



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 Kemer, Antalya 2008-04-10 – 11

Item	Responsible
1. The meeting was opened April 10th at 9:00 PM in Begonya Meeting Room, Kemer, Antalya, Turkey. Present: Ivan Bruunshuus Petersen (IBP), Xavier Fuentes-Arderiu (XFA), Ulla Magdal Petersen (UMP), Gunnar Nordin (GN), Françoise Pontet (FP). Apologies were presented for Jarkko Ihalainen (JI), Daniel Karlsson (DK), Urban Forsum (UF), Gunther Schadow (GS), René Dybkær (RD) and Henrik Olesen (HO).	FP
2. The agenda was approved after including information of allergen nomenclature under 14.	
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting, Torino 2007-08-05 – 06. 'AK' was added to the abbreviations for 'Anders Kallner' and the minutes were thereafter approved. The approved minutes will be sent to Douglas Templeton, Mukund Chorghade, Mauro Panteghini and Howard Morris. The decision whether the approved minutes will replace the published draft minutes will be taken by IFCC (Paola Bramati) and IUPAC (Fabienne Meyers).	GN
4. <u>Members of C-NPU</u> : DK and XFA will, by 2008, end a 1 st term in office as titular members, and FP as chair. FP and XFA accept a second term. DK plans to continue as member of projects and of the IHSTDO team, and thus a SC-NPU member, but will not enter a 2 nd term as titular member of C-NPU. UM is suggested as titular member for the period 2009 01 – 2011 12. FP will raise the question of C-NPU membership with Executive Committee of IFCC Scientific Division 2008-04-14. <u>Corresponding members of C-NPU</u> : Arden Forrey, USA, is welcome as corresponding member of C-NPU. George Féraud, France, and Helle Møller Johannesson, Denmark, are suggested as new corresponding members. HO has declared he retires and will no longer take active part in the work of C-NPU. Recruiting of new members was discussed. Persons with competence in laboratory medicine (clinical laboratory sciences), health informatics and terminology should be looked for as corresponding members. Members from Germany and Switzerland would make the base for C-NPU broader. GN will update the list of corresponding members, and address the members with a question whether they continuously are interested to be corresponding members.	
5. Budget for the meeting. FP described the budget for the meeting, explaining the limited number of participants.	FP
6. Report from members including report from JCGM-WG1 (GUM) and JCGM-WG2 (VIM). GUM: nothing to report.	All

- VIM: The third edition was completely finalized in December 2007 and thereafter made available for purchasing on the ISO web page.
- The participating organisations and ISO have suggested VIM to be freely available. It was decided by NIST, BIPM and JCGM that one page of the document should be at disposal on February 15th for each participating organisation. However, at this time point, the VIM is still not available as agreed.
7. SC-NPU activity report to IUPAC and report from last week DC meeting. FP
 The IUPAC web-site is under reconstruction and is now managed from Germany.
- The possible use of Wikipedia to spread information about NPU was discussed. The NPU-promotion project (FP) could include a description of NPU on the Wikipedia.
- The IUPAC Subcommittee on Public Relations and Elections, chaired by Tom Perun, ask for new members. C-NPU suggests XFA as new member.
- All IUPAC SC are asked to seek sponsoring for their activities. IUPAC is willing to administer sponsorship income on behalf of the SC. The possibilities for SC-NPU to ask for sponsorship from drug companies, diagnostic companies, and companies with interests in laboratory information systems were mentioned during the discussion.
- Members are encouraged to use the IUPAC logo in all lectures and presentations of the work from C-SC-NPU.
- All IUPAC project proposals will be reviewed every 6th month.
- The total Division VII budget is 60 000 \$ per 2 year, of which 30% are attributed to administration, the rest for projects. Special projects, e.g. the Silver book revision could be sponsored outside the ordinary project budget.
- Division VII will denote distinguished persons as "Honourable members". C-NPU decided to suggest HO as honourable member of Div VII.
8. FP has presented a C-NPU report to IFCC SD Antalya FP
9. GN offered to host next meeting of C-SC-NPU in Uppsala, Sweden, preliminary October 22nd – 26th 2008, together with technical meetings for various projects. GN will address all members of C-SC-NPU by e-mail with a question whether time is suitable. GN
10. Coordination activities between the SNOMED CT consortium IHTSDO and IFCC-IUPAC (C-NPU).
- A telephone conference for organisational issues with the engaged parties will be arranged in the near future.
- Basis for an agreement could be the following statements:
- both LOINC and NPU should be fitted in SNOMED CT at the same time
 - "IFCC and IUPAC have developed a terminology, NPU. The code sources, such as CAS, MeSH, are used in agreement with the responsible bodies. IFCC and IUPAC will continue to manage and develop the terminology.
 - IHSTDO will integrate the NPU terminology with SNOMED CT. - IHSTDO will recompense IUPAC and IFCC for the license to link the NPU codes to SNOMED codes. All integration of alternative laboratory terminologies in SNOMED CT must be agreed upon with C-NPU."
- An agreement will be needed between the code source providers and IFCC and IUPAC.
- The mapping of NPU codes to SNOMED CT proceeds in IUPAC project 2006-008-1-700.
- Still to be decided is exactly how the mapping should be done. One possibility is that only the relation 'is equal to' should be mapped. Other relations 'has', otherwise only primitives. Some alternative ways to map NPU

