

## Minutes of the August 6, 2002 Meeting of the SBS Microplate Standards Development Committee

### Attendees:

Ron Ringleben, Apogent Discoveries  
Craig Weiss, Apogent Discoveries  
Michael Shanler, BD Biosciences  
Carol Ann Homon, Boehringer-Ingelheim  
Clyde Grant, Co Bio Engineering  
Dan Grant, Co Bio Engineering  
Deborah Morton, Corning  
Mike Orzechowski, Corning  
Marty Popoloski, Corning  
Gunther Knebel, Greiner BioOne  
Dave Hansen, Hamilton Co  
Kevin Oldenburg, MatriCal

Marty Engelstein, Millipore  
Bruce Turner, MJ Research  
Scott Reeves, REMP  
\* Terri Nackid, SBS  
Marc Feiglin, Tecan  
Arto Lahti, Thermo Electron  
Chris Stamas, Thermo Electron  
Ted Ciolkosz, Waters  
Russ Keene, Waters  
Steve Kabachus, Whatman  
Helen Liu, Whatman  
Thomas Zermani, Whatman

\* Denotes attendees who only have observer status and cannot vote (see paragraph 4.3 of MSDC Operating Procedures document).

### Agenda:

Marc Feiglin and Carol Homon co-chaired the meeting and presented the agenda for the day.

- Committee Update
  - Determine Current Consensus Body members
    - Open issues? (Apogent voting rights)
  - Update on ANSI Issues
- Vote to pass existing draft versions of standards
  - Vote on SBS-1, SBS-2, SBS-3, and SBS-4
  - Determine how to handle SBS-5
- Miscellaneous Discussion

### Membership Review

The current Working Group, as represented by the membership of the ListServ, now contains over 200 members representing over 100 organizations from over 15 nations. Membership in the Consensus body was updated after all attendees had signed in. Based on the criterion stipulated in clause 4.1 of the Operating Procedures of the MSDC, there were 17 eligible organizations as listed below.

Apogent Discoveries <sup>1,2</sup>	MatriCal <sup>1</sup>
BD Biosciences <sup>1</sup>	Merck & Co. <sup>3</sup>
Beckman Coulter, Inc. <sup>1,2</sup>	Millipore <sup>1,2</sup>
Boehringer-Ingelheim <sup>3</sup>	MJ Research <sup>1,2</sup>
CoBio Engineering <sup>3</sup>	Molecular Devices <sup>1,2</sup>
Corning <sup>1</sup>	REMP <sup>2</sup>
Greiner BioOne <sup>1</sup>	Tecan <sup>2</sup>
Hamilton Co <sup>2</sup>	Whatman <sup>1</sup>
Hoffman La Roche <sup>3</sup>	

Interest groups

1. Manufacturers of microplates (n=14)
2. Manufacturers of instrumentation that utilizes microplates (n=12)
3. Users of microplates that do not fit in either of the previous categories (n=5)

Of these, 13 were in attendance at the meeting. A quorum was therefore present.

## Open Issues

With the ability to now vote between meetings, the rules for becoming a member of the Consensus Body were clarified. Membership in the Consensus Body, and its right to vote, is updated at each meeting. Membership is automatically given to those members who, in addition to attending the current meeting, have attended at least one of the last three MSDC meetings. For purposes of business conducted between meetings, membership in the Consensus Body is automatically given to those members who have attended at least two of the previous four MSDC meetings. Membership in the SBS is NOT required to participate in the MSDC.

There was discussion about the process for handling the change in number of votes when companies merge. According to paragraph 6.1.1 of the Operating Procedures of the MSDC stipulates that “no representative organization, company, etc shall have more than one vote.” It was recently discovered that Apogent Technologies is a holding company for Abgene, Matrix, Robbins, and Nalge Nunc. As such, an online vote was recently held to determine whether to combine the voting rights of all Apogent companies into a single vote or to separate them into three separate votes as follows:

- Abgene shall receive its own vote as it visibly acts as a separate company (separate sales force, R&D, advertising, exhibition booths, etc). Without looking at investor materials, it is difficult to know that Abgene is even part of Apogent.
- Nunc shall receive its own vote as it visibly acts as a separate company (separate sales force, R&D, advertising, exhibition booths, etc). Without looking at investor materials, it is difficult to know that Nunc is even part of Apogent.
- The votes for Matrix and Robbins shall be combined under the Apogent name with a separate vote from Abgene and Nunc. These companies are visibly separate from Abgene and Nunc, but not so from each other. Matrix and Robbins often appear as one company (sharing advertisements, exhibit booths, etc)
- Other member companies of Apogent are not eligible for MSDC Consensus Body votes (they have not attended a single meeting). If they do attend, then the consensus body will have to vote on how their votes should be managed.

The results of the vote were as follows:

Choices	Votes	%	Respondents
Yes, I agree to split create 3 separate member votes for the Apogent companies	6	42.86%	Beckman Boehringer-Ingelheim Hamilton Merck Millipore Molecular Devices
No, I disagree with the split. Apogent should only receive a single vote.	8	57.14%	BD Corning Greiner BioOne Matrical MJ Research Roche REMP Whatman
I abstain from this vote.	0	0.00%	

As such, for the current meeting, the members of Apogent companies received a single vote. The members of Apogent wanted to appeal the vote. According to clause 6.6.1 of the Operating

Procedures of the MSDC, the member companies have 30 days to file a written complaint to appeal the vote. Accordingly, the chair's must receive this written complaint by September 5, 2002.

