Dear Colleagues,

Many of you have raised concerns about a lack of diversity in our choice of speakers in the USBPO Burning Plasma Concepts Webinar Series. We organized this specially focused series with the goal to overview and discuss the knowledge-legacy as well as new aspects of various burning plasma concepts. The resulting choice we made for the speakers unfortunately reflects the existing lack of diversity at senior levels in our field for these specific topics, and we should have more actively searched for solutions to this issue.

As an organization, we have a responsibility to seek out and amplify voices from the full breadth of our community, and to help bring about the vision of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive field that we all share. We regret that we did not live up to this responsibility this time, and that this has caused valid feelings of disappointment and exclusion. We are grateful to those in our community who have engaged into a conversation about how to do better and provided constructive suggestions. We also thank those who have stepped up to make proposals about further talks that enhance the breadth of this webinar series and to all speakers in our line-up that agreed to give these talks.

The new layout of the webinar series is the result of the open nomination process for these talks and the vetting and approval in the USBPO Research Committee. With this new line-up of talks and speakers, we aim at highlighting a broader range of viewpoints while continuing to maintain the standard of high-quality speakers with expertise and experience in their topics.

Looking forward to future USBPO webinars - we commit to ensure that the topics and speakers reflect not just where we are now as a scientific community, but where we aspire to be. We also welcome and value suggestions from the community regarding speakers and topics related to burning plasmas for future webinars. All USBPO webinars are open for such nominations.

Sincerely,
Chuck Greenfield (BPO Director), Oliver Schmitz (BPO Deputy Director), and the USBPO Research Committee
Revised Schedule of webinar series – status 2021/12/22:

- **Burning plasma aspects and reactor concept with a Steady State Tokamak**
  Speaker: Richard Buttery, GA, CA, USA  
  **Webinar date:** 01/20/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below

- **Burning plasma aspects at ITER**
  Speaker: Alberto Loarte, ITER Organization, Cadarache, France  
  **Webinar date:** 02/10/2022, 10.30AM-noon CT, Zoom info below

- **Burning plasma aspects and reactor concept based on the Stellarator approach**
  Speaker: Mike Zarnstorff, PPPL, NJ, USA  
  **Webinar date:** 03/03/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below

- **Burning plasma aspects and reactor concept based on the high-field and rotating mirror approach**
  Speakers: Carlos Talamas-Romero, U Maryland, MD, USA - centrifugal mirror  
            Cary Forest, UW Madison, WI, USA – high-field mirror  
  **Webinar date:** 03/24/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below

- **Burning plasma implications on reactor technology – FESS summary**
  Speaker: Chuck Kessel, ORNL, TN, USA  
  **Webinar date:** 04/14/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CDT, Zoom info below

- **Burning plasma aspects and reactor concept based on the FRC approach**
  Experimental expert speaker nominated, awaiting response  
  Speaker: Michl Binderbauer and the TAE team, TAE, CA, USA - overview  
  **Webinar date:** 05/05/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below

- **Burning plasma achieved in inertial fusion**
  Speaker: Annie Kritcher, LLNL, CA, USA  
  **Webinar date:** 05/26/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below

- **Burning plasma aspects and reactor concept with a Spherical Tokamak and innovative start-up techniques.**
  Speakers: nomination made, awaiting response  
  **Webinar date:** 06/16/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below - tbc

- **Overview of the theory of burning plasma aspects and reactor concept design tools**
  Speakers: Francesca Poli, PPPL, NJ, USA  
  **Webinar date:** 07/21/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below

- **Overview of environmental aspects of future fusion power plants**
  Speaker: Laila El-Guebaly, UW Madison, WI, USA  
  **Webinar date:** 07/28/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below
Overview of the safety and licensing aspects of future fusion power plants

nominated, awaiting response

Speakers: nomination made, awaiting response

Webinar date: 08/18/2022, 3.30-5.00PM CT, Zoom info below

Zoom information:

Topic: US BPO Burning Plasma Concepts Webinar
Time: This is a recurring meeting

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