- concepts to SNOMED CT proposed by Kent Spackman recently were shortly presented, without any decisions.
- It was decided to call the NPU database “NPU terminology” from now on, since this last term is better fitted.
11. Securing and structural updating of information in the NPU coding system and its environment (IUPAC project 2006-012-1-700). UM
- UM informed about the information model for the new national Danish NPU database. Some comments were given. The information model will be included in material for the technical meeting on the IFCC database mentioned below, in order to insure transfer and compatibility between the Danish NPU database and the IFCC database.
12. Database promoting (IUPAC project 2006-048-2-700). FP will present a poster at IFCC World Congress in Fortaleza, Brazil. FP, GN, XFA
- Post meeting note : XFA has kindly accepted to present this poster, which will be prepared by FP in collaboration with all C-SC-NPU members.
- XFA suggested more active contacts between C-SC-NPU and the diagnostic industry. The IFCC, IUPAC, CEN, and ISO standards and recommendations should be stressed on, e.g. ISO 15189, CEN 12435, and CEN 1614. If standards are followed by the diagnostic industry, only small changes are needed to comply with European standards. LOINC codes are delivered with IVD systems, and NPU codes should be delivered as well. Promotion of NPU codes will by necessity also be a promotion of the ‘SI’.
- The SNOMED CT cooperation will improve the NPU system, and add arguments for promotion of the system.
- When the database will be hosted by IFCC in the future, IFCC will also promote the database. A technical meeting will be arranged April 12th in Kemer, Antalya, with the new IFCC web master, and the IFCC Publication Division to discuss the possibilities for transfer of the generic database to IFCC.
- It was decided that contact should be established with highest level of representatives for companies that understand the need of standardization. GN will draft a letter.
- GN suggested as a part of a promoting activity the creation of a promoting demo database of the system.
13. NPU codes in the UMLS. The issue is left for next meeting.
14. Sources of codes for botanical and zoological elements. The issue is left for next meeting.
- IB reported on the ongoing project within CLSI for codes for allergens. A draft document has been circulated within the working group. IB
15. Translation of the NPU database to Arabic. The translation work for the terms of the database has been completed.
16. Applying for funds for the database from the EU-FP7-IMI. The suggestion was made during last committee meeting, but until now no success has been made in the contacts.
17. The “Silver Book Revision”. An organisational meeting will be arranged on 2008-04-13, and a technical meeting 2008-04-15 in Antalya. A budget of 2 x 13 000\$ has been asked for, but the funding is still not clear. Both IUPAC and IFCC are addressed. New applications on a 2 x 9 000\$ basis have been presented for decision within IUPAC and IFCC. FP
- George Férard will co-chair the project together with FP. In addition, RD and XFA participate. Tentative project members from Asia and America are asked for. Suggestions have come regarding Japanese contacts and one from USA.
- XFA stressed that it is important to include all laboratory sciences in the revision.
- A word version of the current Silver book text (former e-version) has been created thanks to efforts from IB and HO.

