International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology

Subcommittee on Streptococci and Pneumococci

Minutes of Meeting, 30 October 1975

Liblice Castle, Prague, Czechoslovakia

Minute 1. Record of attendance. Members present included R. Facklam (U.S.), J. Henrichsen (Denmark), W. von Kohler (German Democratic Republic), I. Lyampert (U.S.S.R.), W. Maxted (England), Y. Miyamoto (Japan), M. Moody (U.S.), M. Parker (England), J. Rotta (Czechoslovakia).

Minute 2. Chairing of meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary, Dr. Moody. Greetings from Chairman Williams and his regrets for being unable to attend the meeting were expressed.

Minute 3. Resignation of members. Dr. Moody announced his decision and that of Professor Williams to submit their resignations from the Subcommittee to the Secretary of the International Committee on Bacterial Nomenclature. Jointly, Professor Williams and Dr. Moody expressed their belief that, with the passage of time, their own working interests and those of several of the Subcommittee members have changed, which limits their effectiveness in continuing Subcommittee business with the appropriate degree of attention. It was recommended and approved by the members present that the Secretary of the ICSB be notified of this decision and requested to reevaluate the function and composition of the Subcommittee on Streptococci and Pneumococci. The need to appoint members who are currently engaged in significant studies relevant to the taxonomic status of streptococci and pneumococci should be emphasized. Knowledgeable individuals working on streptococci in medical, dental, veterinary, agricultural, and perhaps other disciplines should be represented on the Subcommittee to assure a balance of coverage. Suggestions for membership were listed and will be forwarded to the Secretary for Subcommittees of the ICSB.

Minute 4. Membership approved. Dr. J. Jelinkova, Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Prague, Czechoslovakia, was unanimously approved for membership on the Subcommittee. The Secretary for Subcommittees of the ICSB will be requested to inform her of this action.

Minutes 5. New Working Group appointed. Professor Williams has recently appointed a new Working Group to be chaired by Dr. M. Parker. The composition of the Group will begin with Dr. G. Colman, Dr. J. Jelinkova, Dr. R. Facklam, Dr. Carlsson, Dr. G. Hahn, and Dr. W. Kohler. Dr. Parker and the new Working Group will be responsible for developing a list of currently acceptable names of streptococci and tests for their characterization, as requested by the ICSB. Dr. Parker is advised to seek assistance, information, and concurrence from all available sources to assure a consensus of the Subcommittee.

Minute 6. Working Group on Group A streptococci. It was agreed that members of the present Working Group on Group A streptococci, consisting of Dr. Rotta, Dr. Facklam, Dr. Maxted, Dr. Kohler, Dr. Rabinowitz, Dr. Miyamoto, and Dr. Kjemis, assume responsibility for revising the system for recognition and designation of new M-types. Dr. Maxted will serve as Chairman of the Working Group. Dr. Rotta was requested to be responsible for assigning M-type numbers when appropriate criteria have been met. He will receive and coordinate information, cultures, and antisera and arrange for laboratory validation studies on proposed new M-types. The Subcommittee unanimously expressed the view that this activity is more appropriately a function that should be served by the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) International Streptococcal Typing Center in Prague. Dr. Rotta is Director of the Center. The large amount of time and work required by the Reference Center may require additional funds that are not presently budgeted. Because of the importance of maintaining an officially sponsored mechanism for an orderly system for serotype recognition of group A streptococci in epidemiological studies on streptococcal diseases and their sequelae, the Subcommittee unanimously recommended that the W.H.O. be urged to appropriate the necessary funds and sponsor the activity. Such an activity would also strengthen the quality of laboratory work performed in Regional W.H.O. Streptococcal Reference Laboratories. Dr. Facklam was requested to draft a proposal for a system, whereby criteria and procedures for acceptance of new designations for M-types would be clarified. The proposal will include careful consideration of difficulties experienced under the present system, as well as new data that have been developed from newer methodologies. It was suggested that additional laboratories be designated for examining candidate strains for new M-type designation. The new list will include the following Reference Centers which are routinely and actively engaged in comprehensive M-typing: Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Ga. (Dr. Facklam); Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, London, England (Drs. Parker and Maxted); W.H.O. International Streptococcal Typing Center, Prague, Czechoslovakia (Dr. Rotta); the GDR Streptococcal Laboratory, Jena, German Democratic Republic (Dr. Kohler); and the Central Public Health Laboratory, Jerusalem, Israel (Dr. Rabinowitz).

Minute 7. Pneumococcal Typing Sera. The question of Pneumococcal Typing Sera availability was discussed. The importance of its continuing availa-

bility was stressed, because there is growing evidence that typing of strains in diagnostic laboratories is increasing. Dr. Henrichsen, attending in place of Drs. Lund and Kjems, was asked to give this matter serious consideration and to recommend ways in which availability can be assured in the long range.

Minute 8. Appreciation expressed. Dr. Moody expressed his appreciation and that of Professor Wil-

liams for the cooperation and encouragement the Subcommittee members have given them in carrying out their responsibilities as Secretary and Chairman, respectively, of the Subcommittee over the past several years. The Subcommittee very kindly expressed their appreciation to Professor Williams and Dr. Moody and asked that Professor Williams be informed.

Max D. Moody, *Secretary*