International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology

Subcommittee on the taxonomy of staphylococci and streptococci

Minutes of the meetings, 4 July 1994, Prague, Czech Republic

Session 1. Closed meeting

Minute 1. Call to order. The Chairman, W. E. Kloos, called the closed meeting to order at 16:00 on 4 July 1994.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The members present were W. E. Kloos (Chairman), J. M. Hardie (Secretary), A. L. Coykendall, T. Ezaki, R. R. Facklam, J. Freney, V. Hájek, J. Jelinková and M. Kilian. Apologies for absence were received from L. A. Devriese, J. Henrichsen, D. Jones, W. Kohler, D. A. A. Mossel, A. Torres Pereira, K. H. Schleifer and R. A. Whiley.

Minute 3. Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on 21 July 1992 were approved.

Minute 4. Changes in officers and members. W. E. Kloos and J. M. Hardie were to continue as Chairman and Secretary, respectively. The subcommittee accepted with regret the resignation of A. Torres Pereira. M. D. Collins and J. A. Webster were elected to serve on the committee.

Minute 5. Minimal standards for description of species. It was agreed that the secretary should write to members of the four subgroups which had drafted documents on the genera *Enterococcus*, *Lactococcus*, *Staphylococcus* and *Streptococcus*, with a view to revising the minimal standards if necessary and preparing them for publication in the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*. The Chairman invited members of the subcommittee to consider the issue of subspecies identification and it was agreed to discuss this at a subsequent meeting.

Minute 6. Bergey's Manual Trust. The secretary reported the formation of an advisory committee on Gram-positive cocci for the Bergey's Manual Trust, under the chairmanship of K. H. Schleifer. W. E. Kloos, J. M. Hardie and M. D. Collins had been invited to serve on this advisory committee.

Minute 7. Other scientific matters. J. Jelinková tabled a proposal for nomenclature of newly recognized serotypes within Lancefield group B streptococci, in which additional serotypes VI, VII and VIII were included. Publication of these proposals was in preparation. In response to a letter from E. Stackebrandt concerning the future work of the subcommittee, members discussed the impact of nucleic acid sequence studies and other taxonomic developments that affect the Gram-positive cocci, and considered the possibility of including some recently described new genera within the scope of the subcommittee's activity. It was agreed to circulate a list of new genera to members of the subcommittee for their comments. The secretary reported on recent correspondence about the name *Streptococcus sanguis* and the correctness or otherwise of the specific epithet '*sanguis*'. It was agreed not to recommend a change in this name, which is widely accepted and has been in use for over 50

years. A suggestion that the subcommittee might become involved in assessing 'criteria of non-pathogenicity' for *Lactococcus* and *Enterococcus* species was considered to be beyond the remit of the subcommittee.

Minute 8. Reference strains for production of streptococcal antisera. It was agreed to set up a small working group, under the convenorship of M. Kilian, to examine the possibility of defining designated reference strains for production of antiserum for typing of streptococci (including Lancefield groups F, G, H and K). The working group would include R. R. Facklam, J. Henrichsen and J. Jelinková.

Minute 9. Current membership. The current membership of the subcommittee is as follows: W. E. Kloos (Chairman), USA; J. M. Hardie (Secretary), UK; M. D. Collins, UK; A. L. Coykendall, USA; L. A. Devriese, Belgium; T. Ezaki, Japan; R. R. Facklam, USA; J. Freney, France; V. Hájek, Czech Republic; J. Henrichsen, Denmark; J. Jelinková, Czech Republic; D. Jones, UK; M. Kilian, Denmark; W. Kohler, Germany; D. A. A. Mossel, The Netherlands; K. H. Schleifer, Germany; J. A. Webster, USA; and R. A. Whiley, UK.

Minute 10. Next meeting of subcommittee. The next meeting of the subcommittee would be held in 1996, in association with either the VIIIth International Symposium of Staphylococci and Staphylococcal Infections, Aix-les-Bains, France (23–26 June), the International Union of Microbiological Sciences (IUMS) meeting in Jerusalem, Israel (16–23 August), or the XIIIth Lancefield International Symposium on Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases, Paris, France (15–19 September).

Minute 11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 18:05 on 4 July 1994.

Session 2. Open meeting

Minute 11. Call to order. The open meeting was called to order by the chairman, W. E. Kloos, at 09:00 on 6 July 1994.

Minute 12. Record of attendance. In addition to those attending the closed meeting, the following were present: E. Aldová, L. Buzysková, P. Caufield, M. D. Collins, A. Felten, C. Godard, K. Hirose, W. Hryniewicz, P. Lisiecki, E. Majda-Stanistawska, H. Meugnier, J. Mihula, J. Novák, K. Nováková, P. Petrás, D. Prusova, A. Sevcíková, A. Suháková, A. Soucek, E. Szewczyk, W. J. van Leeuwen, A. Vickery, M. Votava, T. Wadström and C. Wildemaue.

Minute 13. Chairman's report. The chairman reported the recent changes in the membership of the subcommittee and welcomed new members. He informed the meeting about the newly established working group on designated reference

strains for streptococcal typing and signalled the sub-committee's intention to consider which other genera, in addition to *Staphylococcus* and *Streptococcus*, should be included within its remit.

Minute 14. Chairman's talk. W. E. Kloos presented a paper entitled 'Co-evolution of staphylococci and their mammalian hosts: adaptive strategies', in which the relationships between species groups within the 31 currently recognized species of *Staphylococcus* and within different groups of mammals was examined.

Minute 15. Round table discussion. Recent taxonomic changes amongst the Gram-positive cocci were discussed. H. Meugnier presented data on *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* subsp. *bovinus* isolated from cows' nares. There was a general discussion about some of the new genera which had appeared recently in the published literature.

Minute 16. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 on 6 July 1994.

W. E. Kloos, Chairman
J. M. Hardie, Secretary