International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on Gram-Negative Anaerobic Rods

Minutes of the Meeting, 6 and 7 August 1982, Boston, Massachusetts

Minute 1. Call to order. The Chairman, H. Werner, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on 6 August 1982 and at 9:00 a.m. 7 August 1982.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The following members were present: H. Werner (Chairman), H. S. Goldberg (Secretary), Ella M. Barnes, S. M. Finegold, T. Hofstad, W. J. Loesche, T. Mitsuoka, W. E. C. Moore, and K. Ueno. In addition, Lillian Holdeman and S. Tabaqchali were visitors.

Minute 3. *Bacteroides oralis*-*Bacteroides ruminicola* group. The subcommittee discussed the *Bacteroides oralis*-*Bacteroides ruminicola* group, including new swine isolates. Agreement was reached that *B. ruminicola* subsp. *brevis* and *B. ruminicola* subsp. *ruminicola* are not subspecies and should be recognized as two distinct species. It was also agreed that antibiotic susceptibility is not very useful in distinguishing members of this group.

It is increasingly evident that isolates from various animal species may have phenotypic and physiological similarities but do not necessarily have deoxyribonucleic acid homology.

Further discussion centered around *Bacteroides capillus*, *Bacteroides buccae*, *Bacteroides pentosaceus*, and *Bacteroides oris*. It was generally agreed that *Bacteroides buccalis* is a new species which is distinguishable from *B. oralis*. *B. oris* is a new species as well. *B. buccae* is probably synonymous with *B. capillus* and *B. pentosaceus*, but a type strain for *B. buccae* needs to be established before any definite statement can be made.

Minute 4. *Bacteroides melaninogenicus* group. Discussions on *Bacteroides gingivalis* brought agreement that this organism should be recognized as a new species, replacing *Bacteroides melaninogenicus* subsp. *asaccharolyticus* "oral strains." In addition, a lengthy discussion on the *B. melaninogenicus* group ensued. The following new species were agreed upon from these discussions: *Bacteroides asaccharolyticus* (formerly *B. melaninogenicus* subsp. *asaccharolyticus*), *Bacteroides corporis* (formerly *B. melaninogenicus* subsp. *intermedius* in part), *Bacteroides denticola* (formerly *B. melaninogenicus* subsp. *melaninogenicus* in part), *Bacteroides intermedius* (formerly *B. melaninogenicus* subsp. *intermedius* in part), and *Bacteroides loescheii* (formerly *B. melaninogenicus* subsp. *melaninogenicus* in part).

Minute 5. Taxonomic status of the genus *bacteroides*. Increasing numbers of species in the genus *Bacteroides* caused the Subcommittee to look at criteria for this genus. There was discussion about "proper bacteroides" versus "questionable bacteroides." Such characteristics as deoxyribonucleic acid homology, ecology, pathogenicity, electron transport system, sphingomyelins, etc., were reviewed. The

Subcommittee agreed that the most important characters of the genus should be based upon genetics, sphingomyelins, fatty acids, enzymes, and endotoxin properties. No official recommendations were finalized.

Discussion of the genus *Fusobacterium* affirmed the position that lipopolysaccharides, fatty acids, and peptidoglycans are the keys to this genus. On this basis, *Fusobacterium plautii* came into question. After a review of the facts that this organism (i) was a gram-negative cell wall type (i.e., lysine is present), (ii) is not motile, and (iii) does not contain 3-hydroxy fatty acids, the view prevailed that it probably is a member of the genus *Eubacterium*, not *Fusobacterium*.

Minute 6. Current membership. Ella M. Barnes, Agricultural Research Council, Food Research Institute, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UA, England; S. M. Finegold 691/W111F, Infectious Disease Section, Bldg. 500, Room 3221, VA Wadsworth Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA 90073; Herbert S. Goldberg (Secretary), School of Medicine, University of Missouri, M-228 Medical Sciences Building, Columbia, MO 65212; T. Hofstad, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, The Gade Institute, N-5016 Haukeland sykehus, Bergen, Norway; Walter J. Loesche, Department of Oral Biology, School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48104; T. Mitsuoka, Animal Physiology Laboratory, The Institute of Physical, and Chemical Research, Wako, Saitama 351, Japan; W. E. C. Moore, Anaerobe Laboratory, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24060; K. Ueno, Gifu University, School of Medicine, Tsukasa-Machi, Gifu-Shi, Gifu-Ken, Japan; H. Werner, Institut für Medizinische, Mikrobiologie und Immunologie der Universität, 53 Bonn-Venusberg, Federal Republic of Germany; M. P. Bryant, Dairy Science Department, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801; H. Beerens, Faculte de Pharmacie, Rue du Professeur Laguesse, 59045 Lille, Cedex, France; Jean Bittner, Services des Anaerobies, Institute "Dr. I. Cantacuzino," Spl. Independentei 103, Bucharest, Romania; and A. C. Sonnenwirth, The Jewish Hospital, 216 South Kings Highway, St. Louis, MO 63110.

Minute 7. Next meeting. T. Hofstad graciously offered to host the 1984 meeting of the Subcommittee in Bergen, Norway. This invitation was accepted, and it was pointed out that new officers would need to be elected at the next meeting.

Minute 8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on 7 August 1982.

Herbert S. Goldberg, Secretary