



**Minutes of the  
LINAC International Organising Committee Meeting  
Date: Thursday 10 June 2021  
Time: 15:00 – 17:00 (GMT)**

P A McIntosh	PM	IOC Chair	STFC	UK
I Andrian	IA		Elettra	Italy
J Barnard	JBa		LLNL	USA
W Barth	WB		GSI	Germany
G Burt	GB	SPC Chair	Lancaster University	UK
J Byrd	JBy		ANL	USA
H Danared	HD		ESS	Sweden
J Delayen	JD		ODU	USA
A Facco	AF		INFN	Italy
T Garvey	TG		PSI	Switzerland
P Guoxi	PG		IHEP	China
Y Iwashita	YI		Kyoto University	Japan
O Kamigaito	OK		Riken	Japan
H-S Kang	H-SK		PAL	Korea
D Kanihilal	DK		IUAC	India
S Kashiwagi	SK		Tohoku University	Japan
M Kwon	MK		IBS	Korea
B Laxdal	BL		TRIUMF	Canada
L-K Len	L-KL		DOE	USA
H Oguri	HO		JAEA	Japan
P Ostroumov	PO		ANL/FRIB	USA
N Pichoff	NP		CEA	France
D Raparia	DR		BNL	USA
U Ratzinger	UR		University of Frankfurt	Germany
T Raubenheimer	TR		SLAC	USA
M Satoh	MS		KEK	Japan
J Seeman	JS		SLAC	USA
M Vretenar	MV		CERN	Switzerland
H Weise	HW		DESY	Germany
C P Welsch	CPW	LOC Chair	University of Liverpool	UK
M White	MW		ANL	USA
Y Yamazaki	YY		FRIB	USA
L Kennedy	LK	Secretary	STFC	UK



## 1. Welcome and Introduction from the Chair

The Chair thanked everyone for attending today, adding that the last 12 months had been challenging and disruptive for everyone, and hopefully over the next few months things would start to settle down for us all. IOC members were asked to check they could access the material uploaded to the Indico site set up for the meeting. No additional items were raised, therefore the agenda was agreed.

The Indico page and access provision for the meeting:

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1047914/>  
 Password: LinacIOC2021

## 2. Linac2026 Asia – Preliminary Proposals:

### **2A IBS, Korea Proposal (Reminder from IPAC19) – Myeun Kwon (IBS, Korea)**

MK reminded the IOC that the presentation had originally been given in 2019 in Melbourne. If chosen, the Institute for Basic Science (IBS) would be the hosting institute in South Korea, at the Convention Centre in the city of Daejeon. Hosting the conference in 2026 would offer the opportunity to visit the Rare Isotope Science Project being built at the Rare isotope Accelerator complex for ON-line experiments (RAON) science research facility.

PM thanked MK for the overview, and commented that it looked like a lot of preparation work had already taken place; noting that the preparation updates for 2022 and 2024 may bring up additional areas for consideration for ongoing preparation.

### **2B Riken, Japan Proposal (new) – Osamu Kamigaito (Riken, Japan)**

OK thanked the IOC for the opportunity to present a proposal to host in Japan in 2026. Riken is situated just outside Tokyo city and the Radioactive Isotope Beam Factory (RIBF) hosts 2 linacs and 5 cyclotrons. The discovery success of Nihonium is attributed to the work conducted using the RIKEN Heavy-ion Linac (RILAC) in 2016. The RILAC upgrade project was

commissioned in January 2020, meaning by the time of the conference in 2026 there will have been 5 years of operation.

OK was thanked for the overview, PM noting that there were clearly many local hosting options available for the conference and plenty of time for them to be further refined. Potential additional conferencing provisions were not yet clear and would need to be better understood. This was something being faced by everyone, and a clearer idea of requirements is expected to be available next year. Regional government financial support is anticipated and it is expected that a registration fee would be close to previous conferences.

