

Findings and Recommendations of the Student/ Postdoc Panel: Scientific Motivation

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Discussion during the student/postdoc panel focused on challenges faced by young researchers

Streamlining the PI Training

PI training often seems overwhelming to a new user: documented training summaries, checklists, and online VGs would help.

Understanding the Diagnostics

Students often have only a limited understanding of the diagnostics run: taking the time to “see” them facilitates their use.

Use of smaller facilities to supplement Omega

Smaller facilities play a vital role in training students to be experimentalists and are crucial for diagnostic development.

Development of online forums

Ample social networking options should allow users to informally gather and support one another online.

What are the scientific motivations for these recommendations?

We want students and postdocs to make the most of their Omega experience:

- Develop their skills as experimentalists
 - Carry out meaningful science
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- By streamlining the PI training, we provide a stronger foundation to understand the capabilities of the laser/facility, and help reduce the anxiety involved in directing an experiment.
 - A better understanding of diagnostics can possibly help both the facility and the researcher in terms of requesting complex diagnostic changes on shot day.
 - Smaller facilities allow for diagnostic and experimental development → demonstrate before scaling to Omega

Transparency and developing the training/support structure are the key elements

Both the young researcher community and the facility would benefit from increased accessibility to information on training, diagnostics, facility configurations

- Investment in training earlier on will yield higher efficiency results

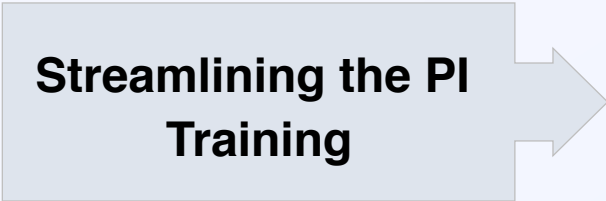
Getting questions answered long before an experiment (i.e., through an online forum or tested on a smaller hands-on facility) will save time and confusion for both Omega staff and users.

- won't have students calling up the staff all the time to ask questions, or changing experimental configurations at the last minute, etc.

Original slides...

While students appreciate the informality of the PI training, the amount of information can seem overwhelming to new users


Streamlining the PI Training



- Suggest:
 - Documented training summaries and checklists
 - Overview of requirements for various readiness reviews
 - Point of Contact list w/ names and roles of relevant LLE staff members
 - Posting of training VGs online
 - Development of a PI shadowing program
- Progress:
 - A document of the requirements for readiness reviews has been generated and is ready for posting on web

The large-scale, hands-off nature of the Omega facility often results in students feeling disconnected from the experiment


Understanding the Diagnostics



- Considerable benefit to “seeing” the diagnostics fielded on Omega/Omega EP
- We encourage researchers to request to view the diagnostics on a given experiment
- This will facilitate understanding of the diagnostics and experimental configurations.
- Can possibly help both the facility and the researcher in terms of requesting complex diagnostic changes on shot day

A continuous concern of students is access to smaller laser facilities to supplement Omega experiments

Use of smaller facilities to supplement Omega



- With limited Omega experimental time, smaller-scale experimental facilities play a vital role in target-diagnostic and experimental development.
- Smaller facilities can also give students hands-on experience
- Progress:
 - The MTW laboratory at LLE was offered as a resource. Interested scientists should contact Dustin Froula or John Zuegel.
 - A list of smaller-scale experimental facilities that may be of potential use for diagnostic and experiments has been generated and is ready for posting on web

With the many social networking resources available today, users can develop informal online forums

Development of online forums



- Suggest:
 - Develop an active online forum for Omega Users (through Facebook, LinkedIn, or a Google group) to allow users to interact informally.
 - Create a blog or a weekly facility update to keep users in the loop about Omega improvements and happenings between experiments.

Work continues in improving the user experience for students and postdocs

We are always open to more suggestions and concerns from the user community

We continue to work with the LLE management to implement many of the recommendations of the panel.