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WORLD FEDERATION FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS

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An Interdisciplinary Commission of the International Union of Biological Sciences
and the International Union of Microbiological Societies.

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WFCC Reports

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board, August 28, 1996, Veldhoven, Netherlands

Minute 1. Call to order. A meeting of the newly elected Executive Board (EB) of the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC) was called to order at 6.00 pm, on 28 August 1996 during the Eighth International Congress of Culture Collections (ICCC-VIII) (Theme: Culture Collection to Improve the Quality of Life) at the Koningshof Congress Centre, Veldhoven, The Netherlands.

Minute 2. Record of attendance. Present were the President Dr. V. Canhos (Brazil), the Vice-President Dr. D. Fritze (Germany) and the following elected board members: Dr. A. Doyle (UK), Dr. M. Takeuchi (Japan), Dr. K. Kersters (Belgium), Dr. D.-K. Song (China) and the ex-officio members Dr. L. Sly (Australia), past President and Dr. H. Sugawara (Japan), WDCM director. Dr. K. Kurtzman (USA) and Mrs. L. Blaine (USA) were unable to attend the meeting.

At the meeting the newly elected Executive Board requested Dr. D. van der Mei (The Netherlands) to continue to act as WFCC Treasurer and Dr. A. Doyle to act as WFCC Secretary. In order to ensure regional representativity within the Federation Dr. I. V. Ivshina (Russia), Dr. S. Saono (Indonesia) and Dr. J. L. Staphorst (Republic of South Africa) were indicated to the new WFCC Executive Board.

Minute 3. Committees. The composition of the newly agreed upon committees is as follows:

- World Data Centre on Microorganisms Committee: Dr. L. Sly (chair)
  Dr. Y. Benno, Dr. L. Blaine, Dr. V. Canhos, Dr. L. Kalakoutskii, Dr. J. Ma, Dr. D. Smith, Dr. J. L. Staphorst, Dr. G. Stegehuis and Dr. J. Tiedje, plus contact members at International Scientific Organizations.

- Postal, Quarantine and Safety Regulations Committee: Dr. D. Smith (chair)
  Dr. C. Bizet, Dr. I. Gandjar, Dr. N. H. Jones, Dr. C. Knesel, Dr. H. Kaku, Dr. P. Packer, Dr. J. Rodrigues Neto, Dr. C. Rohde, Dr. L. Sigler and Dr. J. M. Young.

- Endangered Collections Committee: Dr. M. L. Suihko (chair)
  Dr. Y. Benno, Dr. P. Green, Dr. N. H. Jones, Dr. E. Kuptsova, Dr. P. Pienta, Dr. J. Stalpers and Dr. B. Tindall.

- Patents Committee: Dr. D. Fritze (chair)
  Curators of IDAs recognized under the Budapest Treaty plus regional correspondents.

Minute 4. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Minute 5. Meeting reconvened on 29 August 1996 at 8:00 am.

Minute 6. Committees

- Biodiversity Committee: Ms. B. Kirsop (chair)
  Dr. C. Babcock, Dr. P. Desmeth, Dr. J. H. Cevera, Dr. D. K. Song, Dr. J. L. Staphorst and Dr. I. Watanabe.

- Publications and Publicity Committee: Dr. R. Samson (chair)
  Dr. D. Claus (Newsletter editor) and Dr. K. A. Malik (Technical Information Sheets editor)

- Education and Capacity Building Committee: Dr. N. Gunde-Cimerman (chair)
  Dr. V. Arunpairojana, Dr. C. E. Babcock, Dr. R. Camacho, Dr. R. A. Humber, Dr. G. P. Manfio, Dr. I. S. Martins, Dr. S. M. Mpepereki, Dr. E. Pretorius, Dr. M. Samsonova, Dr. K. I. Suzuki and Dr. A. Ventosa.

Minute 7. Resolutions. The following resolutions were prepared and adopted:

On the occasion of the International Congress for Culture Collections (ICCC 8), August 24-29 1996, Veldhoven, The Netherlands, on the role of microbial resource centres for improving the quality of life, attended by 280 scientists from 43 countries, delegates agreed the following:

[1]
  Microorganisms conserved in the world's culture collections constitute the natural resources for research and social and economic development in the following key areas:

Human and animal health
Agriculture and food
Energy and chemistry
Environment.

Microorganisms are the invisible guardians of the earth on which the maintenance of the biosphere ultimately depends. It follows that microbial resource centres are necessary partners in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Therefore the WFCC urges a long-term commitment by governments to support the conservation of all microbial biodiversity for scientific progress and the future of mankind, and the inclusion of microbiological expertise in the development of environmental policies. Delegates of ICCC 8 resolve that these matters be urgently addressed in order that the major objectives of the CBD can be implemented.

[2]

Taxonomy is the foundation on which the bricks of biological science are laid. The present dearth of taxonomic expertise is greatly hindering the understanding and monitoring of environmental change, the health care and feeding of the world's populations, and the discovery of untapped resources for exploitation. Accordingly, delegates urge the reversal of the current trend and the reinstatement of microbial taxonomy as a major discipline, widely taught and practised throughout the world.

[3]

While recognising the fundamental importance of health and safety issues with regard to the transboundary movement of microorganisms, the delegates urge that consideration be paid by regulatory authorities to the essential need for the exchange of microorganisms for scientific and development purposes. To facilitate this process the harmonisation of transport regulations, hazard classification and nomenclature, is of paramount importance.

Minute 8. General Business.

Skerman Prize. The board agreed that the rules for the selection of candidates to the Skerman prize should be revised, especially the applicants age limit. Dr. L. Sly was asked to review the rules and Dr. K. Kersters was requested to chair the Skerman Prize Nominations Committee.

Revision of Guidelines/Standards. The board discussed the need to revise the "Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Collections of Cultures of Microorganisms" and the definition of voluntary standards for quality in Culture Collections. It was decided that this should be done on an ad-hoc basis and that Dr. D. Hawksworth and Dr. R. Cypess should be requested to coordinate the process.

Statutes Revision. Dr. L. Sly and Dr. D. Fritze were asked to make the revision of the WFCC statutes as recommended by the previous Executive Board. Revision of by-law items, such as fees, should be acted by the Board and should be approved at a later date by the General Assembly. The proposed revision for the statutes should be published in the WFCC Newsletter.

WFCC Business Plan. The board discussed the need for a budget plan for the term 1996-2000. Dr. D. van der Mei was requested to prepare a plan of expenditures related to the WFCC core activities, such as publications, organization of meetings and Secretariat expenses.

Technical Information Sheets (TIS). Dr. Fritze stated that the technical information sheets published by WFCC are a valuable contribution to third world laboratories and should be continued and updated. About 500 have been requested in the last few years.

Dr. Canhos suggested that they are made available via the WDCM server. This should be coordinated by the Publications and Publicity Committee and Dr. Fritze could provide guidance to Dr. Malik of DSMZ, the TIS editor.

Minute 9. Future Meetings.

