

Collaboration Board Chair statement - Alessandra Fantoni



I am honored to announce my candidacy for the position of ALICE Collaboration Board Chair. I would like to express my gratitude to those who have nominated, encouraged, and supported my candidacy.

The Collaboration Board (CB) functions as the parliament of the ALICE collaboration. In my view, the role of its chair is to anticipate potential issues, facilitate discussions within the collaboration, and ensure that diverse viewpoints - from various individuals and countries - are considered. In my views, the chair should strive to resolve these issues and present them clearly to the Management Board (MB).

This, in my opinion, requires continuous engagement and active listening.

While CB meetings and ALICE weeks provide valuable opportunities for discussion, I firmly believe the chair should actively reach out to all Team Leaders, listen to their opinions, address their concerns, and understand their future plans.

ALICE has been remarkably successful since its inception, excelling in all areas - from construction and data collection to physics research and the ALICE 2 upgrade - culminating in a highly efficient experiment for Run 3. We are entering a critical phase of the experiment, with the ITS3 and FOCAL upgrades for ALICE 2.1 progressing steadily, while simultaneously managing operations and data analysis for the ongoing Run 3. Equally important are our publications, which are vital for everyone, particularly for the future careers of our younger colleagues, who form the core of our collaboration.

Additionally, we are approaching one of the biggest challenges in ALICE's history with the development of ALICE 3. Critical decisions will need to be made in the coming months that will shape our future in terms of manpower and funding. ALICE 3 is an ambitious project, even larger than the original, and we must navigate potential constraints such as reduced research budgets, the possible withdrawal of some institutions, and the temptation for some to join emerging collaborations.

At the same time, we must ensure that new members of the Collaboration, who bring valuable potential, are not only integrated effectively but also fully appreciated for their contributions.

The CB chair should proactively and continuously seek not only to identify new collaborating institutions and individuals but also to ensure that the existing expertise, developed over years of effort, is retained within the collaboration and not lost.

In this regard, the close relationship between the CB chair and ALICE's leadership and management is more crucial than ever and will help maintain unity within the collaboration, preserve the expertise and enthusiasm of the younger generation, and attract new forces.

I am firmly convinced that we can enhance the role of the CB by improving communication among collaborators and fostering stronger interaction with management.

As CB Chair, I would advocate for greater transparency in decisions and roles, ensuring that the proposals put forward by the Physics Board and the Management Board are thoroughly discussed before approval and then clearly communicated to the CB.

I will do my utmost to ensure that all countries and smaller groups feel engaged in the collaboration's activities and have opportunities to contribute, taking into account their skills and availability.

Regarding Outreach, Education, Training, Diversity, and Careers, I want to emphasize my ongoing commitment to these areas. Over the past years, I have contributed to the NuPECC Long Range Plan 2024, focusing on these topics and addressing the state of European Nuclear Science. I would be glad to share these insights with the various communities and work to identify specific actions that can be implemented both within the collaboration and across Europe.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that my active and ongoing participation in ALICE data-taking operations, including my role as Period Run Coordinator in 2015, has given me a deep understanding of the current and future operational challenges involved in running the ALICE experiment. Therefore, if elected, I will place particular emphasis on following and supporting the Run Coordination team.

As for the role of CB Chair, I want to clarify that, if elected, I plan to dedicate a significant fraction of my time staying at CERN to ensure close collaboration with the current and future ALICE management.

A bit about my background:

I graduated from Rome's 'La Sapienza' University in 1991 and earned my PhD in Nuclear Physics in 1995, working on the HERMES Lead Glass Calorimeter at DESY, where I conducted my experimental research for many years. In 1997, I secured a permanent position at INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati (LNF), becoming a senior researcher in 2007.

Before joining the ALICE collaboration, I was involved in the HERMES experiment at DESY, focused on studying the spin structure of the nucleon from the experiment's inception to its conclusion. Over the years, I progressed from PhD student to the final Run Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, and Deputy Spokesperson, while also serving on the Planning Committee (equivalent to the ALICE Management Board) for four years.

In ALICE, I served as the European coordinator for EMCAL from 2008 to 2010 and later took on the role of Euro-Asian coordinator for the construction and assembly of DCAL from 2010 to 2012. Additionally, I held the position of Deputy Project Leader from 2012 to 2022.

Since 2015, I have been actively involved in the ITS2 upgrade, providing technical supervision in the clean room for the LNF's construction of one-fourth of the staves for the Outer Barrel.

I was also elected as a member of the Management Board for the years 2020 to 2022.

Within INFN, I have held various significant roles.

I was the national responsible for the HERMES experiment for five years and coordinated nuclear physics activities at LNF for eight years. Moreover, I served on the external funds scientific references committee for four years and since 2018 I'm a member of the INFN evaluation group and the contact member for the Nuclear Physics Committee.

In Europe, I currently serve as the Chair of the European Physical Society (EPS) Nuclear Physics Division (NPD), having previously held the position of Scientific Secretary for two years (2021-2022) and Deputy Chair in 2023. Additionally, since 2023, I'm one of the 11 elected members of the EPS Executive Committee.

I have contributed to the NuPECC Long Range Plan 2024 document, specifically focusing on the sections related to Outreach, Education, Training, Diversity, and Careers, which address the current state of Nuclear Science in Europe.

I regularly serve as a referee for several international journals, including PRC, PRD, PRL, EPJ, and Journal of Physics G. Since 2023, I'm also one of the five Editorial Members of the PRC journal.

I take great pride in being part of the ALICE Collaboration and would be honored to leverage my experience to help guide the experiment through the conclusion of RUN3 and into the exciting phase of the upcoming ALICE 3 upgrade. If elected, I will strive to represent the collaboration effectively at the management level and work diligently to foster improved discussions among ALICE members.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss my perspectives further, please don't hesitate to reach out. I would be delighted to meet with you in person or have a conversation over the phone or via Zoom.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the collaboration. Warm regards,

Alessandra

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alessandra Faust". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'F'.