well for the future and ultimate success of ePIC, both the detector and collaboration.

However, we still face many challenges in making ePIC a collaboration to which every institution, large or small (and worldwide), can make important contributions. The near future should see the adoption of the ePIC membership policy, that will start asking each group - and each of its members - to draw upon their talents and energies to make meaningful commitments for the coming years. This will require an equally important commitment from the collaboration, its management, and its activity coordinators, to provide a constructive environment where opportunities are carefully planned and publicized broadly — and which aim to make ePIC a diverse, inclusive and welcoming collaboration in which to work and do great physics.

We also have to make sure that there is a vital and equitable process of assigning scientific and technical talks, and opportunities for publications, so our colleagues can build vital and lasting careers on ePIC. This is particularly true for our junior and mid-career colleagues who will be needed to serve as future leaders of ePIC.

All of these aspects of ePIC rely on a well-organized and functional Collaboration Council, which provides a forum for the voices of individual institutions, and allow the ePIC collaboration to speak with one voice when it is needed. It needs to continue having regular meetings (at least quarterly) with clear agendas and goals, with ample opportunities for input and ideas from the council members and the wider collaboration. We should also be making careful deliberations where the Charter may need amendment to make our collaboration organization more flexible and effective, while maintaining clear and fair principles.

As incoming CC vice chair, I would draw upon my years of experience in experimental collaborations both large and small, and in particular on my recent experiences helping shape ePIC's structures and policies. This includes serving on the ePIC Charter Committee, which had to synthesize a broad range of perspectives and ideas into a coherent and functional document that has been serving us well in the last year. I am also currently the inaugural chair of the ePIC Membership Committee, and have been honored to help form the team that has thought so carefully about how the collaboration can work with its members, both as institutions and individuals.

I hope to have the opportunity to work with all of you in these next two years, which will be so crucial to establishing ePIC's success as a project, and maintaining a vital and inclusive ePIC collaboration!