ICCC-9 will be held in Brisbane, Australia, 23-28 July 2000. Dr. L. Sly will be the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee. A programme committee will be established and will include the organizers of ICCC-8, Dr. R. Samson and Dr. D. van der Mei. The venue for the next WFCC-EB meeting will be the 8th International Symposium on Microbial Ecology, 9-14 August 1998, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Minute 10. Close of Meeting. The meeting was closed at 9:30 am.

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WFCC EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING COMMITTEE (ECB)

GOALS

1. Assessment of the needs for the establishment of new culture collections and of the training and capacity building needs of microbial culture collections on a global and regional basis.

2. Development and continued promotion of capacity building and education programmes for CCs on a global and regional basis, with the main emphasis being on taxonomy and electronic communication systems (at least e-mail, information about holdings on www) .

3. Support of WDCM activities through collection and update of information on a regional basis.

GENERAL OUTLINE

Many of the activities of the ECB Committee will be carried out regionally. The initial effort of the members

will be towards building an assessment on the needs for establishment of CCs, status of capacity building, education and training needs of the existing CCs in their area of representation. The proposal for regional development should be analysed in regional workshops, organised by ECB representatives of the region. Funds for doing the workshops should be sought on a regional basis and complemented with funds from international agencies.

ACTION PLAN

Activity 1. Assessment of CCs status and needs on a global and regional basis. An inventory of existing CCs in different regions of the world will be conducted, mainly using data obtained from WDCM, supplemented with regional contacts. The assessment should be limited mostly to institutionalised government and research culture collections, less to CCs maintained by individual scientist or company owned culture collections, because of difficulties in obtaining information on their holdings and availability of the strains.

Collections will be assessed through a questionnaire to be developed in collaboration with WDCM. This should lead to an assessment of particular regional needs, mainly in training (taxonomy and identification, preservation methods, management, electronic communication systems) and short to medium term plans for the establishment and development of the CCs in the regions.

Activity 2- Support to WDCM activities

The ECB Committee will support WDCM activities in the aspects of gathering information on CCs not listed in the WDCM directory and helping to update the records of the listed CCs.

Activity 3 - Proposal for Education and Capacity Building activities

Based on the regional assessment, a proposal from ECB for different regions will be developed. The WFCC will endorse and support the regional applications for funds to organise workshops, curator training programmes and related activities (establishment of electronic connections, education about intellectual property rights and biodiversity convention implications) within the framework of the WFCC action plan. The proposal will be submitted to international funding agencies, as well as local and regional bodies, for obtaining necessary funding.

Activity 4. Strengthening existing activities of CCs

The ECB will support efforts in order to promote the exchange of information, technical and scientific cooperation for initial and continuing support to newly established and already existing culture collections.

MEMBERSHIP

A core committee was agreed during ICCC8 in Veldhoven. The Policy for membership was to include 2 representatives from 6 geographical regions and to establish working links with the WFCC Biodiversity Committee (chair B. Kirsop). The present committee members are:

Nina Gunde-Cimerman
(National Institute of Chemistry, Dept. for Biotechnology and Industrial Mycology, Ljubljana, Slovenia; email: nina.gunde.cimerman@ki.si), Chair

Vullapa Arunpairojana
(Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, Dept. of Biotechnology, Bangkok, Thailand; email: satrsa@ku.ac.th)

Carolyn E. Babcock
(Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre, Canadian Collection of Fungal Cultures, Ottawa, Canada; email: babcock@em.agr.ca)

Raul Camacho
(Riobamba, Ecuador; Email: ccamacho@tu.pro.ec)

Richard A. Humber
(US Plant, Soil & Nutrition Lab., USDA, Ithaca, USA; email: rah@cornell.edu)

Gilson P. Manfio
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S.M. Mpepereki
(University of Zimbabwe, Dept. of Agriculture-Soil Microbiology, Harare, Zimbabwe; email: smpepe@zimbix.uz.zw)

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Maria Samsonova

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Antonio Ventosa
(University of Sevilla, Dept. of Microbiology and Parasitology, Sevilla, Spain; email: ventosa@cica.es)

The immediate action that will be taken by ECB is the distribution of a questionnaire, developed together with the Biodiversity Committee and WDCM, for the assessment of CC needs in training and education. The questionnaire will be added to the WFCC Newsletter, as well as to the ECCO Newsletter. Readers are kindly asked to help in circulating it to the CC people in their regions, hoping that with the assessment of the needs ECB will be more able to make the right steps and help to overcome deficiencies.

Nina Gunde - Cimerman

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WFCC ENDANGERED COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

GOALS

1. To act as first port of call for any collection (industrial/private/academic) which considers itself to be endangered.

2. To assess the requirements of the Endangered Collections and provide any supportive or lobbying assistance it can.

3. In the event of a culture collection being in imminent danger of being lost, to visit or by means of correspondence assess its sector of expertise and interest (i.e. industrial/medical/fungal/algal etc) and

solicit possible alternative sites.

Issues such as number of strains, key strain selection, level of maintenance and cost for transfer and upkeep would also have to be investigated at this stage.

4.

To seek a source funding for this exercise; or if a "pot" already exists to allocate appropriate funds for the task to be carried out.

This is the crucial clause which needs the committees efforts because without it, we cant see very many culture collections having the capacity and finances to in effect function as an unrewarded dustbin; in which case only collections with market potential will be "saved".

MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Maija-Liisa Suihko, VTT, Finland (chair)
Dr. Yoshimi Benno, JCM, Japan
Dr. Peter Green, NCIMB, United Kingdom
Dr.Nigel Hywel-Jones, Thailand
Dr. Elena Kuptsova, IPPAS, Russia
Dr. Phyllis Pienta, ATCC, USA
Dr. Joost Stalpers, CBS, The Netherlands
Dr. Brian Tindall, DSMZ, Germany

The members representing Africa and Latin America are still missing.
Dr. Maija-Liisa Suihko

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NEW WFCC MEMBERS, NEW ADDRESSES AND OTHER CHANGES

Relocation of the National Collection of Food Bacteria (NCFB)

The National Collection of Food Bacteria (NCFB), formerly housed at the Institute of Food Research in Reading (UK), has now moved to Aberdeen where it has merged with the National Collections of Industrial

and Marine Bacteria (NCIMB). Following a communication from the British Government to WIPO the status of International Depositary Authority of NCFB has also been terminated as from 5 June 1997.

The address of NCIMB is: NCIMB Limited, 23 St Machar Drive, Aberdeen AB2 1RY, Scotland, UK, Tel: +44 1224 273332, Fax: +44 1224 487658, E-mail: ncimb@abdn.ac.uk

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ROWLAND HILL

1935 -1996

The community of microbial systematics and microbial resource centres is greatly saddened and shocked by the untimely death of Rowland Hill, a figure much respected by many scientists in many parts of the world.

His first class honours degree in microbiology from the University of Wales in 1957, was followed by an MSc in 1964 on the theory and application to staphylococci of Adansonian Classification. A DSc followed in 1977. He had been a member and Fellow of the Institute of Biology since 1978.

Both his research career and his future life were largely moulded by his first two appointments. His first research fellowship was at the Public Health Laboratory in Cardiff and this was followed by a second research fellowship at Lepetit S.p.A and the Italian Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche at the University of Milan, Italy.

