What and why is this?
Welcome to the summer edition of the biannual newsletter published by PERLOC to keep AAPT’s Physics Education Research Topical Group (PERTG) informed about important news. We think of this newsletter as taking on the role of the announcements historically made in the existing RiPE meeting and PERTG town hall, allowing those meetings to be more interactive and useful. In addition to streamlining those meetings, the newsletter will allow people who were unable to attend the AAPT meeting to stay informed about what is going on in the community.

Table of contents
What and why is this?
Table of contents
What has PERLOC been doing recently?
PERLOC Announcements
  PERLOC Elections and PERLOC Job Description
  Money Matters
  PERTG MiniGrants
  PERTG Bylaws
  Summer Meeting 2021 Town Hall
  PERC 2022 Organization Team
  PERC Proceedings Update Working Group
  Funding Invited Presenters
  Working Group on Conference Accessibility (WGCA)

How can people get involved?
Appendix: About PERLOC
  What is PERLOC?
  Who are we?
  What does PERLOC do?
  PERLOC’s guide to acronyms
What has PERLOC been doing recently?

This is a new section to the PERTG Newsletter intended as an opportunity for transparency about the initiatives and tasks PERLOC has been working on. Below is a list of initiatives PERLOC has been tackling recently. There is additional information about these efforts in the PERLOC Announcements section below.

- Converted several high-workload volunteer roles into paid activities (including creating formal job descriptions, statements of work, budget line items), beginning with PERC organizers and PERC Proceedings editors.
- Worked with PERC organizers, AAPT staff, and PERC Proceedings Editors to plan PERC 2022 and 2023
- Awarded PERTG mini-grants
- Continued to support the PERC proceedings via hiring an administrative assistant for the editors
- Selected two editors to join the PERC editorial team to ensure continuity of the proceedings
- Continued supporting sustainably implemented accessible conferences practices (e.g., accessibility accountability liaison, tips for accessible presentations) for AAPT and PERC meetings
- Pursued initiatives identified at last year’s PERTG town hall as areas of priority including, Lack of proactive inclusion and engagement with K-12, two-year college, and informal physics community members, Structures and communication venues that required insider knowledge, and pursuing an Anti-racism working group.

PERLOC Announcements

PERLOC Elections and PERLOC Job Description

PERLOC continues to be focused on improving the diversity of the candidate pool in the PERLOC elections as well as the inclusivity of the elections process. PERLOC has created a process by which PERLOC will recruit interested candidates and run elections. This process also includes a detailed timeline for conducting the election. Specifically, we aim to reach beyond the PERTG COMMUNITIES platform by inviting other communities within PER and AAPT to nominate candidates (Note: nominees must still be PERTG members at the time their term starts). The election process is posted on PERLOC’s website here.

Community members interested in potentially joining PERLOC can refer to the Summary of Roles and Responsibilities for PERLOC Councilors. This outlines the responsibilities of PERLOC Councilors as stated by the bylaws, additional activities Councilors frequently engage in, the time commitment, possible benefits of serving on PERLOC, and inherent risks of serving in this role.
By increasing the outreach for nominations and the transparency around the elections process and PERLOC Councilors’ roles and responsibilities, we hope to be able to spread awareness about what PERLOC does and how people can get involved while also attracting a diverse pool of candidates. PERLOC intends to revisit and iteratively improve upon the elections process and PERLOC roles and responsibilities, and we welcome community feedback and suggestions. Please contact the current RiPE ex-officio PERLOC Councilor (who is tasked with running the elections), Alice Churukian (adchurukian@unc.edu), with any questions.

**Money Matters**

In recent years, PERTG has maintained a balanced budget and carried a modest surplus. However, to improve sustainability and equity, PERLOC has invested in providing funds to support the PERC organizers, as well as stipends to support the PERC Editorial Team. Additionally, PERLOC has invested in hiring and sustaining an administrative assistant to help with the logistical demands of the PERC proceedings. These additional costs have, and will continue to, require adjustment of PERTG’s revenue streams to support over time. For example, the PERC registration fees were increased significantly this year to both fund the conference and to offset some of these additional costs. Additionally, PERLOC awarded less overall money in terms of mini-grants than in previous years due to these increased expenses. Going forward, PERLOC will continue to consider additional changes to both expenditures and revenue streams to ensure a balanced budget that can sustain the needs of the community.

