

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

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Dear TSAPS Members:

I am happy to report that in these unprecedented times we were still able to organize the 2020 Joint Fall Meeting of the TSAPS, TSAAPT and Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students, which will be held virtually and is organized by the Physics Department at UT Arlington. The layout is unique, but now, almost a year into the pandemic, many of you will be used to the numerous possibilities technology has to offer to still be connected and to still pursue cutting edge research in these most unusual times. We all hope to be back to our usual system of meeting and connecting in person by next year, but for now we are trying to make the best of our current situation.

The meeting will be a full two-day meeting on November 13 and 14, 2020. On the evening of November 12 the executive committees of TSAPS and TSAAPT will meet virtually. This meeting always offers an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral scholars to present their work for the first time and to build their own network of physics colleagues. A number of career-building sessions and physics education workshops will be organized as well by the TSAAPT and TSAPS.

Organizing Chair Prof. Wei Chen and his team have put together an impressive list of invited speakers in physics research and education ranging from medical physics to the latest results in high energy physics. Many of the keynote speakers in the morning session are National Academy members and experts in a wide variety of fields (Prof. Nygren in High Energy Physics, Prof. Coleman in Quantum Materials, Prof. Zank in Space Physics, Prof. Datta in Nanostructures, Prof. Long in Optics). Profs. Sham, Kotov, Cooley and Ren are rounding out the group of distinguished keynote speakers. We are very proud to have such a select group of speakers this time.

In addition to the keynote talks, there will be several topical invited talks in the parallel sessions given by a wide range of colleagues from all over the world, made possible by the unique format of this meeting. We are definitely trying to use the unfortunate circumstances of the pandemic to our advantage in putting together a program that would be impossible to arrange for an in-person meeting. So please take advantage of this opportunity. The UTA organizers also plan a special session on medical physics, and if you are interested in this session, please contact Wei Chen (weichen@uta.edu)

After an extended research period during Covid, please think about a student/mentor pair at either the undergraduate or graduate level whose work you find particularly impressive and nominate them for the Robert S. Hyer Award. Nominations are due October 18 to bellwied@uh.edu. The award criteria, a list of past recipients and information about the award are available at Hyer Award link on the new TSAPS website .

Another award we hope to present at this fall's meeting is the Distinguished Service Award. More information about the award and a list of past recipients are available at the Distinguished Service Award website. Also these nominations are due October 18th to TSAPS Chair Rene Bellwied at bellwied@uh.edu.

Last year's Joint Fall Meeting of the TSAPS, TSAAPT and Zone 13 of the Society of Physics Students at the Texas Tech University was a great success. Organizing lead Tom Maccarone did a fantastic job of putting everything together, and the TSAPS membership strongly supported the event. I anticipate that the 2020 meeting will offer our membership another stellar opportunity to present their research, engage in discussions, and learn about the many different fields of physics. We will see you in your home, at your computer, and hopefully in many of the virtual sessions we are putting together for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rene Bellwied". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rene" being more prominent and the last name "Bellwied" following in a similar style.

Rene Bellwied
TSAPS Chair

MD Anderson Professor of Physics