His MSc research was among the first of the numerical taxonomy studies and was a landmark in the birth of computer based analysis in microbiology, leading to what became a revolutionary concept in the approach to microbial taxonomy. His research in Italy and subsequently at the National Collection of Type Cultures (NCTC), Colindale, London, was at the forefront of DNA studies, in particular G + C content estimations and DNA hybridization.

His first research appointment brought him to the world of systematics and to the public health service in which he was eventually to make his career. His second appointment in Italy led to his marriage to Milvia, his life-long partner and subsequent friend to many culture collection colleagues.

As the Curator of the NCTC since 1979 until his retirement in 1994, Rowland was instrumental in the furthering of very many culture collection initiatives. These included the establishment of the UK Federation for Culture Collections, the European Culture Collections' Organisation and World Federation for Culture Collections activities. He was co-editor of the bacteriology issue in the series of publications 'Living Resources for Biotechnology' and had numerous scientific publications to his name.

His thoroughness, integrity and quiet wisdom were many times called upon to help resolve uncertainties in the politics of culture collections, and he was the person of choice to draw up meeting's resolutions, scientific codes of conduct and the kinds of documents and statements that consolidate the outcome of debates in a fair and widely acceptable way. He was a welcome member at all culture collections events, often arriving in remote corners of the world on his bicycle, to great applause from his colleagues.

He was happily involved in many training courses around the world, willingly transferring knowledge and above all encouragement to scientists in countries where the establishment of microbial resource centres was a difficult path to tread. He will be remembered with gratitude by many people from many countries who benefited from his teaching.

Perhaps his best epitaph, worded by many people in the last few weeks, was, 'He was such a nice man'. He will be much missed by friends and colleagues alike, all of whom send their deep sympathy to Milvia and their children, David and Daniella. They may be comforted in their great loss by the knowledge that Rowland was so widely respected and was a friend to so many colleagues around world.

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In memoriam Professor Béla Lányi

(1927- 1997)

The microbiological community in Hungary was affected by a sad loss early this year. Professor Béla Lányi, curator of the Hungarian National Collection of Medical Bacteria, died after a long and painful illness on January 11, 1997.

Professor Lányi was born in Budapest. He qualified in 1951 as MD at the University Medical School, Budapest. Four months later, he was admitted to the National Institute of Hygiene, Budapest, where he made his career without a break at the Department of Bacteriology until the end of 1996, when he retired. During the last 12 years, he headed the department.

His routine task included, in addition to the everyday epidemiological-clinical bacteriology, continuous improvement of diagnostic methods, culture media, antibiotic sensitivity testing etc. to keep bacteriology up-to-date not only in the central institute but also at the 20 public health laboratories of Hungary. From 1984 on, as the president of the Microbiological Expert Committee of the Ministry of Health, he introduced these activities in institutes of medical care and prevention including university laboratories. He established a special laboratory for producing sera for serotyping of enteric pathogens and diagnostic bacterial suspensions for antibody detection. This laboratory distributed these products for all public health laboratories.

He organised a system of nation-wide supervision and external quality control of clinical bacteriology laboratories, and developed a unique survey system of bacteriological investigations, incidence and antibiotic resistance of the most important pathogenic bacteria.

In 1962, he was commissioned to re-organise the institute's culture collection, which in his hands developed into an internationally recognised national collection of bacteria and medical importance.

He edited methodical guidelines and a handbook, each valuable for those who, being active in epidemiological and clinical bacteriology, use standardised methods. He was a contributor to Pharmacopoeia.

In his scientific papers and book chapters, 94 in number, the main subjects grouped around *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Further, he reported on the incidence of *Salmonella* infections, on the serology and pathogenicity of the *Proteus* group, on procedures to be used for identification of bacteria and determination of their sensitivity to antibiotics, on the pathogenicity of the serogroup *Escherichia coli* O124, on the aetiology of gastroenteritides of infants and young children etc.

One of his most important contributions was a new system for identification of *Pseudomonas* antigens, a scheme, which was welcomed by the International Nomenclature Committee. He was a member of an international scientific group that was established to unify the different antigenic schemes of *P. aeruginosa*. With a thesis entitled "Characterisation of *P. aeruginosa* from serological, hygiene and clinical view" he won the degree doctor scientiae medicinalis from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In the Hungarian Society for Microbiology, he was a member of the governing body, chairman of the bacteriological section and a representative of the Society at the International Nomenclature Committee. Besides, he was the president of the National Clinical Microbiology Board and member of several further committees and colleges, editor of different scientific journals. He will be sadly missed by all his former colleagues.

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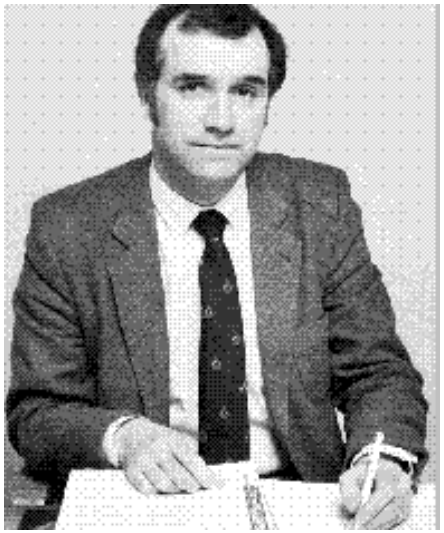
Retirement of Dr. Ivan J. Bousfield

It is with a mixture of regret and gratitude that I announce the early retirement, on health grounds, of Dr. Ivan J. Bousfield who was formerly Curator of the National Collections of Industrial and Marine Bacteria (NCIMB) in Aberdeen. Regret, because at 51, Ivan was still very much in his "prime" with a wealth of experience and much still to contribute to both the development of NCIMB and the Culture Collection fraternity as a whole. The gratitude concerns the 27 years he devoted to the transformation of what were two rather

insignificant assemblages of bacteria housed at the Torry Research Station, into a highly respectable collection of international repute which is now a successful University Company.



Ivan joined the National Collection of Industrial Bacteria (NCIMB) at the Torry Institute as "Officer in Charge" in 1969 after completing his Ph.D. under the guidance of the late Dr. James M. Shewan. Dr. Shewan was responsible for the formation of the National Collection of Marine Bacteria (NCMB) as part of Torry's remit as a Fisheries Research Station, and subsequently placed Ivan in overall charge of both Collections which ran side by side until they were officially merged to form The National Collections of Industrial and Marine Bacteria in 1979.

During his early years Ivan developed an international reputation in coryneform taxonomy and was instrumental in advising upon and developing patent legislation; and in particular the formation of the Budapest Treaty which is the cornerstone of present day patent law and procedure. Ivan's curatorial expertise, negotiating skills, single minded determination and loyalty to his staff were major contributing factors in gaining renewed financial support for the Collections and for their transformation from Culture Collection to a limited Company, as part of the Aberdeen University Research and Industrial Services (AURIS) unit in 1983.

