



Minutes of the

## **STRENDa Meeting 2009**

September 14<sup>th</sup>, Rüdesheim/Rhein, Germany

by Carsten Kettner

### **Agenda**

(as approved by the participants)

- Appointments of new members of the STRENDa Commission
- Information about the activities of MIBBI
- Information about the activities of ESAB regarding STRENDa
- Letter to the Editors
- Generic text for journals and other users
- STRENDa Manuscript
- Book project in co-operation with Wiley
- Announcement of the next STRENDa Meeting

## Participants

(in alphabetical order)

- ◆ Richard N. Armstrong, Vanderbilt University, Dept. of Biochemistry, Nashville, TN, U.S.A., (RA);
- ◆ Amos Bairoch, Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, (AB);
- ◆ Richard Cammack, Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Division, King's College London, United Kingdom, (RC);
- ◆ Gregor Cicchetti, Wiley-VCH, 69469 Weinheim, Germany, (GC);
- ◆ Athel Cornish-Bowden, CNRS-BIP, 13402 Marseille, France, (ACB);
- ◆ María Luz Cárdenas, CNRS-BIP, 13402 Marseille, France, (MLC);
- ◆ Peter Halling, University of Strathclyde, Dept. of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Glasgow G1 1XL, Scotland, (PH);
- ◆ Johann M. Rohwer, University of Stellenbosch, Dept. of Biochemistry, 7602 Stellenbosch, South Africa, (JR);
- ◆ Carsten Kettner, Beilstein-Institut, 60487 Frankfurt/Main, Germany (co-ordination), (CK);
- ◆ Thomas S. Leyh, Yeshiva University, The Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dept. of Biochemistry, Bronx, NY, U.S.A., (TL);
- ◆ Christoph Steinbeck, EMBL Outstation – European Bioinformatics Institute, Hinxton CB10 1SD, United Kingdom, (CB);
- ◆ Keith F. Tipton, Trinity College Dublin, Dept. of Biochemistry, Dublin 2, Ireland, (KT)

Absent: Dietmar Schomburg, Technical University Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany, (DS).

## Introduction

This fifth STRENDA meeting took place during the 4<sup>th</sup> ESCEC Symposium held from September 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Rüdesheim, Germany. This meeting was announced in the morning session of the 14<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.

### 1. Appointments of new members

The STRENDA Commission agreed to extend the Commission by the appointment of Prof. Richard Armstrong and Dr. Amos Bairoch (affiliations see list of participants) by Carsten Kettner. Both, Prof. Armstrong and Dr. Bairoch accepted the invitation.

### 2. Information about the activities of MIBBI

CK presented some details of the activities of the MIBBI project. MIBBI stands for „Minimal Information for Biological and Biomedical Investigation“. This project is run and organized as an online portal to which a variety of community representatives and invited domain experts contribute. The aims of this project are

- To increase the visibility of projects that provides guidance for the reporting of aspects of biological and biomedical science.
- To encourage collaborative development between such projects, where appropriate, to avoid duplication of effort or competition and
- To promote the adoption of consensus guidance on reporting by journals and funding bodies.

STRENDA and its guidelines were registered with MIBBI in October 2008. A *Nature Biotech.* article presents the scopes and aims of the MIBBI project.

Provided that the Beilstein-Institut agrees to a workshop, CK will organize along with the UK-located MIBBI founders the 2<sup>nd</sup> MIBBI workshop to discuss further developments of the MIBBI repository that will provide tools for data analysis and exchange. The workshop is intended to be kept small; every checklist group is invited to delegate at least one representative.

During the proposed meeting, suggestions for the integration of data capturing tools according the guidelines will be gathered. It is intended to discuss how to integrate the guidelines into OBO ontologies. Another important part of the agenda is - very familiar to the STRENDA group – the ways of how to convince the journals to adopt the MIBBI guidelines and to use the MIBBI services. The last point will be the identification of those biological disciplines for which guidelines are not available yet.

### **3. Information about the activities of ESAB regarding STRENDA**

PH informed the participants that ESAB adopted the STRENDA guidelines as a basis for ESAB specific extensions provided the STRENDA group agrees to these modifications. The commission had no objections but requested for being informed about the modifications as these changes could be useful for implementation within the STRENDA guidelines.

### **4. Letter to Editors**

RA informed the commission that he has sent a letter to the editors of the following 29 biochemical journals:

*Arch. Biochem. Biophys.*  
*J. Biol. Chem.*  
*Biochem. Biophys. Acta*  
*FEBS Journal*  
*Biochem. J.*  
*Methods Enzymol.*  
*Journal of Biochemistry*  
*Journal of Bacteriology*  
*FEBS Letters*  
*Biochemical & Biophysical Research Communications*  
*Phytochemistry*  
*Plant Physiology*  
*Agricultural and Biological Chemistry*  
*Journal of Molecular Biology*  
*Applied & Environmental Microbiology*  
*Bioscience, Biotechnology & Biochemistry*  
*Protein Science*  
*Protein Expression & Purification*  
*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*  
*Archives of Microbiology*  
*Comparative Biochemistry & Physiology – Part B: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology*  
*FEMS Microbiology Letters*  
*Antimicrobial Agents & Chemotherapy*  
*Applied Microbiology & Biotechnology*  
*Enzyme & Microbial Technology*  
*Analytical Biochemistry*  
*Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*  
*ACS Chem. Biol.*

By the time of this meeting, RA had received 8 positive responses, further responses are anticipated in due course.

## 5. Generic text for journals and other users

CK told the Commission that he is in contact with Adriaan Klinkenberg (AK) who is publisher of the Biochemistry program at Elsevier. The *BBA* „family“, *BBRC* and *Archives in Biochemistry and Biophysics* are journals in his portfolio.

AK is very interested to suggest to the editors of chief of these journals the adoption of the STRENDA guidelines in their instructions for authors. However, since the texts used by *Biochemistry* and *JBC* are quite different, and since AK was missing a common recommended text on the STRENDA website to insert in the instructions for authors CK suggested the creation of a general text for journals.

The commission agreed, RA took over writing this text, and this document can be now found at <http://www.strenda.org/pdfs/STRENDA%20Generic%20Introduction.pdf>. This file can be used by anybody who is interested to refer to the STRENDA Guidelines under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

## 6. STRENDA Manuscript

TL informed the Commission about the progress of the manuscript which is intended to be the White Paper of STRENDA. The general topic will be the description of the mission and aims of the Commission. After the previous version written by DS and KT became a long story with *Nat. Biotech*, TL decided to rewrite the entire manuscript focusing on fewer aspects than those described in the previous version. In agreement with the Commission the paper is planned to be submitted to *PLoS Biology*.

## 7. Book project in co-operation with Wiley

GC from VCH-Wiley accepted the invitation of CK to take part in this STRENDA meeting to present the idea of a book on biological standards that has been developed together with CK at the FEBS Congress in Prague, July 2009. GC presented the book idea from the view of a publisher and explained which aspects (aims of the book, audience etc.) should be taken in consideration by the authors/editors.

It is planned to develop a outline for the book and ACB agreed to take over the role of the co-ordinating editor. He will – in co-operation with CK – complete the Wiley proposal and draw up the first concept for the book.