

## USLUO Statement

Michael Tuts

I am a faculty member at Columbia University, a member of ATLAS, and the ex-US ATLAS Operations Program Manager. I currently serve as an Executive Committee member on USLUO, the APS Forum on Physics & Society, and as the DPF Divisional Councilor. The recent Higgs discovery has given a great boost to our field; it is an opportunity we must exploit to make the case for our field to our colleagues, decision makers and the public in these very difficult budget times. I hope that if elected I can help address this challenges as part of USLUO.

USLUO also has an important role to play in helping US physicists, especially our younger colleagues, make a smooth transition to working at CERN. There are many practical issues where USLUO has and can continue to help or develop new ideas (with the community's input): quality of life issues where experiences and solutions can be shared among USLUO members and advice provided to those that seek it; as a link to other user's groups and professional organizations that also provide valuable international experience; it can bring together US LHC physicists together on a professional and personal level through conferences and social events.

The other vital area where USLUO has a role to play is, broadly speaking, public outreach. It encompasses a broad range of activities from congressional visits to public lectures. It is critical to transmit the excitement and importance of the research that is carried out at the LHC to the public at large, and to our elected representatives that ultimately fund it. Together with other user's organizations USLUO makes yearly visits to congress in which the participation of our younger colleagues sends a very powerful message to our legislators. As we try to put USLUO on a firmer and more sustainable financial footing, it may be possible to expand the support to bring those physicists on those visits. I am very interested promoting that and making sustainable congressional contacts.