

## **RCN: Nitrification**

**Dates: Friday, Feb. 16-17, 2007**

**Location: Corvallis, OR**

**Attendees: Arp, Bottomley, Chain, Hickey, Klotz, Norton, Sayavedra-Soto, Stein, Ward**

Minutes

1. Rules/expectations for membership (US and international) and allocation of funds (mechanisms for decision making)

Martin presented a draft of a charter for membership. Some modifications were recommended at the meeting. A revised draft is attached.

A name and mission statement for the group were also discussed.

2. Web site... content, responsibilities, links to other sites, communication vehicle, etc.

Luis presented the initial draft of the web site. Comments were solicited. Next step is to register the domain name and set up the secure sections of the web site.

3. Get a plan for meetings. How many meetings, potential locations, etc.

We discussed several meetings, including some satellite meetings and one international nitrification meeting.

An international nitrification meeting will be held in the summer of 2009. Martin offered Louisville as the meeting site. Others were invited to make proposals as well. Jenny subsequently presented information about Utah sites. Dan and Bess and Martin agreed to be on steering committee for the meeting. Jetten, Wagner, Suwa, Prosser, and Hooper will also be invited to be on steering committee. There would also be a local organizing committee.

Several RCN members will be attending the ASM meeting in Toronto in May and we will take that opportunity to organize a satellite meeting around the AOA. Christa Schleper and Dave Stahl will be in attendance at the ASM meeting and invited to participate. Martin and Bess will take the lead in organizing this meeting likely to be entitled "Coordination meeting: interaction between AOB and AOA communities an International Collaboration".

A second satellite meeting entitled "Coordination meeting: Culture collections and International Collaboration" will be organized around the visit of Riks Laanbroek to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Martin and Bess will organize.

A third possible satellite meeting would be organized in conjunction with the Soil Society Annual Meeting and would be organized by Bill and Jenny.

4. Identifying the major scientific questions in nitrification and how can the RCN help reach those objectives.

We discussed the major scientific questions in nitrification. A summary is attached. Among the several projects identified, we determined that working to identify the core genomes involved in ammonia oxidation and nitrite oxidation are most amenable to the RCN approach. Dan and Martin agreed to organize the next discussion with all interested members to flesh out how to approach this project. Other projects required new sources of funding, and some required inclusion of more participants. One example is the current call from USDA for functional genomics proposals. Peter agreed to take the lead on organizing a proposal around soil nitrifiers. A summary is attached.

5. Writing objectives...minireviews, nitrification compendium, etc.

We agreed to start plans for a new nitrification compendium. Dan, Bess, and Peter would start laying the groundwork.

6. Alliances with existing groups outside the US (UK, NL, JP, D & A)

The international meeting would be coordinated with existing international efforts, e.g. the European nitrification/denitrification meeting organized by Jetten and Richardson.

7. Maintaining culture collections.

The need to maintain culture collections was discussed. Jenny agreed to take the lead on a proposal to NSF for funds to organize the current culture collections.

8. Outreach activities.

We discussed three outreach activities: 1) REU supplements, 2) the possibility of a Distance Education graduate course in nitrification, and 3) educational activities for K-12. Dan agreed to take the lead on these.

### **Summary of Assignments:**

Web site: Luis

International meeting Summer 2009: Local host (probably Jenny or Martin), plus steering committee (Hooper, Jetten already agreed), Arp to contact Prosser, Wagner, Suwa

WHOI Satellite meeting: Bess and Martin

ASM AOA Satellite meeting: Bess and Martin

Soil Society Satellite meeting: Bill and Jenny

Nitrification compendium: Bess, Dan, Peter

Major questions: Dan and Martin for nitrifier core genomes, Peter for USDA grant

Culture collections: Jenny

Outreach: Dan