



IUPAC
Chemistry and Human Health Division

IFCC
Scientific Division

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

Draft minutes for the meeting in Copenhagen 26th – 27th April 2012, at the Danish National Board of e-Health, Copenhagen, Denmark

Item
1. The meeting opened April 26th 9:00 a.m. with the following participants present: Rene Dybkaer (RD), Ulla Magdal Petersen (UMP), Helle Møller Johannessen (HMJ), Gunnar Nordin (GN), and Françoise Pontet (FP). Daniel Karlsson (items 1-8, 13-14 and 20) Michael Osborne (Mater Health Services, Brisbane, Australia) visited part of the meeting as observer.
2. In the absence of the chair of the committee FP accepted to chair the meeting.
3. Apologies were presented for Robert Flatman, Gilbert Hill, Urban Forsum, Xavier Fuentes-Arderiu, Georges Ferard, Dongchon Kang, Clem McDonald. In our thoughts we remembered the inspired work by former members Henrik Olesen and Anders Thor, who recently passed away.
4. The draft minutes from the committee meeting 2011-11-08—09 were approved.
5. The secretary position of the committee is an official position only on the IUPAC side (SC-NPU). GN will take the minutes for this meeting, after which GN would like to step down as secretary. UMP volunteered as a new committee secretary, which was unanimously decided.
6. Review of members and corresponding members. The current IFCC members are: Robert Flatman (Chair) AUS 1 st 2012 01 – 2012 Urban. Forsum SE 1 st 2011 01 – 2013 Ulla Magdal. Petersen DK 2 nd 2012 01 - 2014 R. Dybkaer (Consultant) DK A new call for nomination of members has recently been sent out from IFCC The members of the committee for the Silver Book revision are: George Férard (Chair) FR 2 nd 2010 01- 2012 12 Françoise Pontet (IUPAC co-Chair) FR 2 nd 2010 01- 2012 12 René Dybkaer DK 2 nd 2010 01- 2012 12 Xavier Fuentes-Arderiu ES 2 nd 2010 01- 2012 12 Dongchon Kang JP 2 nd 2010 01- 2012 12 Clem McDonald US 2 nd 2010 01- 2012 12 Gilbert Hill (Exp. ? Corresp. Member) CA 2 nd 2010 01- 2012 12 Corresponding Members (as nominated by Full IFCC Members' Societies) are: Gilbert Hill (Canadian Society of Clinical Chemistry (CSCC)) Helle Johannessen (Danish Society of Clinical Biochemistry (DSKB)) Georges Ferard (Société Française de Biologie Clinique (SFBC)) Masayuki Totani (Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC)) Dalius Vitkus (Lithuanian Society of Laboratory Medicine)

Valentina Koloska (Macedonian Society of Medical Biochemists)
 Jens Georg Gleditsch (Norwegian Society of Medical Biochemistry)
 Nada Majkic-Singh (Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (DMBS))
 Ariadna Padró-Miquel (Sociedad Española de Bioquímica Clínica y Patología Molecular (SEQC))
 Arden Forrey (American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC))

Members of current IUPAC projects are:

2001-070-1-700 (Properties and units for urinary calculi)

Chair: Gunnar Nordin

Pedro de Araujo

René Dybkaer

Urban Forsum

Antonin Jabor

Wolf Külpmann

2006-048-2-700 (Recent advances in Nomenclature, Properties and Units: strategy for promoting SC-NPU achievements)

Françoise Pontet (chair)

de Araujo, Pedro

Xavier Fuentes-Arderiu

2006-008-1-700 (Mapping of IFCC-IUPAC laboratory coding system to SNOMED CT (SNOMED CT - Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms))

Ulla Magdal Petersen (chair)

Ivan Bruunshuus

Urban Forsum

Daniel Karlsson

Gunnar Nordin

2010-035-3-700 (Establishing definitions for non-referenced terms in the NPU terminology)

Helle Møller Johannessen (chair)

Ivan Bruunshuus

Robert Flatman

Urban Forsum

Ulla Magdal Petersen

Gunnar Nordin

7. The budget for the meeting was reviewed. The travel cost for GN may be covered by IUPAC project 2010-035-3-700.

8. The date and place of next meeting was discussed. One possibility mentioned was October 4th – 5th in Linköping, Sweden, in conjunction with the Scandinavian Conference on Health Informatics (<http://www.shi2012.org>). The final decision remains to be done after discussion with the likely attendees.

