

**Minutes of the**

**7<sup>th</sup> STRENDA Meeting**

**September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Hotel Jagdschloss Niederwald  
Rüdesheim/Rhein, Germany

by Carsten Kettner

**Agenda**

(as approved by the participants)

STRENDA Meeting 2012

Planned and ongoing STRENDA activities

STRENDA eForm

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## Participants

- ◆ Karen N. Allen, Boston University, Dept. of Chemistry, Boston, MA, U.S.A.
- ◆ Richard N. Armstrong, Vanderbilt University, Dept. of Biochemistry, Nashville, TN, U.S.A., (RA);
- ◆ Antonio Baici, University of Zurich, Dept. of Biochemistry, Zurich, Switzerland
- ◆ Amos Bairoch, Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, CALIPHO Group, Geneva, Switzerland, (AB);
- ◆ Athel Cornish-Bowden, CNRS-BIP, Marseille, France, (ACB);
- ◆ Peter Halling, University of Strathclyde, Dept. of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Glasgow, United Kingdom, (PH);
- ◆ Carsten Kettner, Beilstein-Institut, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (co-ordination), (CK);
- ◆ Thomas S. Leyh, The Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dept. of Biochemistry, Bronx, NY, U.S.A., (TL);
- ◆ Friedrich Lottspeich, Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Protein Analysis, Martinsried, Germany, (FL);
- ◆ Frank Raushel, Texas A & M University, Department of Chemistry, College Station, TX, U.S.A., (FR);
- ◆ Dietmar Schomburg, Technical University of Braunschweig, Dept. of Bioinformatics and Systems Biology, Braunschweig, Germany, (DS);
- ◆ Christoph Steinbeck, EMBL Outstation – European Bioinformatics Institute, Cambridge, UK, (CS);
- ◆ Ulrike Wittig, H-ITS gGmbH, Scientific Databases and Visualization, Heidelberg, Germany, (UW);

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Unfortunately absent with valid excuse:

- ◆ Keith Tipton, Trinity College, Dept. of Biochemistry, Dublin, Ireland, (KT)

## Introduction

This seventh STRENDA meeting took place during the 5<sup>th</sup> ESCEC Symposium held from September 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Rüdeshheim, Germany. This meeting was announced in the morning session of the 13<sup>th</sup> and everybody interested was invited to take part. This invitation was accepted by a few participants at the conference. According to the nature of an „interim“ meeting the duration was limited to about one hour which is also reflected by the agenda above.

## STRENDA Meeting 2012

CK announced that he will plan another “long” STRENDA Meeting in fall 2012. Long means in this context that the members of the STRENDA Commission will meet for two days to be able to discuss in depth a number of topics that still need to be agreed. CK suggested to meet elsewhere rather than in Germany if someone of the members would be willing to organize the meeting on site. PH expressed his interest to organize the next meeting at Ross Priory at the banks of Loch Lomond not too far from Glasgow, Scotland.

The participants agreed principally with the the dates and location proposed.

## STRENDA Guidelines recommended by further Journals

The list of journals that adopted or recommends author to refer to the STRENDA Guidelines increased by 13 journals:

- *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (NAS)
- *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (ACS)
- *Molecular and Cellular Biology* (American Society for Microbiology, ASM)
- *mBio* (ASM)
- *The Journal of Bacteriology* (ASM)
- *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* (ASM)
- *Clinical and Vaccine Immunology* (ASM)
- *Free Radical Research* (Informa Healthcare)
- *Infection and Immunity* (ASM)
- *Trends in Biotechnology* (Elsevier)

- *ACS Catalysis* (ACS)
- *The Journal of Virology* (ASM)
- *Biochemical Journal* (Portland Press Ltd.)

In total 28 biochemistry journal have already considered the STRENDA Guidelines.

## Planned Activities

### ISO Workshop

The International Standardization Organization has invited CK to present the STRENDA initiative on the forthcoming Workshop („International Standards for Biotechnology“ (<http://www.iso.org/sites/biotechnology2011/index.html>) to be held 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2011. The aim of this workshop is to bring together the stakeholders from both academic and industrial biochemistry and biotechnology to sound possibilities for a co-operation with regards to setting standards for biotechnology.

There was common consensus among the participants that even though the actual ideas of ISO did not become clear to observe these activities and take part in further actions as long as the process of discussion and agreement moves in an efficient direction.

### Specific Activity at FEBS Congress 2012

Thanks to ACB and Mariluz Cardenas the initial idea of CK to present the STRENDA initiative at a large biochemistry conference appears to become reality. Although all slots for “real” workshops were already allocated, the scientific organizers provided the opportunity to organize a so-called Specific Activity which can be implemented as a workshop. CK was pleased to accept this offer since specific activities are part of the official scientific program. The inclusion in the program is inherently important to be able to promote this activity among the participants.

The basic idea is to organize a panel discussion followed by a small number of presentations. H. Westerhoff (Amsterdam and Manchester) already accepted the invitation to chair this workshop. Topics of this Activity will be the improvement of functional enzymology data in the literature and the presentation of the STRENDA eForm.

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## The STRENDA eForm

The STRENDA eForm as developed by TL and colleague(s) was discussed. The group appreciated the efforts spent by TL and his colleague and agreed with the selection of subset from the STRENDA guidelines as well as in principle with the arrangement of fields. However, two major requirements were set:

- **rapid and easy entry of data**, i.e. less than five minutes per data set. The data set consists of the description of the protein along with the results at one given experimental conditions set.
- entry of experimental data sets which represent e.g. pH dependent kinetic profiles. In general, the ability to enter **data from tables** without the repetitive entry of already entered data is essential.

CK announced that he will ask the board of directors for of the Beilstein-Institut for providing him the internal IT resources for the development of a prototype and suggested following activities for the next six months:

- generation of a specification by the STRENDA Commission by the end of 2011. This specification will describe the requirements that must be fulfilled by the software prototype;
- generation of a technical specification by the IT department and CK;
- implementation and first presentation in early spring 2012;
- finalization of the prototype by latest mid of April.

The participants agreed to this plan and suggested to have weekly telecons to discuss the progress of the specification. DS, TL, PH and CK will specify the requirements of the eForm.

Action: CK will realize the suggestions made above. Additionally, he will arrange a working platform on Google docs on which the specification can be discussed in detail. The final document is intended to be passed to the IT department of the foundation.

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It is planned to present the eForm application on a number of conferences, declared as a prototype that invites comments from the community (“road show”). The aim of this road show is to get principal approval from the community along with suggestions for improvements and/or changes. Additionally, the journals are intended to be made aware of this tool and to be invited to test it. The further engagement of the Beilstein-Institut depends of the responses from the community; if the community refuses the idea of the STRENDA eForm as a quality assessment tool which in parallel acquires data for a enzyme kinetics database the foundation will abandon further activities. Provided that the community appreciates - even in principle – this development, the foundation will continue supporting the eForm in tight co-operation and consultation with the community.

The participants of the meeting agreed with this careful course of action of the foundation.