



*International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
Commission on Biotechnology (IUPAC-COB)*

Stuttgart, 10.08.99

Minutes of the meeting on August 8 in Berlin

Participants: Rolf Schmid, Chairman, Germany
Jan Kas, Secretary, Czech Republic
Mark Dibner, TM, USA
Milton Hearn, NR, Australia
Patrick Adlercreutz, NR, Sweden
Terence Watson, NR, Republic of South Africa
Mukund Chorghade, AM, USA
Juan Asenjo, Guest, Chili

1. Organisational

The chairman informed the participants about the following

- a) IUPAC as a whole is shifting its funding from a membership system to a project-oriented structure. *Discussion among COB members showed that this procedure is most welcome and will open up new opportunities for COB to define projects on a competitive basis, inviting participants on a project-oriented basis,*
- b) the executive committee of IUPAC plans to re-integrate COB after another 2 years as a subcommittee to the Organic Chemistry Division, which will be renamed as „Biomolecular Chemistry Division“. *The possible effects of this step were critically discussed, and some doubt was expressed that this will help to increase the awareness about IUPAC among the scientific community in genomics, pharmacogenomics and bioinformatics*

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- c) Rolf Schmid has informed the executive committee of IUPAC that, due to health reasons, he wishes to step down as the chairman of COB during this meeting. He has proposed that Prof. Milton Hearn of Monash University, NR of Australia to the COB, takes over as the next chairman of COB from August 8, 1999. *All COB members present at the meeting unanimously voted in favor of Milton Hearn to be the incoming chairman of COB from August 8. Prof. Hearn accepted to take over this function.*
- d) In view of the above changes and of the request of IUPAC to update the membership list, Milton Hearn will contact in the near future all present participants to COB about the continuation of their membership.

2. Projects

2.1 Biotechnology Navigator

A budget of 5000.- US-\$ has been allotted to add national information (hyperlinks plus some country information) to the existing shell of the Biotechnology Navigator. We agreed as follows:

- a) coordinator is Milton Hearn
- b) Rolf Schmid sends to Milton information about the present web address and the servers,
- c) Mark Dibner has information added about the USA and Canada (1000 US-\$)
- d) Rolf Schmid has information added about France and Germany (500 US-\$)
- e) Terry Watson has information added about South Africa and the UK (500 US-\$)
- f) Milton Hearn has information added about Australia (1000 US-\$, includes coordination)
- g) Jan Kas has information added about the Czech Republic and another Central European nation (e. g. Hungary) (500 US-\$)
- h) Patrick Adlercreutz organizes the addition of information about Sweden and another Scandinavian country (500 US-\$)

Mukund Chorghade finds out if addition of information about India is feasible. Milton Hearn contacts Dr. Asenjo about information from Chili and other South American nations. He will contact Dr. Nara about information from Japan in a separate step.

It was agreed that the above work should be finished by the end of October, 1999.

2.2 Patent page

Mark Dibner provided a written tutorial on Biotechnology and patent law (Alston & Bird, Ltd.) which may be reproduced with permission on the web. Rolf Schmid takes care that this information will be put on COB's patent page. Jan Kas will provide patent information from

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the Czech Republic and obtain to this end from Rolf Schmid the forms which were used to collect information from the other countries.

2.3 Enzyme Nomenclature

Unfortunately there was no feedback about this issue from Michelle Browner. Milton Hearn will contact her to find out if this may have been due to an error in address. The IUBMB Committee on Enzyme Nomenclature, in its meeting early May 1999 in Cambridge, UK, has expressed interest to cooperate on this subject with COB but would need one or two knowledgeable individuals from COB to participate in this effort.

3. Meetings

3.1 IUPAC Biotechnology Meeting, Berlin 2000

Rolf Schmid informed about the preparatory steps organized by DECHEMA, Frankfurt. The preliminary program and its financial support will be available by October and Rolf Schmid will contact COB members again about the nomination of speakers.

3.2 IUPAC Biotechnology Meeting 2004

Juan Asenjo, Chili, has prepared a proposal to host this conference in Santiago de Chile. This proposal was discussed in depth, and it turned out that both the preparations and the regional and international support to this proposal are excellent. ***In an unanimous vote all COB participants present at the meeting agreed to support a formal application of Chili to the IUPAC administration to host Biotechnology 2004.*** Recommendations were collected for an international advisory group and an international program committee. In a separate talk with the IUPAC secretariat Juan Asenjo was informed about a few items which must be added to the proposal before submission which is expected by late 1999.

4. Collaboration with ICSU's SCGB

Rolf Schmid informed about the first meeting of the steering committee on genetics and biotechnology (SCGB) of ICSU in December 1998 in Boston. Further collaboration with ICSU and the SCGB was considered most useful for COB, and it was decided that Milton Hearn will participate in the forthcoming SCGB meeting in Singapore, December 1999.

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Rolf D. Schmid

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