In 1990 Ivan planned and implemented the removal of the Collections from rather cramped accommodation at Torry Research Station to new purpose built laboratories in the AURIS Business Centre where it functions today. During this period of his career Ivan's scientific and managerial abilities were a key factor in the transition of the Culture Collections from a traditional service collection with a 90% dependency of Government funding to its present day status of a multi- disciplinary company which now generates over 60% of its own finances. As Executive Director of NCIMB Ltd and Director of Scientific Services for AURIS Ltd, in addition to his Curatorial function, Ivan managed AUCHEM the University's Chemical Analytical Company which runs in tandem with NCIMB and advised AURIS management in a number of key issues such as strategic planning, health and safety and quality assurance etc. Laterly Ivan devoted much of his time to securing support from Government to underpin the future and sustained growth of the collections within NCIMB Ltd. The recent UK review of Culture Collections chaired by Professor Whittenbury acknowledged NCIMB's current and future role as a national scientific asset and which I know will give Ivan immense pleasure and satisfaction in his retirement.

On a happier note Ivan appears well on the way to a full recovery and is enjoying his "retirement" immensely. Certainly NCIMB and the wider Culture Collection Community have much to thank him for and much to gain from his lasting contribution to the field.

Dr. Peter N. Green

Curator of NCIMB Ltd.

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FOCUS ON CULTURE COLLECTIONS

Future prospects for the UK National Culture Collections

For some considerable time now the UK Culture Collection network has existed as a loosely affiliated federal system comprising eleven separate specialist entities. These collections have been supported by eight sources of Government funding emanating from five Government departments and are all maintained on separate sites by nine different parent organisations. Also, in more recent years, continued funding for several of the collections has been a major worry. Consequently a review on the whole UK system of operating service collections has been long overdue.

As a result of this, a recent independent[1] review of UK Microbial Culture Collections commissioned by the Government and under the auspices of Professor Roger Whittenbury from Warwick University, published its findings in 1994. The Commission highlighted the fact that the UK collection network is a high quality resource and a valuable national (and international) asset which should be established on a secure basis. A key task of the Commission was to examine the need to rationalise the operational sites and responsibilities of the individual culture collections and to focus and streamline effort in areas such as marketing and accession policies. The ethos and indeed principal intention of Professor Whittenbury's review recommendations was for the creation of an integrated and efficient national collection which, while still operating from multiple sites on a somewhat streamlined basis, was to present itself as a more unified and readily accessible organisation. The UK Government has reacted favourably to many of the review recommendations having published its response in July of last year.

One year on, an Advisory Group has been looking at ways of implementing the Government[2] response with personnel drawn from Government, industry and academia to co-ordinate and implement agreed policy arising from the Commission. As stated above, part of this policy was formulated to enable a more centralised co-ordination of activities but at the same time allowing collections to carry out their current functions effectively.

To do this it was necessary for specific collections to retain their own identity as well as their existing relationship with their present funding bodies. Thus in effect, of the three streamlining activities recommended by Professor Whittenbury's review (National Collection of Yeast Cultures moving from Norwich to IMI in Surrey, National Collection of Type Cultures moving from Colindale in London to CAMR at Porton Down and the National Collection of Food Bacteria from Reading to NCIMB in Aberdeen), only the NCFB move to Aberdeen has been carried out as Government policy. As a result NCIMB will now house all the non-pathogenic bacteria in the UK which fall within the scope of this initiative.

Quite apart from this, the Culture Collection Advisory Group (CCAG) have had a productive twelve months. A number of projects have been initiated, aimed at unifying and co-ordinating culture collection activities within a single corporate identity: the United Kingdom National Culture Collections (UKNCC). During the three year remit of the Advisory Group, it is their intention to have in place a structure and strategy for the UKNCC and its member collections which will sustain and enhance the new set-up creating a sound platform moving into the next millennium. A cornerstone in this strategy will be a customer oriented single contact point allowing electronic access to the UKNCC network of collections, their strain databases, services and activities. Some of the tasks and initiatives currently being overseen by the Advisory Group are summarised below:

- Co-ordinated Marketing Policy

  This will involve the development of a unified house style (UKNCC) and the production of advertising materials around three sectoral nodes -an industrial node at NCIMB, a medical node at ECACC/CAMR and an agricultural/mycological node at IMI. It is intended that these central collections act as co-ordinators in the marketing of opportunities relevant to all UKNCC member collections in their respective sectors. New combined catalogue formats will also be produced most probably around logical groups or combinations of organisms of interest to the client base.

- Co-ordinated Database Construction

  This will provide a single electronic contact point for the UKNCC allowing access to a range of information such as strain data, culture availability, uses and applications, services and expertise available, as well as providing a central ordering point. This initiative is also aimed at updating and harmonising data storage and retrieval facilities at UKNCC member collections as well as providing the facility for combined/specialist

hard copy catalogue production.

In addition to the above activities "one-off" limited funding will be provided for the following two items:

- The development of a new collection of animal viruses based at ECACC, Porton Down
- Seed-corn funding to initiate a programme of research involving molecular techniques in the characterisation of micro-organisms.

With these and other initiatives in place benefits accrued to the UKNCC will include:

- common access point for all UKNCC databases and services
- co-ordinated catalogue production and database management
- co-ordinated marketing initiatives
- a more efficient use of resources and expertise on an interdisciplinary front
- a move towards common standards of quality assurance
- increased customer awareness

While such benefits are highly desirable there remains a concern among UK Curators that the above initiatives are likely to be underfunded due to very limited resources. An additional fear is that an opportunity for a more radical review of the UK network has been missed and that one of the key issues i.e. that of the securing of a more rational and long term funding policy still remains outstanding. Only when this has been adequately addressed and resourced will UK Curators feel they really do have a long term future as Custodians of the Nation's microbial biodiversity.

[1] Review of UK Microbial Culture Collections: An Independent Review of the UK Microbial Culture Collections. HMSO, November 1994.

[2] A new strategy for the UK Microbial Culture Collections: Government Response to the Independent Review of the UK Microbial Culture Collections, OST, July l996.

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The Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP)

The Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa functions as the national service collection for algae and protozoa in the UK, acting as a depository for strains of prokaryotic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), eukaryotic microalgae, small seaweeds and free-living non-pathogenic protozoa. Freshwater algae and all protozoa are maintained at the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Institute of Freshwater Ecology (IFE) Windermere Laboratory. Marine algae are kept at the NERC, Centre for Coastal and Marine Science (CCMS) Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory (DML).

The origin of CCAP is in the collection of cultures formed by the eminent phycologist E.G. Pringsheim and his coworkers, during his occupancy, between 1923 and 1938, of the chair of plant physiology at the German University of Prague. With a worsening political situation towards the end of the nineteen thirties, Pringsheim sought refuge for himself and his family in Britain. A haven was provided for him and his cultures by F.E. Fritsch at Queen Mary College London and when the College was evacuated to Cambridge during the war, Pringsheim moved, too. In 1947, Cambridge University took over the collection, Pringsheim having been appointed as its Curator. He retired from this post in 1953 and returned to Germany to found a new collection at the Pflanzenphysiologisches Institut, University of Göttingen.

