International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology

Subcommittee on Gram-Negative Anaerobic Rods

Minutes of the Meetings, 29 and 30 May 1976

Montreal, Canada

1. **Call to order.** The meetings were called to order by the Chairman, S. M. Finegold, at 9:00 a.m., 29 May, and 9:00 a.m., 30 May, in the Hotel Le Chateau Champlain, Montreal, Canada.

2. **Record of attendance.** The following members were present—H. Beerens, Ella M. Barnes (Secretary), J. Bittner, M. P. Bryant, S. M. Finegold (Chairman), H. S. Goldberg, T. Hofstad, W. J. Loesche, T. Mitsuoka, W. E. C. Moore, A. C. Sonnenwirth, K. Ueno (for S. Suzuki), and W. Werner. In addition to the above, Drs. Lilian V. Holdeman and Vera Sutter attended all the sessions.

3. **Approved list of bacterial names.** The Subcommittee discussed the list of species names and synonyms sent out by the Judicial Commission and decided which should be retained.

4. ***Bacteroides melaninogenicus* and subspecies.** After the previous decision of the Subcommittee that the asaccharolytic strains of *Bacteroides melaninogenicus* at present in *Bacteroides melaninogenicus* subspecies *asaccharolyticus* should be assigned to a separate species, it was agreed that, in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria, they should be named *Bacteroides asaccharolyticus* and not *Bacteroides nigrescens* as previously stated. The Report would shortly be sent to the IJSB.

5. ***Bacteroides melaninogenicus* subspecies *melaninogenicus*, *Bacteroides oralis*, and *Bacteroides ruminicola*.** The Subcommittee agreed that the organism at present listed in the ATCC catalogue as *Bacteriodes oralis* ATCC 19530 was identical to *Bacteroides melaninogenicus* subspecies *melaninogenicus* and the ATCC should be informed. After study of a number of strains reputed to be *B. oralis*, the Subcommittee concluded that more work was required to establish a good reference strain for this species and clearly differentiate it from *B. melaninogenicus* subspecies *melaninogenicus* and *B. ruminicola*.

6. **New species.** The Subcommittee heard reports on *Bacteroides eggerthii*, *Bacteroides splanchnicus*, and *Bacteroides multiacidus*.

7. **Asaccharolytic strains within *Bacteroides*.** Future work should include a comparison of *Bacteroides asaccharolyticus*, *B. putredinis*, *B. preacutus*, and *B. corrodens*.

8. **The genera within *Bacteroidaceae*.** It was agreed that the genus *Bacteroides* at present contained a number of unrelated organisms but that new genera should not be created until there was some agreement on the properties which constitute a genus. In particular, adequate consideration

should be given to the electron transport mechanisms.

9. **Anaerobe Laboratory, V.P.I.** The Subcommittee expressed their appreciation of the work being carried out at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (V.P.I.) laboratory. They stressed the importance to everyone who is concerned with anaerobic bacteria of maintaining a group of experts there who can carry out the research required to establish the relationships between the strains and develop identification techniques for particular organisms. These studies are basic to all other investigations involving the anaerobes, whether it is their role in infections, their function in the rumen and intestine, or the recycling and reutilisation of waste materials.

10. **Membership.** The present membership of the Subcommittee consists of Ella M. Barnes, Secretary (Agricultural Research Council, Food Research Institute, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UA, England), H. Beerens (Faculté de Pharmacie, Rue du Professeur Laguesse, 59045, Lille, Cedex, France), J. Bittner (Services des Anaerobies, Institute "Dr. I. Cantacuzino" Spl, Independentei 103, Bucharest, Romania), M. P. Bryant (Dairy Science Dept., University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61803, U.S.A.), S. M. Finegold, Chairman (Infectious Disease Sec., Bldg. 213, Room 304, Wadsworth Hospital Center, Wilshire & Sawtelle Blvds., Los Angeles, Calif. 90073, U.S.A.), H. S. Goldberg, (School of Medicine, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. 65201, U.S.A.), T. Hofstad, (Dept. of Microbiology, School of Medicine, The Gade Institute, N-5016 Haukeland sykehus, Bergen, Norway), W. J. Loesche, (Dept. of Oral Biology, School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104, U.S.A.), T. Mitsuoka, (Animal Physiology Laboratory, The Institute of Physiological and Chemical Research, Wako, Saitama 351, Japan), W. E. C. Moore, (Anaerobe Laboratory, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, P. O. Box 49, Blacksburg, Va. 24060, U.S.A.), A. C. Sonnenwirth (Laboratories, The Jewish Hospital, 216 Kingshighway, Saint Louis, Mo. 63110, U.S.A.), S. Suzuki, (Gifu University, School of Medicine, Tsukasa-Machi, Gifu-Shi, Gifu-Ken, Japan), and H. Werner (Institut für Medizinische Mikrobiologie und Immunologie der Universität, 53 Bonn-Venusberg, Germany).

11. **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Subcommittee will be during the International Congress for Bacteriology which is to be held in Munich in 1978.

12. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at noon on Sunday, 30 May 1976.

Ella M. Barnes, Secretary