

**Generalversammlung 2015 des Deutschen Nationalkomitees (DNK)
für die International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)
und International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS)**

15. December 2015, 11- 15 Uhr,
Seminaris Building, Berlin Dahlem, Takustr. 39, 14195 Berlin

Protokoll

Participants:

Dr. Regine Jahn, Chair
Dr. Kerstin Elbing for Prof. Dr. Reinhard Krämer / Felicitas Pfeiffer, Vice Chair (VBIO)
Prof. Dr. Erwin Beck, Secretary (also for DFG)
Prof. Dr. Karl-Josef Dietz (Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft)
Dr. Stefan Hotes (Gesellschaft für Ökologie)
Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Jacobsen (Gesellschaft für Pflanzenbiotechnologie)
Prof. Dr. Detlev Krüger (Gesellschaft für Virologie)
PD Dr. Michael Ohl (Gesellschaft für Biologische Systematik)
Dr. Brian Tindall (DSMZ for IUMS)
Dr. Dietmar Zinner (Gesellschaft für Primatologie)

Guest: Dr. Nathalie Fomproix (Secretary, IUBS), a short message of greetings.

Agenda

(unanomously accepted)

1. Formalia

- a. Begrüßung und Einführung (Regine Jahn)
- b. Kurzvorstellung der TeilnehmerInnen (was waren/sind die wichtigsten Aktionen Ihrer Fachgesellschaft; was sind die größten Herausforderungen)

2. Berichte aus den Jahren 2012 - 2015

- a. DNK (Regine Jahn)
- b. IUBS (Regine Jahn)
- c. IUMS (Brian Tindall)

3. Perspektiven

- a. Zusammenarbeit mit dem VBIO (Kerstin Elbing)
- b. Welche Themen sollen durch das DNK vorangetrieben werden?
- c. Wahlen für das DNK (Bitte um Nominierungen):
 1. Vorsitz (bisher Regine Jahn),
 2. Vorsitz (wird besetzt durch den VBIO; bisher Reinhard Krämer; neu: Felicitas Pfeiffer),Schriftleitung (bisher Erwin Beck)

4. Verschiedenes

Item 1 Formal Issues

a. Welcome

The Chairlady welcomes the participants and encourages them to join the General Assembly of the IUBS which takes place these days in the same building by invitation of the German National

Committee of the IUBS (DNK). The last meeting of the DNK was in March 2012 in Freiburg/Breisgau (the minutes were accepted).

The Chairlady explains that DFG supports the IUBS (permanent secretariat is stationed in Paris) with an annual fee. The DFG also covers the costs of the yearly meeting of the DNK as well as the travel expenses of its members / participants to the DNK meetings. Besides this, there is no financial support to the DNK which impedes continuous activities. A special problem is the web-page of the DNK (<http://www.iubs-member-germany.de>), which lacks the financial means for running and updating a web-page. Action to be taken: *E. Beck will talk to Dr. Teschke from the DFG whether there is a possibility to fund the German web-page.*

There is also some space for improvement of the flow of information between the Biological Societies and the IUBS; obviously not all Societies are aware of the possibility to reach the international communities via the German National Committee which can pass on and recommend requests and suggestions to IUBS for consultation and potential implementation on the international level.

b. Short introduction of the participants and the Societies that they represent.

There is general complain about the decrease of the member numbers and in particular about the lack of interest on the part of the young scientists. Most of the German biological societies are members of the VBIO, and are running their own Web-pages.

Item 2: Reports

a. The German National Committee (DNK) of IUBS (Regine Jahn)

The DNK-IUBS had invited to the 32. IUBS GA at the FU Berlin (14th – 16th December 2015). This was the first time that Germany hosted an IUBS General Assembly. The accompanying scientific program was named „Frontiers in Unified Biology“. IUBS engages in the program of Future Earth: “Through plenary talks, symposia and panel discussions we aim to unite the perspectives of the “Common Future” debate of the last century with the “Future Earth” approach of this century” (Nils Stenseth, President of IUBS). See also website: <http://www.iubs2015.org/>.

DNK-Chairlady Regine Jahn was elected as member of the Executive Committee Board at the IUBS GA 2012 in Suzhou (China). (Later Note: at the IUBS GA 2015 in Berlin she was elected Vice-President of IUBS; the term of office is until 2019 when the next GA takes place in Oslo.)

