



International Federation of Clinical Chemistry  
Scientific Division

Committee on Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU)

Minutes of meeting, Lund 2003-10-25/27

1. **Opening of the meeting** - the meeting opened at 9:00 am, October 25, 2003
2. **Participants and apologies** - Present for the opening of the meeting were the following C-NPU titular members: Urban Forsum (UF) C-NPU chairman, Pedro Soares de Araujo (PSA) C-NPU secretary, René Dybkaer (RD), Wolf R. Külpmann (WRK) and Gunnar Nordin (GN). Henrik Olesen (HO) associate member and former C-NPU chairman was also present. UF introduced Françoise Pontet (FP), from France, and Ivan Bruunhuus Petersen (IB), from Denmark, as new members of C-NPU. Apologies were presented for the absence of Antonin Jabor (AJ) who is very busy involved with activities in the Czech Ministry of Health. UF welcomed the new members and a round of introductions was done to introduce us to the new members.
3. **Approval of the provisional agenda** - The provisional agenda prepared by PSA was approved with a few additions, which were proposed by the members. Therefore, the agenda for the meeting contained the following items:
  - I. Opening of the meeting
  - II. Participants and apologies
  - III. Approval of provisional agenda
  - IV. Meeting schedule
  - V. Update of C-NPU membership
  - VI. Minutes of the Hannover meeting
  - VII. Member's reports
  - VIII. Properties and units in Clinical Molecular Biology.
  - IX. Concepts for requests in clinical laboratories. New funding conditions (UF)
  - X. C-NPU concepts and traceability of measurements (GN)
  - XI. Global use of C-NPU concept system for properties in Toxicology (WRK)
  - XII. Manuscript on HbA1c. New draft (GN)
  - XIII. Kind-of quantity mass concentration DNK codes to be promoted to NPU codes. Expansion of NPU codes dealing with mass concentrations (IBP)
  - XIV. Revision of ENV 1614 together with CEN TC 251-WG2 including VIM
  - XV. Revision of ENV 12435 together with CEN TC 251-WG2
  - XVI. Relationship and policies of C-NPU regarding UCUM
  - XVII. C-NPU and LOINC recent developments and responses on letter by UF spring 2003. SNOMED and NamesLab.
  - XVIII. IFCC publications and IFCC sponsorship of scientific meetings.
  - XIX. Report from the Ottawa IUPAC GA august 2003 and meeting of the ICTNS (UF).
  - XX. EU Network of Excellence "Semantic Interoperability and Data Mining in Biomedicine" (UF).
  - XXI. MEQUALAN - metrology of qualitative chemical analysis.
  - XXII. Maintenance of the C-NPU database
  - XXIII. Budget
  - XXIV. Miscellany. Possible revision of the Silver book. New IUPAC projects.
  - XXV. Next meeting
  - XXVI. Closing
4. **Meeting schedule** - UF presented the schedule proposed for this meeting, which was approved.
5. **Update of C-NPU membership** - UF made a contact with AJ. He is very busy with his Czech national activities. He cannot do any business with us right now, but he wants to continue with us. His two projects were postponed until spring. Huib Storm was elected as the president of the Dutch Clinical Biochemistry Society and as such he had to resign due to the workload. Eugeny Yourtov was contacted by regular mail by UF and there was no answer. Therefore, he was dismissed from the subcommittee. RD raised the question about the budget and the number of members in the C-NPU;

especially that now we have 8 members. IFCC policies concerning membership were discussed. WRK explained the current IFCC rules for membership and the participation of the national societies. For the indication of new members a contact with Xavier Arderiu from Spain was suggested. For new members from Canada a contact with Douglas Templeton was suggested by UF. Gilbert Hill was also suggested as a possible source of good names for C-NPU. Howard Morris from Australia, liaison for C-NPU in IFCC SD was also remembered as a possible source for new C-NPU members. WRK will take action to obtain the indication of a new German member. UF pointed out that according to IFCC rules WK, UF and PSA are to be reviewed next year. WRK raised the point about publicizing our work within IFCC national societies. UF suggested a major PR effort, before Christmas, with the completion of the three major projects that we are finishing now.

