

Laboratory Astrophysics in the United States

Farid Salama¹

¹NASA Ames Research Center, Space Science & Astrobiology Division, California, USA

Laboratory astrophysics is a strong and vibrant field in the US with its primary national representation as a full Division of the American Astronomical Society (AAS). Laboratory Astrophysics is also represented in other major scientific societies such as the Astrochemistry subdivision of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the High Energy Density Laboratory Astrophysics (HEDLA) and the Division of Astrophysics (DAP) of the American Physical Society (APS) to cite a few. Laboratory Astrophysics and Astrochemistry is also well represented in federal agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) where research programs are fully dedicated to the support of laboratory astrophysics research. Laboratory Astrophysics is also well represented in the Academic arena where Physics, Astronomy and/or Chemistry Departments in many universities host a laboratory Astrophysics or Astrochemistry curriculum. The increasing recognition of the field of laboratory astrophysics has been recently reinforced by its inclusion into the recommendations of the two most recent Decadal Surveys of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). I will discuss and present the many aspects and representations of Laboratory Astrophysics in the US and summarize the current efforts in the field.