



## *The American Physical Society*

### *Topical Group on Precision Measurement and Fundamental Constants*

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Newsletter No. 36

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Fred E. Wietfeldt, Tulane University  
Secretary/Treasurer, GPMFC

#### **Topical Group Annual Meeting**

The 2011 annual meeting, business meeting, and executive committee meeting of the Topical Group were held during the April APS meeting in Anaheim, CA, April 30 to May 3, 2011. GPMFC co-sponsored two invited sessions. The first, "Quantum Technologies for Gravitational Wave Detection" was co-sponsored with GGR and featured talks by Daniel Sigg (LIGO), Thomas Corbitt (MIT), and the 2011 Francis M. Pipkin Award Talk by Michael Romalis (Princeton). The second, "High Precision Spectroscopy for Astrophysics" was co-sponsored with DAP with talks by Chih-Hao Li (Harvard), Dennis Zaritsky (U. Arizona), and Steve Osterman (U. Colorado, Boulder). The Saturday night program featured a session "Physics in Hollywood", a panel discussion with the producers of the television shows *Big Bang Theory* and *Eureka*, and *Star Trek* actor John de Lancie.

The 2012 annual meeting of the Topical Group will coincide with the DAMOP meeting in June, in Orange County, California.

#### **2011 Election Results**

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for generating an excellent slate of candidates for the GPMFC 2011 election, and to the candidates for their willingness to serve the Topical Group. The newly elected members of the Executive Committee are:

Vice-Chair: Michael Romalis, Princeton University

Member-at-Large: Bill Marciano, Brookhaven National Laboratory

Member-at-Large: Holger Mueller, University of California, Berkeley

The Vice-Chair rises to Chair-Elect next year, and Chair the following year. Members-at-Large serve for staggered three-year terms. The new term began on May 4, at the conclusion of the annual meeting. This year 32.4% of the Topical Group membership voted. We would like to see that number increase in future. Please be sure to cast your vote in next year's election!

#### **Student Travel Support**

The Topical Group has funds available to support students to travel to our annual meeting and present research findings. Members who supervise and mentor are reminded to share this information with their students. We cannot cover all travel expenses, but we can defray most costs, up to a maximum of \$600 per

student. To apply for travel support, simply contact the Secretary/Treasurer (Fred Wietfeldt, few@tulane.edu) **at the time you submit an abstract** to one of the meeting sessions sponsored by the Group. Support will be in the form of reimbursement. Students approved for support should save all receipts to be submitted with an APS Travel and Expense Report after the meeting.

## **Future Programs**

One of the main goals of the Group is to present interesting and engaging programs that reflect both the diversity of interests of our membership and the common themes of precision measurement. Our program committee seeks topics for next year's meetings, and your suggestions are welcome, particularly in interdisciplinary, cross-cutting, or new areas. The Topical Group plans to co-sponsor sessions next year at both the DAMOP and April APS meetings. Members with ideas for future program topics should contact the Program Committee Chair Jun Ye (jun.ye@nist.gov).

## **2011 APS Fellowship Nomination**

The Topical Group is entitled to propose candidates for Fellowship in the APS. Please consider nominating a worthy and accomplished colleague for this honor. The deadline for this year is July 1. Nomination instructions and a link to the online nomination form can be found at:

<http://www.aps.org/programs/honors/fellowships/nominations.cfm>

## **Upcoming Conferences and Meetings of Interest**

2011 Physics Teacher Education Coalition Conference

<http://www.ptec.org/conferences/2011/>

May 23-24, 2011

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX

42nd Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics

<http://www.aps.org/units/damop/meetings/damop11/index.cfm>

June 13-17, 2011

Marriott Atlanta Marquis Hotel and Conference Center  
Atlanta, GA

PANIC 2011

<http://web.mit.edu/panic11/>

July 24-29, 2011

MIT  
Cambridge, MA

Frontiers in Optics 2011/Laser Science XXVII

<http://www.aps.org/units/dls/meetings/ls-conference.cfm>

October 16-20, 2011

Fairmont Hotel/Sainte Claire Hotel  
San Jose, CA

2011 Fall Meeting of the APS Division of Nuclear Physics

<http://www.aps.org/meetings/meeting.cfm?name=DNP11>

October 26-29, 2011

Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI

**2011-2012 GPMFC Executive Committee (year term ends in parentheses)**

**Chair:**

Jun Ye (2012)  
NIST/ University of Colorado-JILA  
[junye@jilau1.colorado.edu](mailto:junye@jilau1.colorado.edu)

**Member-at-Large:**

Kristan Corwin (2012)  
Kansas State University  
[Corwin@phys.ksu.edu](mailto:Corwin@phys.ksu.edu)

**Chair Elect:**

Stuart Freedman (2012)  
University of California, Berkeley  
[sjfreedman@lbl.gov](mailto:sjfreedman@lbl.gov)

**Member-at-Large:**

Chen-Yu Liu (2013)  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
[cl21@indiana.edu](mailto:cl21@indiana.edu)

**Vice Chair:**

Michael Romalis (2012)  
Princeton University  
[romalis@princeton.edu](mailto:romalis@princeton.edu)

**Member-at-Large:**

Mark Raizen (2013)  
University of Texas, Austin  
[raizen@physics.utexas.edu](mailto:raizen@physics.utexas.edu)

**Past Chair:**

Blayne Heckel (2012)  
University of Washington  
[heckel@phys.washington.edu](mailto:heckel@phys.washington.edu)

**Member-at-Large:**

Bill Marciano (2014)  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
[marciano@bnl.gov](mailto:marciano@bnl.gov)

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Fred Wietfeldt (2013)  
Tulane University  
[few@tulane.edu](mailto:few@tulane.edu)

**Member-at-Large:**

Holger Mueller (2014)  
University of California, Berkeley  
[hm@berkeley.edu](mailto:hm@berkeley.edu)

**Member-at-Large:**

Michael Chapman (2012)  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
[michael.chapman@physics.gatech.edu](mailto:michael.chapman@physics.gatech.edu)