

USLUO 2010 DC Trip Report

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on behalf of
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USLUO Joint Visit with SLAC and Fermilab Users Organizations



S. Demers 10/30/10

Goals of Trip

- Promote the funding of scientific research in the US, in particular in the field of particle physics
- Address our vulnerabilities with education about our strengths
- The Message: “Thank you for your support of Science! Please support our funding level in the President’s budget.”



Peugeot Quark

Hydrogen Fuel Cells

Electric Motors on each wheel

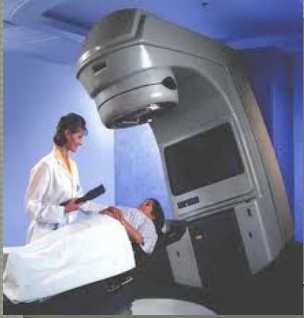
Runs 100+ miles before refueling

The Challenge

- Our tools/facilities are associated with large price tags
- Our primary goal is not application-based and does not solve the energy crisis
- For USLUO: Our lab is not in the US

The Reality

- Our facilities are associated with large price tags
 - Large Collaborations take advantage of the resources that we are given
 - Our Field makes tough choices about where resources should be allocated
 - We educate a significant fraction of the US physics PhDs, and cost per PhD is on par with other areas of high tech scientific research
 - The National labs represent a significant resource both in human and machine capital



The Reality

- Our primary goal is not application-based and does not solve the energy crisis
 - Technology Transfer:
 - Accelerators play a huge role in our daily lives and do help drive the economy
 - Our field pushes some areas of R&D (magnets, computing, electronics)
 - A significant fraction of our PhDs do not stay in particle physics, but instead are highly trained (both in technical skills and problem solving) contributors to our economy in other ways



The Reality

- For USLUO: Our lab is not in the US
 - The US built significant parts of LHC and the detectors
 - It is vital to the future of US HEP for us to play a strong role at the energy frontier
 - We have fantastic experience with international collaboration via our large scale experiments

The Strategy

- Visit as many Congressional offices as is possible
 - 200 visits in 2010
 - Each physicist is matched with offices based on voting district and office connections
 - Each physicist schedules his/her own visits once given the list of offices
- Thank the Congressperson for his/her votes (if possible) and deliver “the ASK”
 - We briefly tell our own stories and then focus on technology transfer and education/outreach
- Rely on both youth and experience
 - We often meet with staffers in their early 20s
 - The youth are enthusiastic and represent our future
 - Relationships with congressional offices need to be fostered, and people with these relationships often give better access
- At the end of the trip, visit our funding agencies
 - Give them feedback from our visits
 - Here about their current thinking

The Impact

- The lobbyists working tell us that these visits have an impact on the process
- The impact on Washington may be difficult to measure, but the impact on our members who make the trip is significant
- Please visit your representatives in Congress in their home offices and when you pass through DC
 - Media training is VERY helpful in terms of preparation for this!

USLUO-Specific Concerns

- We do not have the same level of administrative support as the Fermilab and SLAC UOs
 - While Jen Nahn can leap high buildings with a single bound, she does not control an outreach or graphical design department
 - **Thank you** to our partners for providing the materials we take to offices
- We do not have a lab director representing us (all LHC experiments) in Congress
- We do not have a budget for our travel
 - See Harvey's introduction

Next Steps

- We have begun the early stages of planning for our 2011 trip
- We anticipate a difficult climate this upcoming year
- Please take a look at our materials from last year (additional slides posted) and share your insight into how we can be more effective
- We encourage you to take an active role and develop a relationship with your Congressional Representatives
- The energy frontier is a thrilling place to be! It is our responsibility to communicate!