### **3. Virtual Linac2020 summary – Peter McIntosh (STFC Daresbury Laboratory, UK)**

As a result of the pandemic, PM identified how a drastic diversion of the LINAC2020 planning had to take place. The presentation details some of the things that had to be addressed and the lessons learned. The majority of the scientific programme was retained. Registration had already gone live and so any payments made had to be refunded to registrants, exhibitors and sponsors. The Daresbury Laboratory Media Services team played a significant role in configuring and enabling the virtual conference to take place. Another positive being the ability to broaden the reach of the Linac conference to countries where people may not have been able to attend physically, giving them a better opportunity to participate. There was a lot of positive feedback received in hosting the conference virtually; however, the things that didn't work so well would need to be addressed for any future event of this type. If a virtual process was to be incorporated into other physically-hosted conferences, then a number of other aspects would need to be resolved e.g. the delivery of conference proceedings, which were not included for Virtual Linac2020.

JD asked if there were any plans to put Linac2020 presentations onto JACoW. PM responded that there is currently no process in place to upload video content; however, IA could be asked about this when he joins the meeting for his agenda item. It was suggested that incorporating a link to the videos would help to 'close a hole in the sequence on JACoW' and so should be further investigated.

**Action: PM**

BL commented that whilst people were anxious to meet physically, offering a hybrid solution would enable certain countries and communities to participate who would not normally be able to. Other IOC members reinforced the comments by saying many more students could listen to talks, which would not happen in person due to travel costs. Additionally being able to participate in this way, gave them a sense of equity. Another advantage to joining virtually was the opportunity to ask questions in writing, which aided questioners, convenors and speakers, particularly if English was not their first language. All the points made for a virtual inclusion would have to be carefully balanced so as not to compromise the physical attendance for a hybrid-event and a standard model may have to be developed. The issue with not being able to upload videos to JACoW also had to be considered as previously indicated.

PM felt that the Virtual LINAC2020 was a valuable learning experience and there were some positive indicators for future events moving forward.

#### 4. LINAC2022, Liverpool Preparation Update – Carsten Welsch (University of Liverpool, UK)

CPW commented that his update was to provoke discussion with the IOC as to the preferred conference format for Linac2022 in Liverpool. As already mentioned there will be challenges and opportunities in providing a hybrid model, which may mean having to adjust the delivery programme. There will be caution as to how this should be done, so that the right balance is provided for all stakeholders, e.g. the industrial exhibition does not typically work very well for virtual events.

CPW mentioned the recent announcement of a £210M investment for the Hartree Centre at Daresbury Laboratory triggering significant opportunities for machine learning and AI developments.

The structure of the conference and the fees to charge for registration and exhibiting need to be addressed, taking into account practical and cost implications. Online and hybrid provision was being investigated with a number of suppliers and it was suggested that the IOC look at the various options when made available.

BL commented that the Liverpool conference was harder to think about given that it is likely to still be on the tail end of the pandemic, and there may still be some reluctance from organisations to travel. Ways to help disseminate the scientific information being delivered at the conference without distorting the live event should be investigated. For example, live recordings of each talk could be posted on the conference web page and encourage comments and questions in some kind of e-forum (like SLACK for example). Remote 'attendees' could access the talk on their own time and post questions within a 24-hour period. The extra cost of the video posting or software licenses for Q&A, could perhaps be covered by a reduced conference fee for remote participation. Consideration could also be given to the timely posting of all posters as pdfs, again to help disseminate the content. The local staff should not be overburdened with laborious or costly 'work-arounds'.

UR spoke in favour of 'in-person conference' as this allowed people to better connect and suggested cautiously adding a virtual option as an extra rather than incorporating it into the body of the conference. JD felt that the physical attendance numbers would not go down, although a way to open up the conference to those that could not afford to attend should be offered.

MW mentioned that there would likely be a relatively modest number of virtual participants, and as hosting mechanisms were in their infancy it may turn out that the problems are addressed; we should do our best to stay abreast of the technology, which would allow for increased overall participation.

AF agreed with all the previous comments, reiterating that he would not want in-person meetings to suffer.

