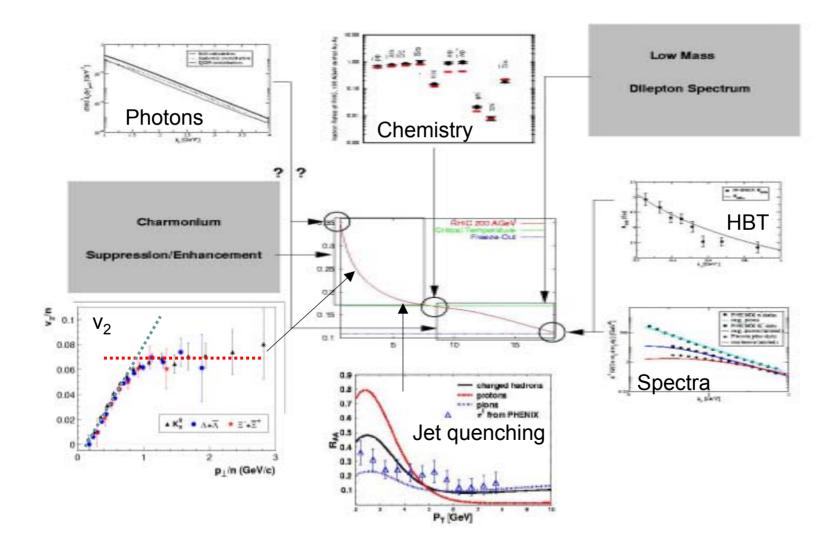
# Evolution of Physics Goals and Resource Needs

NSAC Subcommittee on Heavy Ion Physics

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#### RHIC -The puzzle is coming together...







## Major insights – to date

- Large jet energy loss and v<sub>2</sub> saturating hydro limit establish formation of dense dissipative, pressurized QCD matter at early times (1 – 3 fm/c).
- Baryon enhancement at 2 4 GeV/c explained as recombination of quarks from thermal medium.
- Deconfinement signals:
  - Universality of v<sub>2</sub> per constituent quark
  - >  $dN_G/dy$  (energy loss)  $\approx dN/dy$  (multiplicity)

#### **Next goals**



- Can we identify the dynamical degrees of freedom?
- How relevant is gluon saturation (CGC) initially?
- How and when exactly does the plasma thermalize?
- Can we uniquely fix the space-time evolution?
- Do gluons play a role in hadronization?
- Quantitatively determine transport coefficients!
- Use hard probes unique to RHIC (jets & charm) to probe QGP transport properties.

#### **Goals for the LHC**

- If RHIC is a "discovery facility" (nature of final and initial state), the LH(I)C will be a "confirmation facility".
- LHC will provide quantitative tests of the models developed to describe the RHIC data:
  - Saturation of the initial gluon density
  - > (Almost) ideal hydrodynamic evolution of matter  $(v_2)$
  - > Scaling of parton energy loss with  $\int \rho \tau d\tau$
  - Color screening, quark recombination
  - Major new probes: contained jets and b-quarks, permitting much improved control of theoretical predictions.
- Best LHC strategy for U.S. community ?
  - Involvement in visible and significant way
  - > ALICE vs. CMS and ATLAS



## **RHIC strategy in "LHC era"**

- High luminosity to extend  $p_{\rm T}$  range and allow access to rare processes is essential.
- Extended particle ID and high-quality vertexing needed.
- Exploit greater flexibility of detector upgrades.
- Exploit QCD reach of p+A program to study nuclear structure at low-x, propagation of light-cone states in cold nuclear matter, and A+A backgrounds.
- Add high-luminosity e+A option.
- "The sum is better than any one of its parts": RHIC + LHC provide almost ideal coverage of large √s range 50 – 5000 GeV per nucleon pair.



#### **Essential resources**

- 1. More and better theory:
  - QCD-based, sophisticated phenomenology.
- 2. More and better theory:
  - Quality controlled transport theories, openly available codes.
- 3. More and better theory:
  - Lattice gauge simulations with dynamical quarks.

Requires the timely implementation of the NSAC theory recommendations (topical centers, community building initiatives, 10++ Teraflops) and the continued support and encouragement of the experimental community.

#### The OSCAR malaise





#### List of Codes

Partonic/String Transport
AMPT HIJING HIJING/B-anti-B MPC neXus PCPC PSM VNI VNIb ZPC
String/Hadronic Transport
AMPT ART BEM BNC HSD JAM JPCIAE LEXUS LUCIAE RQMD UrQMD
Transport Tools
GCP
Correlation Builders
CRAB
Hydrodynamics
BJ HYDRO