DEIA in Nuclear Astrophysics A Summary from the JINA Horizons White Paper

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A New White Paper for Nuclear Astrophysics

Horizons: Nuclear Astrophysics in the 2020s and Beyond

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Sultana^{127,3}, R Surman^{54,3}, T Szücs⁸², A Tawfik¹²⁸, F Thielemann^{129,39}, L Trache¹²⁴, R Trappitsch^{130,108}, M B Tsang², A Tumino^{131,83}, S Upadhyayula³¹, J O Valle Martínez¹³², M Van der Swaelmen¹²³, C Viscasillas Vázquez¹³³, A Watts⁵², B Wehmeyer^{22,134}, M Wiescher^{42,35,3}, C Wrede^{1,2}, J Yoon^{135,3}, R G T Zegers^{1,2,3}, M A Zermane¹³⁶, M Zingale¹³⁷ Organized by JINA, IReNA Partner Networks

- 579 participants JINA Horizon Horizon Meeting December 2020
- White Paper: 165 co-authors from 20 countries
- Includes:
 - Scientific vision
 - DEIA vision
 - Needs of early career scientists
 - Importance of centers
 - Importance of (international) collaboration
- Accepted for Publication at JPG– available for scientists on arXiv:2205.07996

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IReNA NSF AccelNet Network of Networks



Integration of DEIA and Science on Equal Footing

- Treated DEIA on equal footing with the science as an essential goal for the field to be successful.
 - Invited talk
 - Breakout session
 - White paper section
- DEIA is different
 - We were mostly not experts (with some exceptions, e.g. Dara Norman from Nori Lab)
 - Its personal: people in the room are personally affected
 - Everybody has to engage
 - Chose breakout into small groups and collected written thoughts from each group
- Success can be defined at different levels
 - Treating it on equal footing at the meeting gave it the visibility, seriousness, and priority it needs and fosters broad buy-in
 - Same for it being its own section in the white paper lots of discussion also during writing
 - Integration can hopefully serve as a model

... but what does it say?





How Did we Get Here: State of the Field

- Some progress with gender representation
 - Women participation at conferences in nuclear astrophysics has reached ~30% (41% of Horizon Speakers were women)
 - JINA had 38% women grad students
- Nuclear astrophysics
 - Interdisciplinarity is a benefit can learn from other fields
 - Internationality is a benefit we can learn and we can impact other communities (where we do send students/postdocs for example)
 - Centers like JINA can play an important role in facilitating this exchange and disseminating/impacting a large part of the community
- Diversity record on minorities in nuclear physics (and nuclear astrophysics) is dismal
 - Fraction of Black students among physics bachelors dropped from 1999 to 2020 from 4.8 to 3.1%
 - This numbers make it look better than it is as vast majority of degrees are awarded by a few HBCUs (so most other US universities have close to zero students)
 - Fraction of physics doctorates awarded to Black students has dropped below 1%





What Needs to be Done?

- Treat diversity goals on an equal footing with scientific goals
- Committed leadership
- Provide incentives to promote DEIA goals
 - Promotion, funding (funding agencies)
- Address barriers (they are there, otherwise we would have population level numbers)
- Address bias
- Retention
 - Recruiting makes no sense if retention is not addressed
 - Sense of belonging in field, department, ...
 - Affirm identity as scientist at early career stage,
 - Investment in resources for students
- Outreach
 - Ensure marginalized communities are reached
 - Address barriers for participation (e.g. internet access, computing access)





What Needs to be Done? Role of Centers?

- Centers and Networks like JINA or the newly proposed CeNAM play an important role
- Codes of Conduct
 - Not just focused on illegal activities, discrimination, harassment but expectation
 of inclusive and welcoming environment, respectful interactions, no bullying,
 - Tracking code of conduct violations
- Open access to data, resources, knowledge, and ideas
 - Centers can facilitate this greatly
- Online access to meetings
 - Centers organize large numbers of meetings and can experiment, spearhead new approaches to integrate online access
- Buy-in
 - Centers and large collaborations reach a large part of the community
 - Centers bring together people from different disciplines
- Mentoring
 - Centers can facilitate multi-institutional mentoring networks
- Training
 - Centers and large collaborations reach a large part of the community
- Collect and monitor metrics





Led by M. Lugaro (Hungary), C. Hampton (US) Originated in ChETEC parter network IReNA a NSF AccelNet Network of Networks disseminated across the world

Women Scientists Who Made Nuclear Astrophysics



Summary

- Progress has been achieved in gender diversity but we are nowhere near to where we need to be
- The track record of the field in diversity in other underrepresented groups is dismal
- Interdisciplinary, multi-institutional, and international centers can make important contributions
- We need broad community buy-in and a concerted effort to make DEIA goals a priority for all members of the field, on equal footing with the scientific goals.
 - While recognizing the differences discussions need to be mindful and safe
- We need to transition from identifying what should be done to making and sustaining actual changes through equity-minded approaches that acknowledge the differing needs of individuals.
 - All members of the community have a role to play.
 - Individual actions in these roles may range from individual and personal to using influence to establish inclusive policies and procedures in their collaborations, departments and universities.