CPW thanked the IOC for the creative ideas, proposing that videos of talks could be made available after the conference, with live interactions being kept to the physical conference; this was thought to be a good combination. A specific proposal for the IOC would be drafted following the comments received.

**Action: CPW**

## **5. JACoW SPMS to Indico transition process – Ivan Andrian (Elettra, Italy)**

IA thanked the IOC for the opportunity to speak today, stating the aim of the project was to provide the necessary tools to get better proceedings in time for conferences. Indico was a general purpose tool rather than the specific JACoW tool. The roadmap for Indico use was very ambitious, but being familiar to the accelerator community there had been many contributors and releases. He noted that provisioning of conference video content is out of scope for the SPMS to Indico transition process. The system was now almost ready for the conferences, although some aspects still needed addressing. Testing of the various modules was being carried out using a JACoW Fake International Conference (JFIC) as a very first trial, Indico would then be used for the FEL2022 and eeFAC'22 medium-scale conferences, before then introducing for the largest IPAC2'23 conference (the conference dates will mean some overlapping and sequencing takes place). The target year for the switch from SPMS to Indico was 2023. The Indico system can also use the external tools currently used by JACoW editors and authors.

PM pointed out that the LINAC2022 SPMS instance was already live but beyond 2023 future LINAC conferences would need to transition to Indico, notably for Linac2024 onwards. IA advised that a document was being written for these purposes and would be circulated when available. He also hoped that funding for the second stage of the system development would be forthcoming.

JBy commented that SPMS had served the accelerator community very well to this point and he hoped the new Indico system would be a good provision for Linac2024.

YY mentioned that delays in publishing proceedings had been due to editorial teams not being so familiar with the internals of the JACoW system. PM also recognised that expertise in this area was not easily available.

IA confirmed that conference proceedings are to be managed by the organisers, however the use of videos was not something that Indico could incorporate. There were other tools available for making videos available but extra costs would probably be incurred.

## **6. LINAC2024, Chicago Preparation Update – John Byrd (ANL, USA)**

JBy commented that other than the 2-year shift of hosting the conference in Chicago, there was nothing new to report, the expected hosting dates being late Sept/early Oct 2024 in downtown Chicago. The conference will follow the standard agenda format, with a budgeted attendance minimum of 350 participants and an expected registration fee of ~\$800/person. The PCO were working to secure the venue as soon as possible, at a lower cost than originally envisaged. For anyone that had attended Linac98 the Fairmont Hotel had been used, which has now been fully refurbished and has all the provisions needed to host Linac24.

## **7. LINAC IOC Membership review – Peter McIntosh (STFC Daresbury Laboratory, UK)**

PM asked members for feedback regarding the breakdown of regional and gender balance within the committee and proposed that existing members should carefully consider this when future replacements are being sought.

DK suggested Prof Vandana Nanal (TIFR) as a potential member of the LINAC IOC as his future replacement. PM identified the need for a formal proposal to be issued to the IOC for review, which could be discussed offline.

GB commented that the LINAC IOC bi-laws identify that the SPC chair has responsibility for defining its committee members and that diversity, gender balance and inclusion has been a key mandate for the selection process for both Virtual Linac2020 and Linac2022.

MW suggested that when talking about diversity, this should also be a consideration when looking for reviewers and members of advisory committees; please consider women and ethnic minorities so that good role models can be set.

JD mentioned as PRAB-editor he always sought new and younger reviewers with broad diversity and inclusion and encouraged other IOC members to do the same.

PM queried whether the current IOC skills capabilities were still appropriate and whether there was anything that needed to be looked at more strategically at this time.

BL mentioned that the current collective gave a good broad overview, and maybe input on specific areas could be pursued in addition.

#### **8. LINAC IOC next stage processes**

The IOC Chair described the next stage preparation processes for Linac2022, re: registration and SPC1 meeting later this year, with SPC2 at IPAC22 ahead of the conference itself. During which is when the IOC will have our next meeting to make a decision for IPAC2026 in Asia.

**Meeting Closed at 17:02**