After Pringsheim's return to Germany, the collection at Cambridge became the responsibility of E.A. George and remained in the Botany Department of the University until 1970, when the expanded collection was taken over by the NERC to form the basis of the Culture Centre of Algae and Protozoa. This was housed in a purpose built building with excellent facilities at Storey's Way, Cambridge.

By 1985, despite the excellent work which had been accomplished, notably in varied aspects of taxonomy and in cryopreservation, there was a feeling among senior policy makers that the Collection and its activities sat rather uneasily and was rather isolated in the context of the NERC's principal remit to conduct research into the natural environment. It was therefore decided to relocate CCAP to component Institutes where there was appropriate ongoing environmental research. The Freshwater Biological Association (FBA) at Windermere and The Scottish Marine Biological Association (SMBA) at Oban were chosen as potential host laboratories and a period of detailed negotiation was begun.

At the beginning of 1986 the necessary preparations to receive the cultures and associated equipment and activities the following summer were set in train. Ivan Heaney at FBA was designated as the Senior Curator, with particular responsibility for freshwater algae, Bland Finlay Curator of Protozoa and Michael Turner, at Oban, Curator of marine algae. Building modifications at FBA and SMBA, were undertaken,

new equipment ordered and installed, materials and cultures moved from Cambridge and staff recruited and trained. A new name, the Culture Collection (no longer Centre) of Algae and Protozoa was adopted on completion of the transfer allowing the retention of the acronym CCAP.

In 1990, CCAP was reviewed in the normal course of events and a number of staffing changes were suggested at Windermere, the overall effect being a cut back in the number of people directly associated with the Collection. Subsequently at Oban there have been two waves of compulsory redundancy which have impinged indirectly on CCAP. In common with other UK collections we are still, at the time of writing, waiting for a definitive new structure for the UK Culture Collections to be developed on the implementation of the Review of UK Microbial Culture Collections carried out in 1994!

The CCAP today fulfils a wide range of roles including: conservation of biodiversity, service activities (Table 1) and research. The latter includes projects on: molecular systematics of naked amoebae; chemotaxonomy of marine microalgae; cryopreservation and algal biotechnology.

Table 1: CCAP Products and Services

Products and Services	Site (W Windermere site; O Oban site)
Provision of cultures and associated information	W,O
Patent and Confidential depository	W,O
A limited identification /taxonomic service	W,O
Starter cultures for aquaculture	O
Starter cultures for biotechnology	W,O
Cultures for ecotoxicity testing	W,O
Cryopreservation of algae and protozoa	W,O
Fundamental and applied contract research	W,O
Consultancy	W,O
Customized training courses	W,O
Educational resource materials and Publications	W

The collection is a member of WFCC and is listed in the World Directory of Collections under reference nos.140 and 522. Further details on the cultures, services and associated fees may be obtained from the addresses listed below and from the CCAP home page and Catalogue of Strains in searchable form at the following URL: <http://wiua.nwi.ac.uk/ccap/ccaphome.html>.

For general information and information on freshwater algae or protozoa contact:

Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa, Institute of Freshwater Ecology, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 OLP, UK, Tel: +44 15394 42468, Fax: +44 15394 42468, E-mail: CCAP@IFE.AC.UK

For those requiring specific information on marine algae or aquaculture contact:

Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, P.O. Box 3, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4LE, UK, Tel: +44 1631 562244, Fax: +44 1631 565518, E-mail: CCAPN@DML.AC.UK

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NEWS FROM AND FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS

Journal of Culture Collections

In 1995, the National Bank for Industrial Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (NBIMCC), Sofia, Bulgaria, has started to publish the Journal of Culture Collections (ISSN 1310-8360). Contact: Dr. Angela Yordanova, Journal of Culture Collections, NBIMCC, P.O. Box 239, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria.

New Settlement of the Spanish Type Culture Collection (CECT)

Since October 1996, the Spanish Type Culture Collection (CECT) is located in the Research Building of the University of Valencia in the University Campus of Burjasot. The CECT has now two laboratories for research, one room for washing and sterilizing material and culture media, one room for freeze drying and sealing ampoules, and one dark room. Besides it has one large controlled temperature storage room, and two cold chambers. Finally, there is also an office room with computers, fax, telephone and several working places for CECT staff. All of this summarizes an area of about 350 m^2.

The CECT maintains microorganisms (bacteria, filamentous fungi and yeast) of industrial importance, taxonomic type strains, microorganisms used for assays, testing, teaching, biochemical and genetic research and strains of general interest. The collection is an International Depository Authority (IDA) under the Budapest Treaty for patent purposes, and provides also an identification service for various kinds of

bacteria, filamentous fungi and yeasts.

The new address of the CECT is: Colección Española de Cultivos Tipo (CECT), Universitat de Valencia, Edificio de Investigación, Campus de Burjasot, 46100 BURJASOT (Valencia), Spain, Tel.: +34-6-3864612, Fax.: +34-6-3983187, E-mail: cect@uv.es.

Philippine Network of Microbial Culture Collections Established

The Philippine Network of Microbial Culture Collections (PNMCC) is currently being established with the sponsorship of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the Philippine Council for Advance Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD). It is based at the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. It is initially composed of the following culture collections:

Microbial Culture Collection and Services Lab.
National Microbial Strain Bank, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH)
UPLB College, Laguna 4031
Head of collection: Dr. Ida F. Dalmacio

University of the Philppines Culture Collection
Natural Sciences Research Institute (NSRI)
UP Diliman, Quezon City
Head of collection: Dr. Maria A.T. Siringan

Microbial Culture Collection
Museum of Natural History
UPLB College, Laguna 4031
Head of collection: Dr. Priscilla C. Sanchez

Biofertilizer Germplasm Collection
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
UPLB College, Laguna 4031
Head of collection: Mr. Rolando So

The Network aims to promote collaboration among the Network members with regard to information exchange, personal training and services rendered.

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the Network are as follows:

- to provide a permanent secretariat for all Philippine Culture Collections and a central contact point for Philippine scientists and any institutions seeking advice and information on microbiological materials and on culture collection-related matters,

- to establish an effective liaison between persons and organizations concerned with culture collections and among the users of the cultures,

- to collect information on the strains and services offered by the various culture collections,

- to publicize the resources within the culture collections in terms of materials and scientific expertise by preparing printed and visual materials for distribution as well as producing informative literature for scientifically and industrially oriented publications,

- to encourage the study of procedures for the isolation, culture, characterization, conservation, and distribution of microorganisms and to make known the most recommendable methods,

- to promote the training of personnel for the operation of culture collections, and to promote the establishment of a national data service concerned with the location of, and information about microorganisms maintained in culture collections, and to publish a Philippine Directory of Culture collections and a list of species maintained.

An Introductory Issue of the PNNMCC Newsletter has been published in December 1996. Contact: Dr. Ida F. Dalmacio, Microbial Culture Collection and Services Laboratory, National Microbial Strain Bank, BIOTECH, UPLB College, Laguna 4031, Philippines, Fax: +63 94 2721, mccsl@biotech.uplb.edu.ph.