9. Report from members:

- In Denmark the National Board of e-Health has been reorganized under Statens Serum Institute (SSI). No changes are expected regarding the positions for UMP and HMJ.
- HMJ and UMP reported from a meeting (18.04.2012) with users of the NPU coding system in Denmark. The NPU codes are not intended for ordering of examinations, and cannot always convey sufficient information for that purpose. The possibility to use Snomed CT codes for ordering purpose have been considered, but communication standards does not allow use of dual codes. A special ordering system is used in Denmark for microbiology procedures.. However a new model is expected to be developed. The Danish Scientific Societies will be invited to participate.
- HMJ reported from a meeting organised in Oslo, Norway, by the Norwegian Directorate of Health (22.03.2012) on how to use NPU for microbiology. HMJ presented the NPU system together with UF. The possible use of the NPU-system in Norway was discussed.
- UMP, HMJ and Lene Vistesén have been invited by the Nordic Classification Centre

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o for a meeting. The possibility to cooperate within the Nordic countries is looked into. o GN reported that NPU codes are used in the Swedish National Patient Summary (NPÖ) to identify quantities for which results are presented. Among topics under current discussion is how to handle context dependent NPU codes. Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) has promised finance support for the work needed for the administration of NPU-codes for this purpose. o UMP has been invited to a meeting (11.05.2012) with Unilabs, an international company active in the field of clinical laboratory investigations, to discuss the use of NPU codes within their concern. o In JCGM WG2 (VIM) FP has been replaced by XFA as the IFCC representative. In the absence of XFA RD, as IUPAC representative, reported from the December meeting and from discussions initiated by BIPM and director Michael Kühne regarding the view that VIM3 is too difficult to understand and possible measures as a consequence. o IUPAC Div VII – DC meeting, Budapest, June 22-23. FP plan to resume her activities within IUPAC Div VII in July 1st. For this DC meeting, Douglas Templeton will continue his chairmanship. The committee decided to nominate HMJ as representative of C-NPU in IUPAC Div VII.
<p>10. The NPU database and the IFCC website</p> <p>The new website for IFCC, produced by Insoft, will soon contain a search function for the NPU terminology.</p>
<p>11. Agreement between IUPAC, IFCC and Danish Board of e-Health about responsibilities for the NPU-system.</p> <p>Since the meeting in Paris November 2011, two Skype meetings have been organized with representatives for IFCC, IUPAC and Danish board of e-Health in order to discuss the details of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU will serve several purposes. One is to state the Danish Board of e-Health as repository of the NPU terminology. Another to clarify that IFCC and IUPAC will remain the owners and managers of the terminology, with SC-C-NPU as a scientific base. Some form of steering committee is still lacking.</p> <p>A draft MoU was presented by UMP, including some basic definitions of NPU terminology needed to understand the MoU. The national translations of the NPU terminology must be certified to be valid.</p> <p>The finalizing of the MoU will be further discussed by the concerned parties in the coming months.</p> <p>After the MoU has been signed, the following step will be negotiations with IHTSDO to agree on coordination and cooperation between the NPU terminology and SNOMED CT.</p>
<p>12. Promotion Project Report (IUPAC project 2006-048-2-700)</p> <p>The abstracts for the posters on NPU terminology presented at the SFBC congress in Paris Nov 2011 are now published in Ann Biol Clin, vol. 70, n° 1, Jan-Febr 2012.</p> <p>New possible project proposals were discussed: A VIN and Silver book promotion project was discussed already in Berlin, where GN volunteered to write draft proposal for a project plan. Should contain a general description of how to promote NPU and an update of the NPU- leaflet.</p> <p>Other very much needed development projects for the terminology are molecular biology, array tests with multiple results, immunology with CD nomenclature.</p> <p>RF is expected to finalise the Wikipedia entry for C-NPU.</p>
<p>13. Project report: The SNOMED CT Mapping project (2006-008-1-700)</p> <p>The original project was based on an old LOINC/SNOMED CT model, which is no longer valid. Before summer 2012 we must decide if the project shall be extended, redefined or discontinued.</p> <p>DK described the model for “observable entity” of SNOMED CT. The observable entity is a “quantity with a procedure”. In the pilot project which mapped LOINC and NPU codes to SNOMED CT some years ago, more LOINC concepts than NPU were found in SNOMED</p>

