Personal
Overview of the DAPP review report

08/21/25

Overall Assessment

- Review committee strongly supports the DAPP proposal.
- Recognizes it as very good, innovative, and cost-effective.
- Praises phased approach, institutional support, and AI-based innovations.
- Positions BNL and the U.S. as leaders in data preservation.

Key Strengths Identified

- RHIC datasets are unique & irreplaceable : justified effort to preserve.
- Governance structure well-suited for long-term success.
- Strong alignment with FAIR principles and Open Science practices.
- AI use for knowledge preservation considered promising.
- Benefits EIC transition (continuity, training, shared infrastructure).

Critical Comments

- Physics case needs to be made more explicit: show high-priority science enabled by preserved data.
- Metadata curation must start early and be handled by collaborations (AI cannot replace manual work).
- Integration of internal researchers' requirements into workflow design not fully demonstrated.
- Risk analysis not yet fully developed.

Committee Advice

- Define roles, responsibilities, and FTE commitments from collaborations more clearly.
- Strengthen reproducibility workflows, including legacy publications.
- Clarify which audiences count as ‘external users’ and plan dedicated support (training, mentoring, documentation).
- Expand risk mitigation strategies (technical, organizational, funding).
- Consider explicit connection to EIC physics goals and users.

Final Conclusion (Personal Summary)

- Preserving RHIC data will extend scientific outcomes and maximize the return on investment.
- DAPP is more than archiving: it applies AI tools and FAIR/Open Science standards to ensure long-term usability.
- The project's phased strategy (transition from innovation to stability) is considered robust and forward-looking.
- Reviewers strongly recommended the project to be funded and supported for the proposed effort, noting areas for refinement (physics case, metadata, collaboration roles, and risk planning).