

David Toback re-elected CDF co-spokesperson

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David Toback

For the past two years, CDF co-spokesperson David Toback has been spurring on CDF scientists to publish their findings in an effort to uncover new physics or yield more precise measurements using data from Tevatron collisions.

His drive and dedication to CDF recently earned Toback a second term as its co-spokesperson. He will continue to lead the experiment with Giorgio Bellettini.

“His dedication to completing our analyses is unique,” Bellettini said. “He’s running the entire analysis. It’s very nice, and it helps me and the collaboration enormously.”

Toback is glad to continue at the helm of the experiment.

“It’s a wonderful time to be on CDF,” said Toback, who is also a professor of physics at Texas A&M University and a member of the Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy.

During his tenure, CDF scientists have been hard at work, having recently published their 694th paper. They’re also a committed and uncommonly active group for one that stopped taking data a number of years ago, Toback said. Indeed, more than 200 people voted in the spokesperson election.

“Our emphasis has been, ‘Get the papers out!’. I’m really excited and proud of the fact that we’ll get to 700 papers in 2016. We’ve had nearly as many Ph.Ds, as well,” Toback said. “The resilience of the collaboration is really remarkable.”

Equally pleasing for Toback is the cooperative efforts of both CDF and its sister experiment DZero. The cooperation has been extremely beneficial for the Tevatron program, Toback says, as has his interaction with Bellettini, former CDF co-spokesperson Costas Vellidis, and DZero spokespersons Dmitri Denisov and Paul Grannis.

“The relations between CDF and DZero are closer than they’ve ever been,” Toback said.

CDF is proud of its world-leading measurements of the top quark mass and the W boson mass, according to Toback. Both are competitive with the most precise measurements made at CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

"I think the CDF data is incredibly rich," he said. "There's a wealth of data there."

What's more, CDF can make measurements not possible at the Large Hadron Collider. Unlike the LHC, which collides protons with protons, the Tevatron collided protons and antiprotons, and thus the directions of the postcollision particles are uniquely specified. Those postcollision paths contain information scientists can't get from the LHC, and the results should be made available, Toback says.

"If there are papers close to conclusion, David works to get them out," Bellettini said. "If there are some that are slower in the publication process, he finds out why. He enlists people, does what he can to rescue those papers. He does that daily."

Toback will serve a two-year term.

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