International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Arthrobacter* and Related Organisms and Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Microbacterium* and Related Organisms

Minutes of the Joint Subcommittee Meeting, 4 July 1994, Postgraduate Medical &
Pharmaceutical Institute, Prague, Czech Republic

Minute 1. Preamble and call to order. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on 4 July 1994 by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Arthrobacter* and Related Organisms (*Arthrobacter* Subcommittee), H. Prauser, who welcomed all present, especially visitors. A letter from Y.-H. Park, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Microbacterium* and Related Organisms (*Microbacterium* Subcommittee), was read; in this letter Y.-H. Park formally apologized for his absence from the meeting and requested that H. Prauser convene and chair the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee meeting. It was agreed to hold the meetings of the two subcommittees together as an open meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened to continue business at 2:00 p.m.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The members present at 9:10 a.m. were Grace Alderson (Secretary of the *Arthrobacter* Subcommittee), L. Evtushenko (who by letter was designated the alternate for L. Kalakoutskii), P. Kämpfer, K. Komagata, H. Prauser (Chairman of the *Arthrobacter* Subcommittee, Secretary of the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee), and N. Weiss. The visitors present were V. Akimov, M. D. Collins, J. Holt, and T. Gray.

Minute 3. Apologies for absence. Verbal or written apologies for absence were received from M. Goodfellow, L. Kalakoutskii, R. Kroppenstedt, Y.-H. Park (Chairman of the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee), K.-H. Schleifer, P. Schumann, and J. Ruan.

Minute 4. Minimal standards. The Chairman briefly described the opinions concerning minimal standards expressed at the Judicial Commission meeting held on 3 July 1994 in Prague. "Minimal Standards for Minimal Standards" will be published in the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology as a taxonomic note. The Chairman reminded the members present of the contents of the first circular (circulated on 4 June 1994) for the Minimal Standards Project and tabled a first draft of "Common Minimal Standards" for the *Arthrobacter* Subcommittee and the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee. This draft had been considered and approved by the members who were unable to attend. It was considered in detail by those present, and all consensus amendments were noted by the Secretary. A final draft incorporating the amendments will be produced and circulated to the members. A period of 3 weeks will enable further comments to be incorporated before the document is submitted for publication.

Minute 5. Taxonomic problems. It was agreed that minimal standards are important, but that they are only one aspect of the work of the subcommittees. It was also noted that minimal standards necessarily have to include data that are not easily obtained by workers in all laboratories. Thus, subcommittee members have a duty to help solve problems in the areas of their taxonomic groups and methodological fields. Cooperation with coauthorship of publications versus service with pay-

ment but no authorship was discussed. Many of the members who were unable to attend and those present expressed a willingness to cooperate and offer expertise. Colleagues who are in need of cooperation may contact chairmen, secretaries, or subcommittee members.

Minute 6. Subcommittee merger. It was agreed that a merger of the two subcommittees could be useful and is feasible, given the similarity of the characters studied and the overlap in membership and interests of the members of the two subcommittees. However, because of the absence of the Chairman of the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee, any decision concerning merger was postponed until the International Union of Microbiological Societies Congress in Jerusalem, Israel, in 1996.

Minute 7. Election of officers. H. Prauser, Chairman of the *Arthrobacter* Subcommittee and Secretary of the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee, and G. Alderson, Secretary of the *Arthrobacter* Subcommittee, were nominated for and agreed to serve additional terms. The members present were grateful for Y.-H. Park's willingness to continue as Chairman of the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee.

Minute 8. Changes in membership. V. Kalakoutskii (by letter to the Chairman) and K. Komagata resigned from both subcommittees; they were thanked for their work on behalf of the subcommittees. The following individuals were proposed as members and were elected: L. Evtushenko (proposed by letter by L. Kalakoutskii, to replace him), A. Yokota (to replace K. Komagata), and M. D. Collins.

Minute 9. Current membership. The current members of the subcommittees are G. Alderson (Bradford, United Kingdom) (Secretary of the *Arthrobacter* Subcommittee), M. D. Collins (Reading, United Kingdom), L. Evtushenko (Pushchino, Russia), M. Goodfellow (Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom), P. Kämpfer (Aachen, Germany), R. Kroppenstedt (Braunschweig, Germany), Y.-H. Park (Taejon, Korea) (Chairman of the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee), H. Prauser (Jena, Germany) (Chairman of the *Arthrobacter* Subcommittee, Secretary of the *Microbacterium* Subcommittee), J. Ruan (Beijing, People's Republic of China), K.-H. Schleifer (Munich, Germany), P. Schumann (Jena, Germany), K. Suzuki (Saitama, Japan), N. Weiss (Braunschweig, Germany), and A. Yokota (Osaka, Japan).

Minute 10. Date of next meeting. The next meeting(s) of the subcommittee(s) will be held during the International Union of Microbiological Societies Congress in Jerusalem, Israel, on 18 to 23 August 1996. Whether there will be common or separate meetings of the two subcommittees will be discussed by the two chairmen in due time.

Minute 11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Grace Alderson and H. Prauser, Secretaries