6. **Minutes of the Hannover meeting** - The minutes of the Hannover meeting prepared by GN were revised and after minor corrections were approved.
7. **Member's reports** - UF reported that the Transfusion Medicine paper was published and reprints will be available. UF said that once this project is in print is very important to push these concepts into the blood bank community. GN made comments about the need for coding schemes for transfusion medicine in Sweden and asked about of the situation in other countries. UF informed that TC251-WG2 has a new Swedish chairman - Magnus Fogelberg - that the group has a new mission - Terminology and knowledge basis - and that it was restructured towards Medical Informatics. This makes a good ground for our Transfusion Medicine paper, since coding schemes are needed. RD suggested that the article should be publicized in one of the specific Transfusion Medicine journals. HO will ask Kim Varming to do so.
8. **Properties and units in Medical Molecular Biology** - The molecular biology document was approved after some corrections were introduced and will be sent for publication both in PAC and in the IFCC J.
9. **Concepts for requests in clinical laboratories. New funding conditions** - UF reported that a European Network of Excellence was created with the object of achieving semantic interoperability and data mining in Biomedicine in the scope of the European community. This project got 5 million Euros and C-NPU project Concepts for requests in clinical laboratories presented by UF was also funded. That opens the possibility for research in that field. The final version of the project application will be circulated.
10. **C-NPU concepts and traceability of measurements** - The state of this project was reported by GN and RD. A year ago we agreed with a major change in the focus of this project, namely, that traceability should apply to results only. UF recalled from the Dubrovnik meeting conclusions that traceability is not built into C-NPU coding but RD indicated that, in a sense, traceability is built in the procedure comments. The C-NPU project (liaison) was not submitted because the Division President did not yet submit the Joint Interdivisional project to IUPAC. HO proposed that TC251-WG2 is the right spot for that kind of project and that EU can fund it. UF suggested that we should still submit the liaison project to keep contact with the Interdivisional project and secure a budget for GN to attend the meetings. Paul de Bièvre is the chairman of the Interdivisional Project and it would be interesting to have RD to approach him about the liaison. This contact should be done before the Division Committee meeting in December 12, in London.
11. **Global use of C-NPU concept system for properties in Toxicology** - The version of this document prepared by John Dufus and WRK was revised and was, in principle, approved for publication after some corrections are introduced. WRK apologized for the document not being distributed to everybody within the C-NPU. Discussion went on and members that have not received the document will have one week to comment on it after this meeting.
12. **Manuscript on HbA1c. New draft** - GN presented his views and the adoption of the IFCC reference values. The use of his suggested unit mmol/mol was discussed within several contexts. We reached the conclusion that we endorse this proposition and suggested some modifications to the manuscript. NPU03835 will be kept as it is and two new codes should be added to the database: one for the NGSP procedure and the other for the IFCC reference procedure.
13. **Kind-of quantity mass concentration DNK codes to be promoted to NPU codes. Expansion of NPU codes dealing with mass concentrations** - UF presented his position towards introducing mass concentration NPU codes in the database. IB and HO also made their comments concerning this subject, with the suggestion to introduce all mass concentrations for the current entries existing in the C-NPU database. It appeared that the consensus within C-NPU is to introduce mass concentration-based NPU codes with units that are metrologically sound. GN proposed that we start with the local lists that he has already collected from Scandinavia, Holland and Germany and use it as the starting point for the amount of substance properties subset in clinical chemistry. RD suggested that some of those entries should be forwarded to national societies to be commented. UF

proposed that this should be done through IFCC SD. UF asked GN, together with IB, to prepare this subset with mass concentration codes from the lists already available and circulate it among C-NPU members.