<p>CT. Therefore it was easier to map to LOINC compared to NPU.</p> <p>The negotiations with LOINC are still ongoing and a meeting planned in Salt Lake City in a few weeks.</p> <p>The “observable entity” project continues with enhancing the model for observables outside laboratory medicine, and a larger test is planned. The model should be tested, as described in a test plan. Should allow representation of d-k-o-p to the clinical need. Who should participate in the test has not yet been decided. Invited persons, or outsource the work to IFCC/IUPAC or other organisations. Report to be finished end of December 2012. Tools needed to be developed. The “Workbench” developed by IHTSDO. The model expected ‘to cover 80%’. Fully defined concepts and primitively defined concepts.</p> <p>Should the old ‘008’ mapping project be closed? Maybe a new project created? DK is sure that there will be a new 2012-modeling test, e.g. 500 concepts. The ‘008’ project is put on hold for the moment.</p> <p>DK will inform us when a new project can be started. For a larger mapping project software need to be developed. Resources should be asked for from both Swedish and Danish authorities (Socialstyrelsen/National Board of eHealth).</p> <p>The “user’s guide” is published in PAC (ref.) and in Clin Chem Lab Med (Magdal, U., R. Dybkaer, Olesen, H. "Properties and units in the clinical laboratory sciences, Part XXIII. The NPU terminology, principles and implementation - a user's guide (Technical Report 2011) (IFCC-IUPAC)." <u>Clin Chem Lab Med</u> 50(1): 35-50 (2012)</p> <p>For the future we need a more efficient system for the publication of updates of the terminology, e.g by giving SC-C-NPU the authority to update also principles of the terminology with a Steering Committee as the active arm. This might be discussed and clarified in the MoU.</p>
<p>14. Project report: The Definitions project (2006-008-1-700) (HMJ)</p> <p>A working group meeting was organized Wednesday 25th. The working forms hitherto used were discussed, and ways forward were proposed by HMJ.</p>
<p>15. Project Report: The project for Silver Book Revision</p> <p>FP reported that the manuscript is almost ready with the exceptions for the bibliography. Input from VIN is still waited for. When the manuscript is finalized the IUPAC review process will take place for a substantial time.</p> <p>The project budget still allows for another meeting, maybe in the autumn 2012.</p> <p>A manuscript for a promoting short “leaflet” has still to be shortened. The ambition is to create it like the Green Book format. The manuscript for the “leaflet” should be circulated within C-NPU for comments and a decision made before May 31th.</p> <p>To avoid confusion the “leaflet” should be called the “SB flyer”.</p>
<p>16. Revision of the Urinary calculi manuscript. (IUPAC project 2001-070-1-700).</p> <p>GN reported no progress to this time, due to conflict in time with other projects, e.g. VIN.</p>
<p>17. The discussed and proposed Molecular Diagnostics project is still waiting for a chair. The project goals might have to be specified prior to the preparation of the WG. UMP promised to send examples of existing problems after this meeting. A specific information model might be needed. The new IFCC WG chair might be approached.</p>
<p>18. Project report: Vocabulary for nominal properties and nominal examinations — basic and general concepts and associated terms (IUPAC project 2004-023-1-700).</p> <p>A new draft has been produced. The major difference compared to the first version published in CCLM is that definitions of some of the very basic concepts, such as set, system, and component have been omitted. This can be done without any restrictions of the use within the field of laboratory medicine.</p>
<p>19. Future meetings of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The IHTSDO meeting October 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden. This might be a good opportunity to further negotiations between the stakeholders regarding the future realtion between NPU and SNOMED CT.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Scandinavian Conference on Health Informatics (http://www.shi2012.org) October 2nd – 3rd (mentioned above in relation to next C-NPU-meeting).
