

Minutes

ICFA Autumn Meeting 2023

DESY + ZOOM, 29 November 2023

Participation

ICFA members (in person): Florencia Canelli, Beate Heinemann, Yifang Wang, Stuart Henderson, Geoffrey Taylor, Karl Jakobs, Sridhara Dasu, Toshinori Mori, Thomas Schörner, Gustavo Gil de Silveira, Lia Meringa

ICFA members (video): Richard Teuscher, Masanori Yamauchi

Guests: Shoji Asai, Pierluigi Campana, Paris Sphicas

1) Discussion of Membership

ICFA discusses updates to its membership and welcomes those new members that are present at the meeting as guests (Shoji Asai, Pierluigi Campana, Paris Sphicas).

2) ICFA Meetings

Stuart proposes 2 virtual and 1 in-person ICFA meetings per year, the in-person meeting taking place typically in summer at the LP or ICHEP conferences.

The next in-person meeting will be held at ICHEP 2024 in Prague, Czech Republic, on the weekend 20/21 July 2024. The panel chairs will be invited to this meeting.

3) ICFA Data Lifecycle Panel

Stuart gives a summary of the history of the panel discussion and suggests a decision based on the mandate draft to be taken at this meeting. He then introduces mission and mandate, a draft ICFA statement, and the question of panel chair and members.

In the ensuing discussion, the following important points are raised:

- The same membership terms etc. as for the other panels should apply for this one.
- The relevance of all panels should regularly be revisited.
- AI / ML expertise should be well represented in the panel.
- HSF and other organisations support the creation of the panel, and they should be integrated into the panel deliberations via ex-officio membership.
- Also WLCG should be represented ex officio in the panel.

- The term “coordination” should be avoided – the panel is rather mandated to encourage coordination and to act as a discussion and information-gathering point.
- It is necessary to make the new panel visible in the community, e.g. via workshops etc.

Following the very positive overall discussion, ICFA votes unanimously for the creation of the new panel under the general ICFA panel terms and with the discussed mission and mandate.

All ICFA members are invited to nominate panel members and potential chairs.

4) ICFA Statement on the New Panel

ICFA discussed the draft of the ICFA statement on the new panel and requests a few changes to it.

Stuart and Thomas are tasked to revise the statement accordingly and to send it out soon.

5) “IDT and Beyond” Discussion

ICFA members engaged in a lively discussion about the role that ICFA can take in support of a future Higgs Factory, recognizing the important role that ICFA can play as the global convener for our field.

6) Term of Service of ICFA Secretary

ICFA agrees to further extend Thomas’ term as ICFA secretary for another period of 3 years, with the last year overlapping with a new secretary, to be identified in late 2025 to begin the overlap in 2026. ICFA recognizes Thomas for his outstanding service as ICFA Secretary since 2021.

7) AOB

ICFA discusses the issue of authorship policies in HEP.

- Beate suggests that listing several thousand authors and h indices of 260 or so could damage the field and does not do justice to individual contributions. It is felt that the field has changed since the last discussions on the topic.
- Florencia remarks that the discussions some 10-15 years ago were initiated by C11. The issue had also been brought up recently in connection with the Russian war on the Ukraine. Florencia will take the issue up to C11 again. Karl remarks that also EPS-HEP and ECFA discussed the topic after the C11 document came out. It is however important to decouple recognition for work and authorship – indeed the h index has little meaning for our field.

- Karl also notes that the authorship is an important point, but that the collaborations must not be forgotten in the discussion. They all have discussed this many times and have converged on the same scheme in the end, for good reasons. They might not want to see a revolution from ICFA on this topic, and it might be very difficult to move away from alphabetically ordered author lists. Beate seconds that this needs to be discussed with the collaborations and with people with management and executive experience – this can't be a grassroots movement.

Stuart summarises up and suggests an in-depth follow-up discussion on the topic in ICFA.

ICFA agrees further that the ICFA seminar is an excellent opportunity to place an article on WG14, ICFA etc. in the CERN Courier, and to make discerning statements. Thomas is tasked to draft an article and to get in touch with the CERN Courier.

The meeting was adjourned.