14. **Revision of ENV1614 together with CEN TC 251-WG2 including VIM** - UF recapitulated that CEN TC251-WG2 wants us to comment on this ENV1614. UF discussed the subject with WG2 chairman Magnus Fogelberg and agreed that we should give our comments in a week after this meeting. RD made a report on the status of VIM, which is now in version 14b. Many changes were introduced, some were very significant. RD expects that in a meeting to be held in Paris, in the next week, the last discussions on this version could be finished. Since there will be in the next few months a new version of VIM there would be no use for a CEN document in disagreement with VIM. C-NPU achieved the consensus that we propose Magnus Fogelberg to postpone ENV1614 revision until VIM is published. RD also made comments on the Anders Thurin document on imaging coding. We reached an agreement that this document has many flaws and a committee-to-committee discussion should be the right place to review this document. However, HO suggested that the ENV1614 document should be revised now and that revision should go on, while VIM is still under revision. He feels that postponing is unfortunate. RD proposed that we start an ENV1614 revision, with a team to work on it, so we can understand each other. For that purpose UF will contact directly Magnus Fogelberg to present our position. RD mentioned the CCI booklet, which explains the SI units in English. There will be a paper for the unit one (uno), symbol u, in Metrologia prepared by RD.
15. **Revision of ENV12435 together with CEN TC 251-WG2** - HO made comments on the ENV12345 which has good chances to become a standard on medical informatics. RD said that he supports that standard. HO asked about including the kind-of-properties that have been introduced after the Silver Book like taxon, probably in Appendix F. The consensus is that this proposed standard is acceptable and be circulated to national societies.
16. **Relationship and policies of C-NPU regarding UCUM** - We reached the conclusion that we had a problem in mailing the files that accompany this item. Therefore, since previous knowledge of this subject was fundamental for the discussion, UF proposed that all members should read these documents and that we discuss them in the next meeting.
17. **C-NPU and LOINC recent developments and responses on letter by UF spring 2003. SNOMED and NamesLab** - UF made a presentation on the HL-7 message codes and the possibility to have C-NPU codes with units within the CE field. HO made comments on the negotiation process needed for achieving this goal.
18. **IFCC publications and IFCC sponsorship of scientific meetings** - UF reminded C-NPU members that publications have to go to the SD of IFCC. The same applies to IUPAC where the publications have to be submitted to the Division Committee.
19. **Report from the Ottawa IUPAC General Assembly, August 2003 and meeting of the ICTNS** - UF made a report on the August meeting, attended by UF, WRK and RD. There was a Committee Division meeting. PSA was elected as CD member. In the CD level we will have to compete with the Medicinal Chemistry people for project funds. With the Toxicology Subcommittee we have good collaborative relations. There is a plea for C-NPU from DC for new projects. UF proposed flow cytometry and web database funding as new projects. Concerning the database funding, it appeared during this DC meeting that colleagues from Medicinal Chemistry have a similar plea for maintaining glossaries in the web. During the GA in Ottawa UF also attended a biomolecular chemistry group where he made a presentation (PR) about the C-NPU work. UF also attended ICTNS and that was a very interesting meeting. During this meeting there were three points to highlight. 1. This committee has an important activity concerning XML dictionaries in chemistry. 2. Silver Book has a bad reputation there and there is need for corrections and update. 3. There were changes in this committee composition and they don't understand well the C-PNU work. Since we have a place in ICTNS, then perhaps we could make a better figure there.
20. **EU Network of Excellence "Semantic Interoperability and Data Mining in Biomedicine"** - This topic of the agenda was already addressed in item 9.
21. **MEQUALAN - metrology of qualitative chemical analysis** - Mequalan is a EU funded project. Documentation on this project, which is already finished, and for which there is a sequel named Equalan, is available. There will be a Mequalan meeting in Budapest, to which UF will attend. RD review on a Mequalan paper showed some interesting points. However, RD thinks that this document still needs some polishing. FP pointed out that there are several mistakes in this document. RD said that terminologically there are problems with this document but still it has interesting points. UF and GN will continue contacts to get more information about the state of this document.

22. **Maintenance of the C-NPU database** - UF reported some problems for the moment. There is an agreement between Copenhagen and Linköping that new CNPU codes are to be provided by IB. This dichotomy is not the best situation. Concerning the financial support of the web operation we are in a squeeze. We don't have money for keeping it running and furthermore IB, at the present, is not funded for doing his work of adding new NPU codes and database maintenance. This situation has not improved since the last years. IFCC recognized that this issue needs attention. IUPAC does not want to get involved with this subject. IB added that if we could convince SNOMED and LOINC to incorporate the NPU database then more funding would be available through national organizations. GN mentioned that laboratories using electronic communications based on CNPU accept to share the costs of operation. The objective of the meeting last December, when UF, RD and Anders Kallner met the NamesLab people, was to try to explore common grounds. FP commented on NamesLab saying that this was not a national initiative for a French system; rather it is a commercial venture. IB said that the database has to be more user friendly, creating a site with more appeal. RD suggested that a tutorial is needed in the site to educate people on C-NPU. Consensus was achieved that we really need to contact communications people like people from HL7. A forum was proposed as an interesting initiative.
23. **Budget** - C-NPU has a total between three and four thousand US dollars on the IUPAC side. IFCC is going to support C-NPU on long time basis because C-NPU is considered to be a core activity. IFCC gave us 13000 CHF for 2003 and we could foresee that we can get the same amount for the next year. PSA is going to contact Microsoft Foundation for application forms.
24. **Miscellany. Possible revision of the Silver book. New IUPAC projects** - We agreed that a new IUPAC project could be Silver Book update, and that UF will invite Chris Rigg to chair it. Anders Thurin document from TC251-WG2 published in the WG2 site on extending CPNU concepts to imaging was reviewed, and we reached the conclusion that the document needs revision in text, figure legends, and some definitions. RD finds it totally unacceptable, and this is going to be communicated to Magnus Fogelberg by UF. PSA suggested that a new project on imaging could be a good idea. IFCC reimbursement forms were distributed among C-NPU members.
25. **Next meeting** - C-NPU will meet in Sousse, Tunisia, during the IFCC General Conference in May 2004, 14/17. Another meeting, in the fall of 2004, was proposed to be organized in Prague, Czech Republic with focus on finishing the two projects under AJ leading.
26. **Closing** - The meeting was closed at 12:45 of 2003-10-27.