- A special "Silver Book Organizational Meeting" will be arranged April 13th and a "Silver Book Technical Meeting" April 15th in Kemer, Antalya.
18. The publication of the 'Toxicology paper'. The issue has raised several technical and diplomatic questions. The manuscript was initially published in PAC, after formal review of the ICTNS. A partly corrected mirror version was thereafter submitted for mirror publication in eJFCC. Even this version contains errors and inconsistencies. FP, GN
- The situation was discussed. The mirror publication of non identical papers must be apologized. The possibility to publish a third, corrected paper or an errata list was discussed and discarded. C-NPU agreed that the most proper way is to publish a short paper describing the 'process of changes' of NPU codes, as a technical report for PAC and CCLM, with permission to publish in eJIFCC. It should cover our procedure when inconsistencies or errors are discovered in published NPU entries, or when changes are needed because of the introduction of new concepts and recommendations. Which changes are allowed to be done? Correction of spelling errors and substitute of bad definitions of concepts must be allowed. Under some circumstances a broadening of the definition of existing concepts might be allowed, while a more narrow definition should never be allowed. All changes of codes in the database must easily be traceable and easily identified by users of the codes.
- GN promised to draft an introduction. A possible writing group was mentioned (IB, UM, Barbro Klinteberg, Sweden, and Helle Møller Johannessen, Denmark).
19. On the expression of an arbitrary unit or a 'Procedure defined unit'. No consensus was reached during the meeting. Some examples of arbitrary units are substance concentration of dust antibodies', the Roche units for 'fibrinogen equivalent units' for D-dimer, and the 'Sodium equivalent mmol/L' used to express conductivity measured in Sweat test.
- The main argument against the use of 'arbitrary unit/L' is that it is not a defined unit, as it has no defined magnitude, and should not be treated as one in a NPU concept.
- The decision from Torino: *"to replace the term 'arbitrary unit/l' in the database with the term 'procedure defined unit' and that all current entries with prefix 10³ arbitrary unit/l will be deleted"*, leaving the full responsibility for unit definition to the laboratories, was discussed, but no agreement as to either the wording of this term or the actual manner of use was reached. For this reason no further decisions were made.
20. C-NPU has been addressed with a question regarding use of units for therapeutic drug monitoring. A survey within the C-SC-NPU has gathered some data reflecting the current situation and has been sent to the requester. Obviously, this is a field with a need for standardization. In some cases the description of properties needs careful specification of procedures in order to cover both parent drug and its metabolites.
21. Nomenclature for monoclonal proteins. Various views have been expressed in a recent e-mail conversation of the subject, stimulated by a current clinical project for improved harmonization of measurement and expression of the magnitude of monoclonal proteins in the Scandinavian countries. GN, FP, UM
22. Revision of the Urinary calculi manuscript. Properties and units for urinary calculi (IUPAC project 2001-070-1-700). GN
- FP recalls that project members are UF, Pedro Soares de Araujo, Brazil, Wolf Külpmann, GN and RD. If useful, FP might contact Michel Daudon, who is a specialist of this field in Paris.
23. Properties and units for function examinations (IUPAC project 2001-067-1-700). GN
- It is recommended to refer to all the basic work in general clinical chemistry. Clinical Physiology. GN promised to draft a manuscript.
24. New project proposals within IUPAC Div VII for comments. "Update of Glossary of Terms used in Medicinal Chemistry" IUPAC project 2008-010-1

- and "Analogue-based Drug discovery" IUPAC project 2008-013-1.
Both have been accepted by division VII.
25. New external project proposals. The IUPAC interdivisional nomenclature project is presently abandoned. FP
26. New C-SC-NPU project proposals. FP, GS
- Kinds of Property for Histological Examinations were discussed as a possible coming project proposal. It might be suitable to make an inventory survey first, in order to identify interested parties and describe the problem. It must also be investigated whether IHSTDO will work out observables for histological observations within the SNOMED CT. In any way, a possible project will be closer to IFCC than to IUPAC.
 - Quality Control of the NPU terminology (for sources and updating sources of information).
27. Internationally agreed terminology for examinations in scientific communication, or "Nominal properties". (IUPAC project 2004-023-1-700). A technical meeting will be arranged April 12th in Kemer, Antalya. GS has prepared a very useful comparison with the VIM for "non-nominal" properties. FP
28. A proper description and code for the property named 'T3 uptake test' (a question raised at the Torino meeting). Nothing to report. IB
29. Entries in the database for drugs of abuse. Currently the database holds double entries, distinguished by different procedures, either an "International Olympic Committee ('IOC') procedure" or another "procedure". The double codes depart from the policy that information about the quality of measurement should not be retained within a code. It is also confusing for laboratories that should select one of the two codes. IB
- The IOC has also been addressed with a question and accepted that the 'IOC codes' could be inactivated as they currently are not in use.
It was therefore decided that the 'IOC codes' should be inactivated.
- .30. The publication of René Dybkær's thesis. Nothing to report. FP
31. A C-SC-NPU forum. A forum, e.g. in the form of a dedicated web page, is of need to promote activities. Could also contain a closed forum for the internal discussions within C-SC-NPU. FP
32. Contacts with IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education. The need for contact with the Education committee for promotion of NPU was discussed in the Torino meeting. Nothing to report. GN
33. Miscellany. The project proposal from JI regarding CD nomenclature. XFA has presented a first draft. XFA will circulate a second draft for comments and review. XFA
34. The C-NPU meeting was closed on April 11th 6:00 PM. FP

These minutes are to be confirmed by non-attendants

[Gunnar Nordin 2008-06-15]