National Collection of Dairy Cultures (NCDC), Karnal, India

The NCDC is the only facility of its type in India. It is holding a rich stock of indigenous dairy organisms along

with cultures procured from various international culture collections and research institutions.

NCDC is holding pure cultures as well as mixed starter cultures for preparing different varieties of cheese and other fermented milk products. It was established about 30 years ago for maintaining various cultures required for research and teaching at NDRI. Over the years, it has grown into a full fledged national facility catering to the needs of dairy industries, research institutions, universities and various central and state governmental organisations. Presently NCDC has collections of bacteria, yeasts and fungi in its stock and plans to stock plasmids and genetic stock of dairy bacteria in future. Main objectives of NCDC are to act as a depository and to supply microbial cultures and dairy starters. A catalogue of strains has been published in 1996. Contact:

National Collection of Dairy Cultures
Dairy Microbiology Division
National Dairy Research Institute
Karnal-132 001, India

Phone : +91 184 21611
Fax : +91 184 250042
E-Mail : ndri@x400.nicgw.nic.in

News on Cuban Culture Collections

An event with the participation of all scientific and industrial personnel interested in culture collection work was held on May 4 - 5, 1995, in Cuba, as a result of the "Workshop on Industrial Strain Bank" developed in our country. In this event we reached an agreement to work on the establishment of "Cuban Culture Collection Steering Group", with the purpose of ruling as central organisation that will execute activities to foster excellent opportunities for culture collection development in the country.

This Steering Group started its functions by the end of 1995. It holds meetings every three months to coordinate activities that contribute to the culture collection development in order to achieve a national organisation. As a result of these meetings, we were able to develop a Workshop on Culture Collections in 1996, with a greater quality than the one carried out in 1995. In this Group, we also agreed to work on the establishment of an Information Center, with the aim of promoting collaboration and trading ideas and information about all aspects of culture collection activity. It works in a joint effort with the Cuban Culture Collection Steering Group, and supports all task and research carried out by the said Group.

We need help in order to know about conferences and meetings, workshops and training courses, books or publications relevant, or of interest, to culture collection work, new catalogues, and so on. Anything you can send us will be of great usefulness, because all the Culture Collections and others interested in this matter, will be able to update their knowledge in aspects concerning culture collection work. We hold meetings with the participation of representatives of all Cuban Culture Collections, and other agencies,

every three months to inform about all the information we receive on culture collections. Furthermore, all the documents we receive by international and national donations are available in our Information Center, for the professional training of anyone interested.

We really need to foster collaboration and cooperation among scientists, collections and organisations world-wide that are interested in helping the development of Cuban Culture Collections, and the ways mentioned above will be an appreciated contribution.

Cuban Culture Collections Steering Group is organising a training course covering all aspects related to collection work, in joint cooperation with the Information Center. For this purpose, we request the presence of international experts in this matter. We hope you are able to attend this course. Unfortunately, we lack funds to cover your expenses. But we are willing to collaborate in anything possible to your participation.

Contact:

B. Sc. Gladys Pérez de la Fuente
Steering Committee, Culture Collection Group
Information Center
Instituto de Oceanologia

Ave Ira # 18406, ent/184 y 186
Reparto Flores,
C Habana, Cuba
E-mail: oceano@ceniai.cu

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NEW CATALOGUES AND DATABASES OF CULTURE COLLECTIONS

American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852-1776, USA.
Filamentous Fungi Reference Guide. The guide contains descriptions of over 20,000 fungi, all available from ATCC and includes strain descriptions, media formulations, fungi preservation and recovery instructions, mycological literature references (cultivation, characterization, preservation, etc.) and an index of special applications for a large group of fungi. It is available for $34.00 in North America and $44.00 elsewhere. The guide is also available on ATCC's CD-ROM Reference Guide with database searching software included. To order the guide, fax ATCC, Rockville, at +1-301- 816-4361.

The first edition of ATCC Quality Control and Reference Strains has been published. The free catalogue lists ATCC bacteria, cell lines, fungi, protozoa, viruses, and yeasts prescribed for use in assays and tests of regulatoty agencies and standard setting organizations, and prescribed as controls in commercial kits. It includes a list of type cultures, growth conditions and media for the strains.

Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes Institut Pasteur. 25, rue du Docteur Roux, F-75724 Paris Cedex 15, France. Fungi Culture Collection, Catalogue of Strains 1997, 8th edition (Fax +33 1 45688236).

Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP) 1995. The 6th edition of the CCAP catalogue gives details of the current holdings maintained at both of the CCAP sites. The catalogue also lists the services which are provided and full information on media used for the varied organisms in the collection. It is available directly from CCAP for £ 7.00 including P & P. To order a copy, or for additional information please contact: Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa, Institute of Freshwater Ecology, Windermere Laboratory, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 OLP, UK, Fax +44 15394 42468, E-mail: CCAP@IFE.AC.UK

In addition to a hard copy version, a searchable database is accessible free on the WWW at the following URL: http://wiua.nwi.ac.uk/ccap/ccaphome.html.

DSMZ Catalogue of Strains 1998. The catalogue is available for DM 40.00 (including packing and postage) from DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH, Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-31284 Braunschweig, Germany.

The catalogue is also available on the WWW: http://www.gbf.de/DSMZ/dsmzhome.html. The address for the file transfer by FTP is ftp.gbf.de/pub/DSMZ.

Institute for Fermentation, Osaka (IFO). Cata-logue of newly accepted strains. The list is published in IFO's *Research Communications* no. 18, 1997, page 73-92 and includes newly accepted strains from February to November 1996.

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WORLD WIDE WEB

International Course: Biochemical Engineering Applications in Environmental Biotechnology and

Cleaner Production (Workshops and Roundtables), held at Antigua & Panajachel, Guatemala, 18-29 September 1995, is available on the INTERNET. The electronic form is sponsored by COBIOTECH (Scientific Committee for Biotechnology of the International Council of Scientific Unions, ICSU). The scientific program was coordinated by the Executive Committee of the International Organization for Biotechnology & Bioengineering (IOBB), chaired (at that time) by Prof. Carlos E. Rolz.

The course topics include 60 lectures on environmental biology & microbiology, waste treatment engineering, environmental risk assessment, biochemical engineering applied to cleaner production concepts and case studies and environmental economics. The Internet address is http://www.icaiti.org.gt.

The List of Bacterial Names with Standing in Nomenclature includes, alphabetically and chronologically, the official names of bacteria as published or validated in the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology. It encompasses 5,569 taxa (as of 31 December 1996) and is available on the Internet (URL: ftp://ftp.cict.fr/ pub/ bacterio/). The list will be updated every 3 months. A description of the list is published by J.P. Euzéby, List of bacterial names with standing in nomenclature: a folder available on the Internet. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology 47, 590-592 (1997).

Bacterial Nomenclature Up to Date is published since 1989 by the DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH, Braunschweig, Germany. The list includes all validly published species names of bacteria and is quarterly updated. It is available on the Internet under the address http://www.gbf.de/DSMZ/bactnom/bactname/htm.

