

APR12-2011-000067

Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the APR12 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

Creativity and Funding Reality in Physics

MARTIN PERL, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

This talk has three parts. In the first part I recount some of the early history of the APS Forum on Physics and Society. In the second part I discuss aspects of creativity in physics: ability to visualize, ability to go from imagination to reality, mathematical skills, laboratory skills. I point out that creativity in science is constrained by the reality of natural laws and by the reality of funding. In the third part I discuss what the individual researcher can do to remain creative as the present funding level for physics research in the United States is mostly static or slowly decreasing.