



International Federation of Clinical Chemistry

Scientific Division

Committee on Nomenclature, Properties and Units (C-NPU)

Minutes of meeting, Copenhagen March 17 – 20, 2000

Revised version, May 9, 2000

- 0.0 – **The meeting opened at 13:00 PM.** – Present for the opening of the meeting were the following titular members for the C-NPU (TM): Urban Forsum (UF) chairman of the C-NPU, Pedro Soares de Araujo (PSA) secretary of the C-NPU, Antonin Jabor (AJ) Gunnar Nordin (GN), René Dybkaer (RD) and Wolf R. Külpmann (WRK). Dr. Henrik Olesen (HO), former chairman of C-NPU, now an associate member was also present.
- 1.0 – **The minutes from the Berlin meeting** – August 8-10, 1999 – were discussed and a few corrections were proposed, specially concerning the format of the document.
- 2.0 – **Members' reports** – Several members raised the point of distributing C-NPU documents to the various societies that collaborated with the C-NPU in preparing C-NPU reports. UF reported that he tried to establish contact with the Vancouver group, 3 months ago, without any answers from the secretariat up to date. RD will try to contact Poul Riis to improve the chances of contact with the Vancouver group. HO pointed that the public for C-NPU papers is in the clinical laboratories, and the way to reach them is through Journal of IFCC (J-IFCC), which is read, in thousands of laboratories. It was suggested that short papers should be prepared and sent to several journals. Among the journals suggested, International Journal of Systematic Microbiology (paper to be prepared by UF and HO) and Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association received the greatest support.
- 3.0 – **Review of projects** – (abbreviations in bold indicate the project leader)
- 3.1 – Project 18/87 Properties and units in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences
VII – Properties and units of Markers in Inborn Errors of Metabolism (GH, DK, **HO**) – The part of this subject pertaining to the clinical biochemistry was just published, in Danish, in the C-NPU web site. The part related to Molecular Biology will wait until project 25/95 is finalised.
- 3.2 – Project 25/95 Properties and units in Medical Molecular Biology (**PSA**, BZ, PAR, ABF, XFA) – Following a suggestion from UF, for an inversion of the agenda, a vigorous discussion of the structure of the project was undertaken. It was agreed that draft 3 of the report will be an introductory paper on this subject. Several additions covering the various fields in which Molecular Biology methods are currently being used will be prepared. GN will collect a comprehensive list covering several areas, while PSA and HO will prepare a new draft emphasising the syntax used in Medical Molecular Biology.
- 3.3 – Project 18/87 Properties and units in the clinical laboratory sciences
VIII – Properties and unit in Clinical Microbiology (**UF**, **HO**, WF, BP) – Pure and Applied Chemistry (PAC) will publish the whole paper; J-IFCC will publish the first 5 pages and the remainder will be published electronically. The whole paper will be placed in the C-NPU web site. It was agreed that part VIII was finalised.
X – Properties and units in General Clinical Chemistry (**HO**, II, IB, DK, RD, XFA, GH, PSA, CM) It is finalised. It was published and added to the C-NPU database. RD, GN, UF and HO made comments on acid base status and headers. A new proposition is to be forwarded by GN, RD and UF to change the syntax of acid base status in the database. The current status of the remaining parts of Project 18/87 are listed in the annex – Review of projects, dated April 22, 2000. It was agreed that Project 18/87 was finalised.

- 3.4 – Project 26/95 – Properties and units in Flow Cytometry, was confirmed as abandoned. Project 27/95 – C-NPU Internet Homepage, will be transferred to the IUPAC web site at earliest convenience. Project 32/97 – Properties and units for Dynamic Function Tests, a description of the basis for constructing the structure of the various Function Tests was presented by AJ following the already present entries in the C-NPU data base. This project is still in stage 0, and AJ and co-authors will prepare a written draft.
- 3.5 – Project 33/97 – Petition to Comité Consultatif des Unités about the unit name katal. – RD report that Resolution 12 of the 21st Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures approved in September 1999 the use of katal for the expression of catalytic activity.
- 3.6 – Project 36/98 – Concepts for requests in Clinical Laboratories. – This topic caused a very interesting discussion on the use of headers. C-NPU database entries can have systematic headers, however, locally people can use headers to suit their needs was the final conclusion on this subject. Discussion of the current draft was deferred.
- 4.0 – **Proposed topics for discussion** – Following a request by AJ it was agreed that C-NPU will not double entries in its data base, and therefore will not have codes related to mass in Drug Monitoring. The items covered in entries 4.1 to 4.3 of the agenda dealt with the general implications of articles like the one that appeared in *Ann. Clin. Biochem.* **37**: 16-19, 2000 and a new series of quality standards (ISO 15189, ISO 15195, etc). It was agreed that C-NPU needs to further publicise its work, most probably through manuscripts sent to the journals where these articles were published.
- 5.0 – **Organisations: contacts and meetings**
- 5.1 LOINC – UF presented a report on his recent meeting with people from LOINC on HL-7.
- 5.2 JCGM –WG 1 (GUM) and JCGM –WG 2 (VIM) – RD reported on the meetings held in March 7-10, 2000. Future tasks for JCGM-WG 1 were discussed for one and a half-day and 10 items were agreed. VIM was discussed for two full days, and RD conclusion is that now WG 2 is on the right track, but there is much to do on principles and detail.
- 6.0 – **New projects** – UF reported that there was no progress in the project proposed during the meeting in Berlin which will cover Properties and Units in Transfusion Medicine and Tissue Typing. WRK reported on contacts with Dr. John Duffus, chairman of IUPAC's ComTox, about the interdivisional project proposed on the use of the NPU concept system for properties in the field of Environmental Chemistry. According to Dr. Duffus the best time to launch this joint project will be the next IUPAC General Assembly in Brisbane in 2001.
- 7.0 – **Recent Publications on Properties and Units.** – The text of the short paper on “Coding scheme for Properties in Laboratory Medicine (Project 18/87) which will appear in J-IFCC was revised and its final form was approved.
- 8.0 – **Budget** – UF informed that the budget for this meeting in Copenhagen is 10 000 Swiss francs provided by IFCC. It was a general consensus that IUPAC will provide the needed funds for our next meeting scheduled to Prague. RD will attend the JCGM meetings in Paris, GUM in September 9-13 and VIM in November 11-14, with support from IFCC.
- 9.0 – **Membership** – There was a general consensus that the open position for a titular member should be filled by a molecular biologist due to the explosive growth of this field and to the need for this kind of expertise in the C-NPU. UF and GN will start the search for colleague with the required profile.
- 10.0 – **Future meeting** – The next meeting of C-NPU will be sponsored by IUPAC and it was proposed that it will be held in Prague in the Czech Republic. The first choice is the 39th week of 2000, from September 29 to October 2. A second possibility is October 13-16.
- 11.0 – **Other business** – No issue was raised under this topic.
- 12.0 – **Closing** – The meeting was closed at 13:00, March 20,