Introduction

Gordon Research Conferences are recognized as world premier scientific meetings. The Photonuclear Gordon Research Conference has been held biennially since 1959. Beyond providing a preeminent meeting place for discussing the study of hadronic and nuclear physics with electromagnetic probes, it also exposes the participants to physics beyond these confines. Because of its specific format, this conference also provides excellent networking opportunities for younger scientists. Thanks to the fund provided by JSA, 10 young scientists working on JLab physics received support to defray their registration cost, and enjoyed a very successful conference.
Conference overview

For over 75 years, Gordon Research Conferences (GRCs) have been recognized as the world's premier scientific conferences, where leading investigators from around the globe discuss their latest work and future challenges in a uniquely informal and interactive format. Participation from students and junior researchers is particularly encouraged.

The Photonuclear Reactions GRC is a forum for the presentation and discussion of the most recent and exciting results in a wide range of subatomic physics topics. Since 1959, this GRC has been a preeminent meeting for the discussion of new ideas and results, even at the preliminary stage, providing ample and unique opportunities for young scientists and leading researchers to interact in the most scientifically stimulating environment. Senior researchers and younger colleagues are housed on campus at the Holderness School, and can meet in an informal, yet rigorous atmosphere. Having left ample time for discussions, and having “discussion leaders” to organize these, the scientific exchanges have been engaging and rewarding. Formal discussions have been complemented by many private exchanges during the afternoon free time, both on campus and off.

The conference was structured around invited morning and evening talks, and a late afternoon poster session. The afternoons are left on purpose free to promote discussions, exchange of new ideas, and connections among colleagues, while enjoying the many outdoor activities offered by the area. Topics for the 2018 conference were: Late Breaking Topics, Nucleon in Nuclei, Long Range Structure of Nucleons, Movement of Partons in the Proton, QCD for Neutrino, Hadron Spectrum and QCD, Imaging the Proton in 3D, Innovative Tools for the Study of Hadrons, and Origin of the Proton Mass.

Outcome

The conference has been by many metrics a success. It was attended by 113 participants and received positive evaluations, both in the official survey and in many private communications.

- 67% of the participants listed country of origin as United States, while 4% listed Asia and 28% listed Europe and Israel.
- 31% of our participants were female scientists, both speakers and attendees.
- 57% of our participants were young scientists (graduate students or postdocs). Among them 10 spoke in the plenary session. We had a total of 42 speakers.
- 46 participants presented posters most of them being young scientists.

Leveraged support and matching resources

The total budget for the conference was $51,150 with $27,200 provided by the Gordon Research Conference organization, $9,000 by a combination of JSA and JLab support, $4950 from NSF and other contributions from Ohio University, Michigan State University and the Center for Frontiers in Nuclear Science at Stony Brooks University. In that sense the JLab and JSA funds represented a substantial part of our budget and were instrumental reaching the target attendance of 110 persons.
Use of JSA funds

The awarded JSA funds, totaling $4500, were entirely spent to support participation of young scientist from the Jefferson Lab users community. In detail, we awarded registration discounts to the following 10 graduate students, each of them receiving $450 from JSA.

1. M. Duer – Tel-Aviv U - Speaker
2. L. Kabir – Mississippi U - Poster presenter
3. H. Liu – Columbia University – Poster presenter
4. C. McLauchlin – U of South Carolina – Poster presenter
5. H. Rashad – Old Dominion University
6. V. Owen - College of William and Mary – Poster presenter
7. A. Schertz - College of William and Mary – Poster presenter
8. E. Segarra – MIT – Poster presenter
9. U. Shrestha – Ohio University – Poster presenter
10. R. Trotta – Catholic University of America – Poster presenter