Minutes of the Joint Subcommittee Meeting, 4 July 1994, Postgraduate Medical & Pharmaceutical Institute, Prague, Czech Republic

International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology
Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Arthrobacter and Related Organisms
and Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Microbacterium and Related Organisms

Preamble and call to order. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Grace Alderson (Secretary of the Arthrobacter Subcommittee), L. Evtushenko (Chairman of the Microbacterium Subcommittee), K. H. Schleifer, P. Schumann, and J. Ruan. The visitors present were V. Akimov, M. D. Collins, J. Holt, and T. Gray.

Apologies for absence. Verbal or written apologies for absence were received from M. Goodfellow, L. Kalakoutskii, R. Kroppenstedt, Y.-H. Park (Chairman of the Microbacterium Subcommittee), K.-H. Schleifer, P. Schumann, and J. Ruan. The minutes present were V. Akimov, M. D. Collins, J. Holt, and T. Gray.

Minimal standards. The Chairman briefly described the opinions concerning minimal standards expressed at the Judicial Commission meeting held on 3 July 1994 in Prague. "Minimal Standards for Minimal Standards" will be published in the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology as a taxonomic note. The Chairman reminded the members present of the contents of the first circular (circulated on 4 June 1994) for the Minimal Standards Project and tabled a first draft of "Common Minimal Standards" for the Arthrobacter Subcommittee and the Microbacterium Subcommittee. This draft had been considered and approved by the members who were unable to attend. It was considered in detail by those present, and all consensus amendments were noted by the Secretary. A final draft incorporating the amendments will be produced and circulated to the members. A period of 3 weeks will enable further comments to be incorporated before the document is submitted for publication.

Taxonomic problems. It was agreed that minimal standards are important, but that they are only one aspect of the work of the subcommittees. It was also noted that minimal standards necessarily have to include data that are not easily obtained by workers in all laboratories. Thus, subcommittee members have a duty to help solve problems in the areas of their taxonomic groups and methodological fields. Collaboration with coauthorship of publications versus service with pay-