

Dear colleagues:

It is our pleasure to host SQM2021 online through BNL on the dates originally foreseen, May 17-22, 2021. We have assembled a local organizing committee at BNL together with the much appreciated addition of In-Kwon Yoo (Busan) and Alexander Philipp Kalweit (CERN).

An Indico page for the virtual conference has been setup.

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/985652/>

The 19th International Conference on Strangeness in Quark Matter (SQM 2021) will focus on new experimental and theoretical developments on the role of strange and heavy-flavour quarks in high energy heavy-ion collisions and in astrophysical phenomena. Due to the ongoing pandemic, it will be an online-only conference and serves as a bridge to the postponed SQM 2022 in Korea.

Conference physics topics:

- Strangeness and heavy quark production in nuclear collisions and hadronic interactions
- Bulk matter phenomena associated with strange and heavy quarks
- Production of strange/heavy-flavor hadron resonances and hypernuclei
- Strangeness in astrophysics
- Open questions and new developments

LOC plans to use Zoom (bnl.zoomGov) to host all the sessions.

Registration is required for participation without registration fee.

The proceedings are planned to be published by EPJ Web of Conference.

We have also setup a mailing list for the conference:

[sqm-mail-2021-1 \(@lists.bnl.gov\)](mailto:sqm-mail-2021-1@lists.bnl.gov)

We plan to have an interactive virtual tour of RHIC (STAR detector and collider) during the maintenance day of RHIC operation on Wednesday.

We do not plan to have a poster session and suggest hosting an in-person poster session in SQM 2022.

Important dates are:

February 10: Registration and abstract submission open

March 8: Abstract deadline

April 5: Announcement of talks and agenda

April 30: Registration deadline

This serves as a call to the community for abstract submission which opens from February 10 to March 8, 2021.

Look forward to your participation!

Zhangbu Xu (BNL)

for the local organizing committee