**PERTG MiniGrants**

To date, PERTG MiniGrants were awarded in spring 2022 to eight travel proposals. There were also funds awarded to the PERC Organizers and one award in the publications strand. There was significant enthusiasm for travel awards, with the MiniGrants budget ($10k) running out of funds. This lack of funds resulted in the unfortunate rejection of several travel proposals. Of the awarded travel grants, all are being received by graduate students and/or early career scholars. A list of awardees will be available on the PERTG website.

For those considering future proposals in the 2023 cycle, please submit them early! We are currently reviewing proposals on a rolling process at the end of the month they are received in order to provide timely feedback. This measure was put in place during the pandemic; we plan to review the rolling deadline process and look forward to resuming seasonal review in the future. Keep a lookout for further information on our website. Any changes will also be announced via COMMUNITIES.
PERTG Bylaws Update
No updates were made to the PERTG Bylaws this year. Here is a [link to the updated PERTG Bylaws].

Summer Meeting 2022 Town Hall
The summer meeting 2022 PERTG Town Hall will be held on Tuesday, July 12th at 5:30 PM Eastern via (connection information below). Here is the link to the [PERTG Town Hall slides] that will be presented. During the town hall, PERLOC members will provide an update about the state of the PERTG community (including the budget, PERLOC’s work, and the PERC meetings and proceedings).

The majority of the town hall will be spent discussing large scale issues facing the PERTG community. These issues include:

1. Sustainability of the PERC proceedings with attention to paper deadlines and editor workload
2. Sustainability of the PERC organizing structure
3. Revisiting the timing and duration of the PERC conference
4. Concerns about communication with the community since the retirement of the PERTG listserv

Zoom Connection Information for PERTG Town Hall
https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/95016145445
Passcode: 068142
Meeting ID: 950 1614 5445
One tap mobile
+13462487799,,95016145445# US (Houston)
+16699006833,,95016145445# US (San Jose)

PERC 2023 Organization Team
PERLOC is actively seeking proposals for the PERC 2023 meeting. We are currently seeking community members who are interested in contributing to the organizing of the PERC 2023 meeting and conference themes that are of interest to the community. A list of previous themes can be found [here]. We plan to resend the call for proposals after the 2022 meeting; but, if you are interested, have a theme suggestion, or have additional questions or concerns, please contact PERLOC’s PERC liaisons: Rebecca Rosenblatt ([rosenblatt.rebecca@gmail.com](mailto:rosenblatt.rebecca@gmail.com)) and Raymond Zich ([rlzich@gmail.com](mailto:rlzich@gmail.com)).
**PERC Proceedings Update**

In recent years, the PERC proceedings have grown in size and complexity. Additionally, changes to the process based on requests from the community (e.g., reviewer expertise matching, double-blind submissions, etc.) have significantly increased the editorial workload to an unsustainable level. As part of several ongoing strategies to reduce editorial workload and keep the PERC Proceedings sustainable, PERLOC hired and sustained a part-time staff person to help the editors with administrative tasks and has maintained editor stipends. PERLOC will also be soliciting feedback from the community during the summer meeting Town Hall regarding additional strategies to control editorial workload and maintain the proceedings.

**Funding Invited Presenters**

When organizing a session, you might want to invite a speaker from outside the AAPT community and want to help fund their participation (travel costs to the conference, offer an honorarium, etc). If you are inviting a speaker to AAPT who has not been a member for 5 years, then they receive complimentary full meeting registration. For PERC, there are no specific funds set aside to help fund invited speakers. (Remember, an attendee at PERC must also register for at least one day of AAPT.) However, MiniGrants are available through both PERTG and APS GPER. You will need to be a member of the funding organization in order to apply. Both MiniGrants have "organizer strands" that are ideal for helping fund invited speakers at conferences. If you plan to invite speakers and request these funds, make sure to account for all of the costs they might incur!

**Working Group on Conference Accessibility (WGCA)**

Since 2019, PERLOC has been working with external consultants (Dr. Linn Jorgenson of Disability Consulting and Training) to assess the accessibility of the PERC conference with the goal of increasing access and support for all people to attend PERC. In 2019, in coordination with an external consultant, we surveyed the community about the current state of accessibility of the PERC meetings. After this evaluation, we generated a list of accessible conference planning practices, and we identified multiple conference aspects to target time and resources toward.

Since its inception, the working group has surveyed and interviewed community members about the current state of access during the meetings, expanded our focus to include AAPT and PERC meetings, created and disseminated best practices for accessible presentations, hired an accessibility accountability liaison to provide during conference accommodation support, and more!

