

Mission statement for PANDA Spokesperson (Ulrich Wiedner)

PANDA is a unique experiment in both the composition of enthusiastic people from all over the world and in its physics potential. Because the annihilation of antiprotons with other nucleons offers exceptional possibilities, PANDA will make many crucial measurements that are otherwise impossible or hard to achieve.

You may know that I have been working at different experiments for over 30 years, chasing glueballs, because they are at the core of the strong interaction. It is a difficult process, and with PANDA we really have the chance to achieve definitive answers. Such is the case, too, for other important physics topics, be it nucleon structure, the search for unusual quark-gluon compositions, hypernuclear physics, or the interaction with nuclei.

PANDA provides young researchers at the beginning of their careers the wonderful opportunity to build up an experiment from scratch that can tackle one of the most challenging problems in the Standard Model: the understanding of non-perturbative phenomena in hadron physics. For us more senior people, it will allow us to achieve scientific goals that we have been pursuing for a long time. Is it not a worthy aim to finally understand the composition and interactions of hadrons in fundamental terms? After all, we have known the proton for over 100 years!

I believe it is time to get the detector settled and onto the ground, and time to push for a timely start at FAIR. There will be many smaller or bigger roadblocks, but I am confident that together, we in this collaboration can overcome them. I will do everything I can to contribute to the success of the experiment. I must admit that I am becoming a bit impatient and would like to start as soon as possible; next April will mark 25 years since I started talking about antiprotons at GSI/FAIR, and I want to see the fruits of the many years of effort. PANDA will be even more important for the careers of young researchers and will open up fascinating opportunities for students as well.

I would like to use my past experience of over ten years as PANDA spokesperson to help negotiate with funding agencies and FAIR for the benefit of the collaboration. I would also try to enlarge the collaboration internationally with additional groups that can help us to fulfill our dreams in a timely manner. Therefore, I am very happy to see that most of team of the past years in the PANDA management, with whom I am well acquainted, will continue. I think it is a great team, working very successfully. Let us fulfill together what people expect from us, as expressed in the words of a renowned expert: “PANDA is the killer in the field of hadron physics”—meaning that PANDA can tackle and solve fundamental questions of physics in a previously unknown and unprecedented manner.