<p>20. Proposals for future work and other items of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revision of the NPU-structure UMP explained that the NPU terminology structure is becoming outdated. New development in laboratory science cannot always be incorporated. Proper semantic models for coding are not available for concepts that did not exist at the time of the relevant IFCC-IUPAC technical report, e.g. in the field of molecular biology and immunology. As projects for new areas have proved difficult to establish we do need to establish easier ways to update and add modifications to the NPU terminology semantic models. This is a possible role for the "steering committee" suggested in the MoU, if the necessary resources are given. ○ Missing WHO standards. Suppliers often claim traceability to a WHO standard for which we cannot find evidence. Are suppliers' 'kit inserts' sufficient as documentation for an international standard? What other means do we have to identify existing standards. UMP promised to circulate a question to C-NPU when a certain standard is not found. For the future we need an "e-forum" with issue tracker for electronic discussions of these types. ○ RF has suggested the preparation of a top 100 concepts with NPU-codes, or other high volume usage list, as an easy way for new users to understand how NPU can be used and the benefits of the system. A good idea for a "flylet". ○ GN has been introduced to GS1 (http://www.gs1.org/healthcare) as a not for profit organisation with activities in many areas to improve supply chain security, traceability and accurate data synchronisation, e.g. through the use of barcodes. The interests seem to increase for the use within the Health Care systems. A tempting idea is to ask the producers of IVD devices to provide its devices with bar codes expressing the NPU codes for the properties possible to measure with the devices. GN was asked to further investigate further possible collaborations with GS1.
<p>21. Items left for further discussions after the Linköping meeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replacement of term sources for the definition of proteins (excluding enzymes). Swiss Prot (Uni Prot) is now being used for defining new concepts. A systematic replacement of all older references to Swiss Prot has to be done in a standalone project. The project must therefore be postponed until the persons with proper skills are available. ○ A "new promotion project". An EU call for "network of excellence" within FP7 was mentioned in Linköping as a possible source for financing project. The EPSOS project was mentioned, but as they already have decided to go for LOINC this idea was abandoned. ○ Defining super ordinate concepts for VIM and VIN, as an IUPAC project. The discussions postponed. If realized, the results could be an input to VIM4. But the project plan, as a mission profile, has to wait for resources. ○ Principles and calculation of uncertainty of examined nominal property values (collaboration with ISO TC 69). Have to be discussed with ISO TC 69. RD will raise the question with one of the members of TC69. ○ A project for standardization of symbols, or international abbreviations, for the combination of one kind-of-property and one component to be used on labels, tables and instrument displays. After discussion it was concluded that this area is close to labeling of devices, and might be of interest to discuss in relation to GS1 (compare above). No further decisions were made.
<p>22. AOB. A recent e-mail discussion concerned the proper kind-of-quantity for the outcome of a division between mass concentration of albumin in urine and substance concentration of creatinine in urine. After discussion and consultation of ISO 80000 the terms "coefficient", "parameter", and "index" were discarded for various reasons, in favour of "quotient (mass/substance)".</p>
<p>23. The meeting was closed April 27th 16.00.</p>