

## **Item 18.1: Continuation of the Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature**

*Subject to a positive recommendation from the Bureau, Council is requested to continue the Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature [JCBN] with new Terms of Reference.*

IUPAC and the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology [IUBMB] have long had a joint program in biochemically relevant nomenclature, as embodied in JCBN. When IUPAC Commissions were discontinued in 2001, Council agreed to extend the life of JCBN until 2003 in order to negotiate mutually agreeable Terms of Reference and procedures for future operation that would conform to the IUPAC project-based system for scientific work.

Bylaw 4.301 provides specific guidelines for the formation of a new commission, which have been applied to the reestablishment of Commissions I.1 and II.1. One requirement is the appointment of an *ad hoc* committee of three members to review the proposal for the commission and to make a recommendation to the Bureau and Council. A formal proposal from Division VIII, Chemical Nomenclature and Structure Representation, was submitted to the Bureau in 2002.

Biochemically related nomenclature is very much a part of the responsibilities of Division VIII, and a close collaboration with IUBMB is essential to produce recommendations that are widely accepted. A joint body is needed to coordinate this work. Statute 10.5 gives the Council the authority to establish "Joint Commissions between the Union and other international scientific bodies." In this case, the issue is not whether to continue JCBN but the administrative arrangements between the two Unions. Accordingly, the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, appointed the *ad hoc* committee as follows: Edwin D. Becker, Secretary General; Alan McNaught, President, Division VIII; John Jost, Executive Director.

The Secretary General and President of Division VIII have had several exchanges of e-mail and phone conversations with their counterparts in IUBMB. As a result, the Terms of Reference given on the following page have been agreed as meeting the needs of both Unions. In line with IUPAC's desire to emphasize projects, rather than meetings of commissions, the number of Titular Members of JCBN has been reduced from eight to four [two appointed by each Union], with the financial resources thus freed within each Union to be made available for projects.

The *ad hoc* committee believes that these Terms of Reference are quite suitable and recommends to Bureau and Council that JCBN be extended for eight years, after which the details of the agreement with IUBMB should be reviewed by the Executive Committee. JCBN could then be extended by decision of the EC if the operations appear to be satisfactory.

*Edwin D. Becker, Secretary General  
Alan McNaught, President, Division VIII  
John W. Jost, Executive Director*

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### **IUPAC-IUBMB Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature (JCBN)**

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### *Responsibilities*

- 1.0 To maintain and develop naming systems for classes of natural product of interest to biochemists, especially steroids, amino acids and peptides, carbohydrates, lipids and nucleic acids.
- 2.0 To maintain and develop standards for symbolism to be used in databases for biopolymers.
- 3.0 To provide advice for biochemists on chemical names for compounds of biochemical importance.
- 4.0 To ensure that all recommendations are compatible with those issued by other nomenclature bodies of IUBMB and IUPAC.

##### *Procedures*

- 1.0 The Commission considers project proposals for work to be carried out under its own auspices, and forwards supported proposals to the IUPAC Secretariat and to the Chairman of IUBMB's Committee on Publications. Project review by IUPAC follows standard IUPAC procedures, involving assessment by external referees and by the appropriate Division Committee [normally the Division (VIII) of Chemical Nomenclature and Structure Representation]. Copies of all reviews obtained are sent to IUBMB, and agreement on approval and on level and distribution of funding is obtained by correspondence between IUBMB (via the Publications Committee Chairman) and the IUPAC Division VIII President. Approved projects are managed by the Commission.
- 2.0 Before recommending any resulting material for publication as an IUBMB-IUPAC document, the Commission should ensure that the fullest possible consultations have taken place and the widest possible consensus has been reached with the appropriate bodies of each Union: for IUPAC, the Division (VIII) of Chemical Nomenclature and Structure Representation and the Interdivisional Committee on Terminology, Nomenclature and Symbols (ICTNS); for IUBMB, the Nomenclature Committee (NC-IUBMB).
- 3.0 Approval to publish any material as an IUBMB-IUPAC document is to be obtained in the case of IUPAC from the IUPAC Division VIII Officers and ITCNS, and in the case of IUBMB from the Executive Committee of IUBMB.
- 4.0 The Commission normally holds an annual meeting concurrently with that of NC-IUBMB, and with the approval of the President of the IUPAC Division of Chemical Nomenclature and Structure Representation and the Executive Committee of IUBMB.
- 5.0 Associate Members will receive all documents of the Commission and their opinion will be sought by correspondence. An Associate Member may attend any

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meeting of the Commission, but his or her expenses will not be defrayed by the respective Executive Committee unless he or she has been invited as an observer under item 6.0.

- 6.0 The Commission is entitled to invite observers from similar bodies and experts in special fields to attend the meeting. The IUPAC Division President or the IUBMB Executive Committee should be asked in advance to defray any expenses that would arise from such an invitation.

### *Composition and Terms of Office*

- 1.0 The IUBMB-IUPAC Joint Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature is composed of four Titular Members, two appointed by IUPAC (including the Secretary) and two by IUBMB (including the Chairman), and up to eight Associate Members (appointed by JCBN itself).
- 2.0 The Chairman and the Secretary are each appointed for four years by the President of the appropriate Union, subject to whatever ratification is imposed by Union Statutes and Bylaws. JCBN may propose names of persons suitably qualified for appointment. The Chairman is ex officio a member of the IUPAC Division VIII Committee (Chemical Nomenclature and Structure Representation), with attendance at Division Committee meetings funded by IUBMB.
- 3.0 Candidates for Titular Membership may be proposed by the Commission. The Titular Members appointed by IUBMB shall also be Members of the Nomenclature Committee of IUBMB (NC-IUBMB).
- 4.0 The periods of service of the Titular Members and of the Associate Members are in accord with the Statutes and Bylaws of the appointing Union. The sum of the years of service as a Titular Member and as the Chairman or the Secretary must not exceed ten years.