The Microbe Files - Washington State University. http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~hurlbert/index-html

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO CULTURE COLLECTIONS

B. Dixon	Taxonomy's new challenges. ASM News 62, 629-630 (1996)
J.P. Euzéby	List of bacterial names with standing in nomenclature: a folder available on the Internet. International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology 47, 590-592 (1997)

Institute for Fermentation, Osaka (IFO)	Research Communications no. 18, 1997. The following papers have been published among others: Descriptive catalogue of IFO fungus collection XV, page 63-69; Descriptive catalogue of IFO actinomycetes collection III, page 70-72
E. Lang, K.A. Malik	Maintenance of biodegradation capacities of aerobic bacteria during long-term preservation. Biodegradation 7, 65-71 (1996)
K.A. Malik, E. Lang	Successful preservation of Campylobacteraceae and related bacteria by liquid-drying under anaerobic conditions. Journal of Microbiological Methods 25, 37-42 (1996)
K.A. Malik	A modified medium and method for the cultivation of *Chloroflexus*. Journal of Microbiological Methods 27, 147-150 (1996)
K.A. Malik	A convenient method for maintaining *Chloroflexus* for long time periods as slow growing liquid cultures. Journal of Microbiological Methods 27, 151-156 (1996)
M. Tipple et al.	New federal regulations for transfer of infectious agents and toxins. ASM News 63, 66-67 (1997)
P. Vandamme, B. Pot, M. Gillis, P. De Vos, K. Kersters, J. Swings	Polyphasic taxonomy, a consensus approach to bacterial systematics. Microbiological Reviews 60, 407-438 (1996)

In 1997, a new journal "Extremophiles, Life under Extreme Conditions" is published by Springer Verlag. Price of Vol. 1 (4 issues) is DM 380 plus DM 32.60 carriage charges. ISSN 1431-0651 Title No. 792.

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NEW BOOKS RELEVANT TO CULTURE COLLECTION WORK

L.H. Collier (ed.)	Topley and Wilson's Microbiology and Microbial Infections, 9th edition. Arnold, 1997, 4500 pages, £ 995.00. ISBN 0 340 61470 6. Vol. 1 Virology, Vol. 2 Systematic Bacteriology, Vol. 3 Bacterial Infections, Vol. 4 Medical Mycology, Vol. 5 Parasitology, Vol. 6 Cumulative Index. Also available on CD-ROM, £ 995.00. Printed version + CD-ROM £ 1295
R.R. Colwell, U. Simidu, K Ohwada	Microbial diversity in time and space. Plenum Publishing Corporation, 1996, 178 pages, US$ 75.00. ISBN 0 306 45194 8
J.G. Day, M.R. McLellan (eds.)	Cryopreservation and Freeze-Drying Protocols. Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 38, Humana Press, 1995, 264 pages, £ 59.00.ISBN 0 89603 296 5

J.W. Deacon	Modern Mycology, 3rd edition. Blackwell Science, 1997, 312 pages, £ 21.50. ISBN 0 63203 077 1
M.P. Doyle et al. (eds.)	Food Microbiology: Fundamentals and Frontiers. ASM Press, 1997, 784 pages, US$ 85.00. ISBN 1 55581 117 5Z
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (ed.)	Biodiversity and Tourism. Conflicts on the World's Seacoasts and Strategies for their Solution. Springer, 1997, 339 pages, DM 98,00. ISBN 3 540 62393 0
Ch.J. Hurst et al. (eds.)	Manual of Environmental Microbiology. ASM Press, 1996, 850 pages, US$ 98.00. ISBN 1 55581 087 XB
L. Kornhauser (ed.)	Developing Information Support for Research and Education in Toxic Waste Management. UNESCO-ICCS International Centre for Chemical Studies, Ljubljana, 1996, 234 pages. ISBN 86 81449 05 2
V. Lorian	Antibiotics in Laboratory Medicine. Williams & Wilkins, 1996, 1008 pages. ISBN 0 683 05169 5
Th. E. Ogden	Research Proposals. A Guide to Success, 2nd edition. Lippincott-Raven, 1995, 464 pages, US$ 54.00. ISBN 0 7817 0313 1
L.F. Peruski, Jr., A.H. Peruski	The Internet and the New Biology: Tools for Genomic and Molecular Research. ASM Press, 1997, 350 pp., US$ 27.95. ISBN 1 55581 119 1Z
J.I. Rood et al.	The Clostridia: Molecular Biology and Pathogenesis. Academic Press, 1997, 533 pages, £ 80.00. ISBN 0 12 595020 9
J.F.T. Spencer, D.M. Spencer	The Yeasts. Their Lives in Natural and Artificial Habitats. Springer, 1997, approx. 420 pages, approx. DM 198,00. ISBN 3 540 56820 4
D.A. Sutton, A.W. Fothergill, M.G. Rinaldi	Guide to Clinically Significant Fungi. Williams & Wilkins, 1997, about 456 pages, approx. US$ 85.00. ISBN 0 683 18274 9
S.R. Swindell et al. (eds.)	Internet for the Molecular Biologist. Horizon Scientific Press, 1996, 187 pages, £ 19.99 (paperback). ISBN 1 898486 02 6
A. Varma (ed.)	Mycorrhiza Manual. Springer, 1997, approx. 350 pages, approx. DM 120,00. ISBN 3 540 62437 6
R.S. Weynand et al.	Identification of Unusual Pathogenic Gram-Negative Aerobic and Facultatively Anaerobic Bacteria, 2nd edition. Williams & Wilkins, 1996, 727 pages., US$ 55.00. ISBN 0 683 00615 0

EURACHEM Gives Guidance towards Accreditation

EURACHEM has recently published a guide entitled "Accreditation for Laboratories Performing Microbiological Testing". This guide is a supplement to EN45001 and ISO/IEC Guide 25 and provides specific guidance for both assessors and laboratories. The guidance given in this EURACHEM document may also be of use to those working towards certification by the ISO 9000 (EN 29000) series of standards. The 27-

page document covers

- Introduction: The basic concept and scope of the document.
- Scope of accreditation: Definition and clarification of scope of accreditation.
- Staff: Aspects of staff qualifications, experience and training.
- Environment: Issues of general arrangement of premises, environmental monitoring, laboratory access and hygiene.
- Equipment: Issues of equipment maintenance, calibration and performance verification; particularly for temperature measurement devices and autoclaves. Guidance on requirement and frequency is given.
- Reagents and Culture Media: Issues of quality checks and storage conditions.
- Test Methods and Procedures: Method selection and fit-for-purpose issues.
- Validation of Methods and Verification of Performance: Degree of validation and performance checks required for standard methods, in house methods and test kits; both qualitative and quantitative.
- Quality Assurance of Results/Quality Control: Issues of internal and external quality controls and use of reference materials
- Laboratory Audit and Review: Definition and purpose of 'audit and review'.
- Sample Handling and Identification: Transport and delivery of samples, labelling, storage and final disposal.

The text is illustrated with examples relevant to microbiological testing. This guide costs £ 30 per copy and is available from:

Mr David Binney, Laboratory of the Government Chemist, Queens Road, TEDDINGTON, Middlesex, TW11 0LY, UNITED KINGDOM, Tel + 44 (0) 181943 7482, Fax + 44 (0) 181943 2767.