A better flow of information about international as well as national science policy between the DNK-IUBS and its members, the German Biological Societies is recommended.

b. IUBS and IUMS (Brian Tindall and Regine Jahn).

IUBS as well as IUMS are among the 31 members of ICSU. IUBS has currently 44 national and 80 scientific members. The national members are paying annual dues, for Germany, the DFG pays the fee for IUBS and IUMS. As microbiology is a biological discipline itself, the fractionizing between IUMS and IUBS is highly questionable. As Nathalie Fomproix stated there is a cooperation between IUMS and IUBS but one should not expect a merger. The president of the IUBS (N. Stenseth) is trying to bring the working programmes of IUMS and IUBS together at first. It seems that internationally the situation is more complicated than in Germany, where the DNK is serving IUBS as well as IUMS.

IUBS is running several programs, in some of which Germany is involved. One very active group composed of members of IUMS and IUBS runs the current program BIOCODE (International Committee for Bionomenclature, Regine Jahn is a member of the Steering Committee), while German representatives are not involved in the classical program BioED (IUBS Commission for Biology Education) a former stronghold of Germany. This holds true also for the programs “Biological Consequences of Global Change”, “Disaster and Biodiversity” and “Pollinators and Coffee”; however Germany is a member of the IUBS program “Integrated Climate Change Biology”. In future, an

electronic newsletter will replace the IUBS Journal Biology International.

c. International Union of Microbiological Societies - IUMS (Brian Tindall)

The IUMS encompasses 3 Divisions: Bacteriology & Applied Microbiology (BAM), Mycology & Eukaryotic Microbiology (MEM) and Virology. Unfortunately, there seems to be a distinct lack of communication within IUMS and a need to clarify and revise the IUMS statutes.

Also the situation of the German National Committee of IUMS (DNK-IUMS) appears unclear and there are obviously coordination problems with regard to the elections. Members of the DNK-IUMS are the VAAM, DGHM and the (German) Gesellschaft für Virologie. Since the retirement of Prof. H.G. Trüper (2001), the contact between these societies and the DNK-IUMS faded; likewise the connection between DNK-IUMS and DNK- IUBS. Obviously also the mutual interest in collaboration decreased. Action to be taken: *Brian Tindalls volunteers to contact the respective Societies in Germany to clarify the situation concerning DNK-IUMS and DNK-IUBS.*

Item 3. Perspectives

a. Collaboration of the DNK-IUBS with the VBIO (Kerstin Elbing)

Twenty-five biological and biomedical societies (a total of 30.000 members) represent the sector "Research" of the VBIO (35.000 members, according to the Web-page). Kerstin Elbing (Secretary) and H.J. Jacobsen (former President) introduced the various activities of the VBIO, e.g. the CHE-Ranking (Biology). VBIO publishes a Newsletter for information exchange between the members.

Intensification of the collaboration between VBIO and the DNK-IUBS is encouraged by the members of the GA. The original idea of splitting the work between the VBIO as being responsible for inside Germany and the DNK for outside Germany is reiterated.

Item b. Subjects for intensification:

The participants agreed that the already existing structures of DNK-IUBS should be developed further aiming to act as platform to discuss science policy with special emphasis on biology and global change. For the time being, the Chairlady is ready to serve as an information hub. But financial and personal resources are short in the DNK and have still to be settled.

Item c. Elections for the period of 3 years:

The elections were done by a raise of hands.

- Past and new **Chairperson** of the DNK: **Dr. Regine Jahn** (FU Berlin), unanimous, 1 abstaining.
- **Vice Chairperson:** By statutes the representative of the scientific societies: **Prof. Dr. Felicitas Pfeifer** (University of Darmstadt). No election by the GA.
- **Secretary:** Past: Prof. Dr. Erwin Beck (University of Bayreuth) New: **Prof. Dr. Karl-Josef Dietz** (University of Bielefeld), unanimous, 1 abstaining.

Item 4. Miscellaneous

The next meeting of DNK-IUBS is scheduled for the first week of October 2016 and will be announced in good time.

The chairlady acknowledged the participation of the members of the GA and recommended to join at least the afternoon lectures of the IUBS Congress.

For the minutes:
Erwin Beck