The current list of working group members includes: Erin Scanlon, Adrienne Traxler, Stephanie Williams, Rebecca Lindell, Constance Doty, Tiffany Hayes, Cerena Cantrell, and Daryl McPadden. We recently were approved for AAPT working group status by AAPT’s board of directors, and we are working to create a website to share out the working group’s progress and accessibility resources. If you are interested in joining the
working group on conference accessibility, or would like to learn more, please reach out to us at: Erin.Scanlon@uconn.edu. All community members are welcome to join (e.g., students, staff, faculty, high school teachers)! 

How can people get involved?

We're glad you asked! There are multiple ways PERTG community members can get involved including:

- Joining one of the working groups
  - Contact the current PERLOC chair, Bethany Wilcox (bethany.wilcox@colorado.edu) and Rachel Henderson (hende473@msu.edu)
- Attend the facilitated conversations about the structure and future of PERTG community
  - Additional information is forthcoming
- Join PERLOC
  - Nominations will open in late summer/early fall 2022
- Become a PERC Proceedings Editor
  - Nominations will open in Winter 2023
  - Please contact Bethany Wilcox (bethany.wilcox@colorado.edu) with questions about the PERC Editor role, workload, and possible risks/rewards
- Become a PERC Organizer
  - Proposals for PERC themes will open in Fall 2022
  - Please contact Rebecca Rosenblatt (rosenblatt.rebecca@gmail.com) with questions about the PERC organizer role, workload, and possible risks/rewards
- Follow the PERTG group on AAPT COMMUNITIES for additional opportunities to get involved

Thank you to all PERTG members for your active support!

Appendix: About PERLOC

What is PERLOC?

PERLOC is the leadership body of the PER Topical Group of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), founded in 2006. PERLOC was formed to address a growing need for communication and decision-making structures within the PER community, and a desire to promote and advance PER within AAPT and beyond. Many of the constituents of our organization are committed teachers (at universities/colleges,
at high/middle/elementary schools, and in informal science learning settings) and/or scholars that research physics education across these many settings.

Who are we?

- Bethany Wilcox (2020-2023) Co-Chair
- Rachel Henderson (2021-2024) Co-Chair
- Rebecca Rosenblatt (2021-2024) Treasurer, PERC Liaison
- Raymond Zich (2022-2025) PERC Liaison
- Lauren Barth-Cohen (2022-2025) PERTG MiniGrants
- Charlotte Zimmerman (2021-2023) PERCoGS Rep, PERTG MiniGrants
- Sujata Krishna (2022-2023) GPER Liaison
- Alice Churukian (2022-2023) Ex-officio/RiPE Chair

What does PERLOC do?

We find and support PERC Organizers: PERLOC solicits proposals for the annual PER Conference and from these applications chooses the PERC theme and associated PERC organizing team. PERLOC works to maintain institutional memory from one PERC organizing team to the next, and assists the PERC organizing team in coordinating with AAPT to successfully run PERC.

We find and support PERC Proceedings Editors: PERLOC solicits and selects Editors for the PERC Proceedings and works with the PERC Editors to refine its operation. From the set of highly reviewed PERC proceedings papers, PERLOC selects a few “notable papers” to highlight to the community.

We handle PERTG’s money and award MiniGrants: PERLOC coordinates with AAPT to collect and then spend the membership dues that it collects. A significant portion of these membership dues are fed back into community activities through the PERTG MiniGrant program.

We help maintain and grow the PER community: PERLOC periodically reflects on the health and well-being of our community (such as considering appropriate actions that should follow the RiPE social activities survey). PERLOC also communicates and coordinates with: (a) its members (through the PERTG listserv, and updating our web presence on Compadre), (b) other AAPT committees, and (c) GPER within American Physical Society.

PERLOC’s guide to acronyms

- AAPT = American Association of Physics Teachers
- PERTG = Physics Education Research Topical Group (AAPT members who, as a topical group, assist the advancement, dissemination, and application of knowledge of physics education research)
- PERLOC = Physics Education Research Leadership and Organizing Council (A committee of elected representatives who has the general charge of the affairs of the Topical Group.)
- RiPE = Research in Physics Education (an area committee within AAPT appointed by AAPT Board)
- PERGS = Physics Education Research Graduate Students
- PERCoGS = PER Consortium of Graduate Students (a committee of elected representatives who has the general charge of the affairs of the PER Graduate Students).
- APS = American Physical Society
- GPER = Topical Group on Physics Education Research (a group within the APS whose objective is the advancement and diffusion of knowledge concerning the learning and teaching of physics).
- PERC = Physics Education Research Conference (overseen by PERLOC, but organized separately by volunteer organizers each year). It has conference proceedings that are organized by 3 volunteer editors (who serve 3-year terms).