Cheques and banker's drafts should be made payable to LGC (Teddington) Ltd (a/c Y142FSMG1) and if possible, should be drawn from a UK bank account. LGC is unable to invoice for orders under £ 500. Therefore, to avoid delays, please enclose payment with your order.

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WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING COURSES

ATCC Hands-on Techniques and Methodologies, 1997. Contact: American Type Culture Collection, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland, USA 20852 (Fax +1 301 816 4364; E mail: workshop@atcc.org; Web site, http://www.atcc.org/workshops/workshop.html).

Cell Culture and Hybridomas: Quality Control and Cryopreservation Techniques, September 8-10, 1997
Microscopy/Photomicroscopy, October 1-3, 1997
Microbial DNA Fingerprinting , November 4-7, 1997
Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Application/Cycle DNA Sequencing, November 17-20, 1997
Freezing and Freeze-Drying of Microorganisms, October 27-30, 1997

The INTERNATIONAL MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE offers the following Training Courses (Contact: Mrs. Stephanie Groundwater, International Mycological Institute, Bakeham Lane, Egham, Surrey TW20 9TY, UK. Tel. +44 1784 470111; Fax +44 1784 470909; E mail s.groundwater@cabi.org)

Mycorrhizas-Identification and Techniques, October 13-17, 1997.
Culture Preservation Techniques for Filamentous Fungi and Bacteria, October 29-31, 1997.
PCR Fingerprinting and Characterization Techniques, November 17-21, 1997.

CCT Training Programme 1997 (Contact: Tropical Culture Collection, Rua Latino Coelho 1301, CEP 13087-010, Campinas (SP)-Brazil. Fax +55 019 242 7827; E mail eventos@bdt.org.br; Web site: http://bdt.org.br/bdt/news/cursos)

Molecular systematics and evolution of microorganisms, September 15-19, 1997
Patents and the deposit of biological material, October 22-23, 1997
Molecular techniques for the identification of pathogenic bacteria, December 2-5, 1997

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CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

6th International Congress on Pseudomonas: Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. Madrid, Spain, 4-8 September 1997. Contact: Secretariat Pseudomonas '97, Centro Nacional de Biotecnologia Campus de Cantoblanco, E-28049 Madrid, Spain (Fax +34 1 372 0193, E-mail pseudo97@samba.cnb.uam.es;www http://www.cnb.uam.es/)

4th International Conference on Marine Biotechnology. Sorrento, Paestum, Capo Rissuto, Otranto, and Pugnochiuso, Italy, 22-29 September 1997. Contact: IMBC '97, Attn: Ms. Donatella Capone, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Villa Comunale, I-80121 Naples, Italy (Fax +39 81 7641355, E-mail imbc@alpha.szn.it

Australian Society for Microbiology Scientific Meeting and Exhibition, Adelaide, Australia, 28 September-3 October 1997. Contact: ASM97 Secretariat, G.P.O. Box 128, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia (Fax +61 2 262 2323)

American Biological Safety Association, Annual Meeting, La Jolla, Calif., 19-22 October 1997. Contact: ABSA, 1202 Allason Rd., Mundelein, IL 60060, USA (Fax +1 847 949 1517)

Biotechnica 1997, Hannover, Germany, 21-23 October 1997. Contact: Deutsche Messe AG, Messegelände, D-30521 Hannover, Germany (Fax +49 511 8932626, www: http://www.biotechnica.de)

22nd International Congress on Microbial Ecology and Disease, 6-9 November, 1997, Captiva Island, Fla. Contact: Congress Office, Meeting Services International, 181 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA (Fax +1 617 278 9113)

12th International Central American Congress for Microbiology: Clinical and Applied Microbiology, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 23-27 November 1997. Contact: Licda. Olga Torres, INCAP, Apartado Postal 1182, 01901 Guatemala, Guatemala, C.A. (Fax +502 472 6529, E-mail: otorres@incap.org.gt)

International Congress on Extremophiles, Yokohama, Japan, 18-22 January 1998. Contact: Mr. Katsumi Sakakura (Fax: +81 468 665306, Email: shimizut@jamstec.go.jp)

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LETTER OF INTENT

The WFCC Education and Capacity Building Committee (ECB) has developed in cooperation with the WFCC Biodiversity Committee and the World Data Center for Microorganisms a questionnaire for the assessment of specific education and capacity building needs of Culture Collections and laboratories with responsibility for culture maintenance on a regional scale.

The main purpose of the questionnaire is to collect data, evaluate them and, with the help of regional members, find areas and regions of the world where educational and training support is most needed.

This should be the first step that will lead, supported by different international funding agencies, to the organisation of different training courses and workshops, according to specific regional needs.

To achieve this goal, we would kindly like to ask for your help in providing us with the necessary information, by answering the questionnaire and helping to circulate it.

The forms should be returned by e-mail, fax or mail to the following address:

Dr. Nina Gunde - Cimerman

Chair, WFCC Education and Capacity Building Committee

National Institute of Chemistry

Microbiological Culture Collection (MZKI)

Hajdrihova 19

1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tel. +386 61 17 60 333

Fax. +386 61 125 92 44

E-mail: nina.gunde.cimerman@ki.si

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ASSESMENT OF EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

1. Full name of your Collection:

Institution name (if necessary):

Acronym of the Collection:

2. Is the Collection a member of WFCC:

Since when (year):

Is the information about the Collections included in the WDCM:

Since when (year):

Registration number of WDCM if available:

3. Correspondent (contact person)

Family name:

Middle and/or last name:

Postal address:

Street:

City:

Postal code:

Country:

Telephone/Fax/E-mail/URL:

[(+country code) (region code) (telephone number)]

+..... (Tel. 1)

+..... (Tel. 2)

+..... (Fax 1)

+..... (Fax 2)

..... (Electronic mail address 1)

..... (Electronic mail address 2)

..... (URL address of World Wide Web)

4. Size of the Collection:

Number of staff: ( ) total number ( ) curators ( ) taxonomists ( ) technical assistants ( ) other

Total number of strains:

Specify types of holdings (bacteria, fungi, cell lines etc.) :

5. Organisation of any past training courses by the Culture Collection

Title of the training courses:

Frequency of past training courses: ( ) per year ( ) per 5 years ( ) per 10 years

Participation ( ) national ( ) international

Average number of participants:

6. Training courses or related activities in education and capacity building planned for the future

Title:

Date:

Funding agency:

Does your collection offer or would be willing to offer specialized training to researchers/technical staff upon request?

( ) Yes ( ) No

If yes, in which topics:

8. Information material currently available for education and capacity building?

( ) printed ( ) on line ( ) other

If yes, specify the title and description of contents:

Needs for training courses in:

( ) Management of a Culture collection

( ) Culture and preservation methods

( ) Quality control

( ) Use of computers in culture collections

( ) Taxonomy and identification

( ) Genetic engineering

( ) Karyotyping

( ) Patents and regulatory matters

( ) Other subjects:

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