### **ANSI Update**

It was announced that, as of July 1, 2002, ANSI has accredited the SBS Microplate Standards Development Committee as a standards developer. SBS is working with ANSI to clarify a few items regarding accreditation. ANSI would like to see more end-users attending meetings of MSDC. With a MSDC vote to accept the standards, the committee will begin filing the appropriate paperwork with ANSI to have the standards approved.

### **Voting on Standards 1-4**

Proposed standards 1-4 were voted on in order to submit them to ANSI. According to clause 6.3 of the Operating Procedures of the MSDC, a vote on approving standards requires a letter ballot or an equivalent formal recorded vote with approval by at least a majority of the consensus body (9) and at least two-thirds of those voting, excluding abstentions. Therefore, assuming there were no abstentions, nine affirmative votes were required to pass any standard.

#### **SBS-1: The votes were cast as follows:**

- Apogent Discoveries- affirmative
- BD Biosciences- affirmative
- Beckman Coulter, Inc.- not present
- Boehringer-Ingelheim- affirmative
- CoBio Engineering- affirmative
- Corning- affirmative
- Greiner BioOne- affirmative
- Hamilton Co- affirmative
- Hoffman La Roche- not present
- MatriCal- affirmative
- Merck & Co.- affirmative
- Millipore- not present
- MJ Research- affirmative
- Molecular Devices- not present
- REMP- affirmative
- Tecan- affirmative
- Whatman- affirmative

*SBS-1 was accepted unanimously by those present as presented.*

#### **SBS-2: The votes were cast as follows:**

- Apogent Discoveries- affirmative
- BD Biosciences- affirmative
- Beckman Coulter, Inc.- not present
- Boehringer-Ingelheim- affirmative
- CoBio Engineering- affirmative
- Corning- affirmative
- Greiner BioOne- affirmative
- Hamilton Co- affirmative
- Hoffman La Roche- not present
- MatriCal- affirmative
- Merck & Co.- affirmative
- Millipore- not present
- MJ Research- affirmative
- Molecular Devices- not present
- REMP- affirmative
- Tecan- affirmative
- Whatman- affirmative

*SBS-2 was accepted unanimously by those present as presented.*

Discussion prior to voting acknowledged the fact that the standard will remain as written to apply only to typical microplates. Deep well plates specifications are currently not a part of SBS-2.

**SBS-3: The votes were cast as follows:**

- Apogent Discoveries- affirmative
- BD Biosciences- affirmative
- Beckman Coulter, Inc.- not present
- Boehringer-Ingelheim- affirmative
- CoBio Engineering- affirmative
- Corning- affirmative
- Greiner BioOne- affirmative
- Hamilton Co- affirmative
- Hoffman La Roche- not present
- MatriCal- affirmative
- Merck & Co.- affirmative
- Millipore- not present
- MJ Research- affirmative
- Molecular Devices- not present
- REMP- affirmative
- Tecan- affirmative
- Whatman- affirmative

*SBS-3 was accepted unanimously by those present as presented.*

**SBS-4: The votes were cast as follows:**

- Apogent Discoveries- affirmative
- BD Biosciences- affirmative
- Beckman Coulter, Inc.- not present
- Boehringer-Ingelheim- affirmative
- CoBio Engineering- affirmative
- Corning- affirmative
- Greiner BioOne- affirmative
- Hamilton Co- affirmative
- Hoffman La Roche- not present
- MatriCal- affirmative
- Merck & Co.- affirmative
- Millipore- not present
- MJ Research- affirmative
- Molecular Devices- not present
- REMP- affirmative
- Tecan- affirmative
- Whatman- affirmative

*SBS-4 was accepted unanimously by those present as presented.*

These standards are to still be referred to as “Proposed Standards” while ANSI considers them for approval.

**Revisions Needed for SBS-5**

Much discussion ensued regarding revisions to SBS-5:

- Is the standard necessary given advancements in robotics and improvements in plates? Is the original reason for creating the standard still applicable? Attendees felt that SBS-5 is still needed.
- Plate rigidity may still be an issue for stackers.
- Concern about the possibility that robots may not have trouble grabbing plates, but might still mash them.
- Without a standard, plates produced by new manufacturers may not meet the needs of the user; new manufacturers may not understand the need for rigidity.
- Are the rigidity specifications as listed in the draft for SBS-5 still correct? A request for instrument manufacturers to test plate rigidity will be posted to the listserv.
- It was suggested that perhaps the standard should be written only to eliminate flimsy plates.
- Marc Feiglin suggested publishing in JBS the study on plate rigidity that has already been done.
- Voting for SBS-5 will be done online, after discussion of a revised version to be posted in the next few weeks.

**Next Steps**

The Committee discussed the possible need for additional standards for lids, well depth, opacity, flatness, and other areas that may become of interest. For a new standard to be considered, it will need to be posted to the listserv for discussion. Those attending the meeting generally thought that a flatness standard may be of interest for liquid handling systems and imaging manufacturers.

### **Future Meetings**

- September 24, 2002, 1-4 p.m., at the 2002 SBS Conference in The Hague.
- TBA, during LabAutomation 2003, February 1-5, 2003.

Until the next meeting, the consensus body will remain as listed above. The following organizations will lose their membership on the consensus body if they are not in attendance at the next meeting:

- Beckman Coulter

The following organizations will gain membership on the consensus body (and its right to vote) if they are in attendance at the next meeting:

- Dupont
- Innovative Microplate
- Pfizer
- TechElan
- Thermo
- Waters
- Wyeth