

## SBS Microplate Standardization Development Committee (MSDC) Meeting Minutes

1:00pm – 2:30pm, September 19, 2006, Rm.# 607, Society of Biomolecular Science (SBS), Seattle, WA.

Minutes recorded by MSDC co-chair Michael Shanler, BD Biosciences (296 Concord Rd, Billerica, MA 01730) 978-901-7296

### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Amer El-Haj (MSDC co-chair) started the meeting at 1:05pm. In Attendance: **THERMO** (Stacey Murray); **PERKIN ELMER** (Brenda Tierney); **FISHER/NUNC** (Dan Schroen); **MOLECULAR DEVICES** (Paula Rickert); **ASAHI KASEI** (Isuki Morishito); **TECAN/REMP** (Scott Reves, Besuhard, Iseli); **CORNING** (Jeff Carlson); **AURORA BIOTECH** (Larry Lugo); **LABCYTE** (Joe Olechno); **ASTRA ZENECA** (Tim Ikeda); **BD BIOSCIENCES** (Mike Shanler); **BEESTON** (Amer El-Hage); **PFIZER** (Craig Hines); **MERCK** (Collette DeChard); **MATRICAL** (Kevin Oldenberg); **SEAHORSE** (Paul Escalante); **GREINER BIO-ONE** (Jon Seldin, Rainer Heller); **GENETIX** (Mark Truesdale); **MILLIPORE** (Jeff Busnach); **MAIA SCIENTIFIC** (Kris Ver Donck); **WEIDMANN PLASTICS** (Kurt Eggmann);

### 3.0 BACKGROUND: Mission Statement, Policy & Legal Summary Guidelines

We reminded members that the MSDC is developing standards to facilitate automated processing of microplates on behalf of and for acceptance by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). We are not developing "SBS standards."

### 4.0 MEMBERSHIP: Consensus Body (CB), Membership update, Quorum Check

#### Consensus Body (CB) UPDATE:

- **Jan 2006 CB:** *Aurora Discovery, Becton Dickinson, Beeston Engineering Consulting, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bridge Biosciences (new), Corning Inc., Evotec (new), Fisher Scientific (Apogent, Abgene, Matrix, Nunc), Greiner Bio-One, Johnson & Johnson, Maia Scientific, Merck, Matrical, Millipore, Molecular Devices (Skatron, Universal Imaging, Axon), Pfizer, Tecan (Remp), Thermo Electron, Weidmann Plastics; Labcyte (NEW), Matrical (new).*
- **Lost CB status for the next meeting:** *Johnson & Johnson*

CB TOTAL: 21

CB IN ATTENDANCE: 16

CB QUORUM REQ'D: 11

### 5.0 SUMMARY & APPROVAL of PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved from Association for Lab Automation (ALA), January 23, 2006 Palm Springs, CA

### 6.0 OLD BUSINESS ITEMS:

#### 6.1 Discuss voting procedure. How to give all CB members a chance to vote if they are not present at a meeting?

Text will be drafted to give CB members a 60 day period to finalize a vote using an electronic method (e-mail), if a significant number of CB members were not present at the meeting where the vote took place.

ACTION ITEM: Mike Shanler (BD BIOSCIENCES) to draft text and present it over e-mail on the list serve.

#### 6.2 Vote to approve updated Jan 2006 MSDC Operating Procedure

The document was redlined with changes, and made available to the CB in attendance. There was unanimous support to make the drafted changes to the operating procedure.

ACTION ITEM: Amer El-Hage to follow up with ANSI.

#### 6.3 Company "representatives" and CB summary update

It was mentioned that the database of contact names at companies needs to be updated. Additionally, it would be helpful if a company representative could be identified at each organization to help be a liaison for dialog, and to help expedite decisions or collect information.

ACTION ITEM: Mike Shanler (BD BIOSCIENCES) to distribute excel spreadsheet showing list of names to recent participants.

#### 6.4 Proposed flatness "Standard #6" terminology and drawings (Initiated by Corning)

At the last MSDC meeting held at ALA (January 24, 2006), there was much discussion on how to properly develop a microplate standard for well-bottom flatness for within a well and across an entire plate. The flatness in this proposed standard is defined in both Intra-well and Inter-well term characteristics. This characteristic affects imaging quality, high content

screening, and fluid handling, acoustic pipetting, and pin-tool (uVol transfers) performance, in addition to other robot interfaces.

It was determined that the diagrams originally provided by Corning for Well Bottom Elevation (WBE) and Well Bottom Elevation Variance (WBEV) need to be somewhat clearer. Additional outlines and diagrams are needed, perhaps using wire diagrams (so color is not needed in the standard proposal) before the draft text could be discussed further. It was also discussed that we focus on nomenclature only at this point before attempting to set an actual dimensional specification or min/max value. It was questioned if only flat-bottom plates should be included in this standard. It was also suggested that we add a "RANGE" instead of "MIN/MAX" It was suggested that "LENS or BOTTOM THICKNESS" be added as well. This value is important as there are requirements for certain auto-focusing features on some imagers. It is also noted that some plates are marketed as imaging plates and they require a thicker bottom.

□ ACTION ITEM: Mike Shanler (BD BIOSCIENCES) to arrange a sub-group with Jeff Carlson (CORNING) to work on the details and will report back to the MSDC over e-mail list serve. An update will be given at the next MSDC meeting. A small working group of members have offered to help expedite re-writing the Corning draft standard. These organizations are Labcyte, Molecular Devices, Nunc, Corning, and BD.

## **7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Print and advertising issues**

Organizations should not advertise "meets SBS compatibility" or "is SBS compatible". Members need to advise their organizations (especially marketing groups) to change the way they publish literature or make claims on posters. In fact, there is no such thing as "SBS compatibility", since the MSDC are creating ANSI standards. Additionally, SBS does not allow people or organizations to use its logo without written permission. Specifically, representatives to robot and consumable manufacturers should communicate these changes to their organizations. Ideas on how to proceed with curbing the misuse of the SBS name and our ANSI standards will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **7.2 Well marking convention for 1536-well microplates**

There was some list serve and e-mail chatter about how to properly designate well coordinates for 1536 plates, since there is no standard. In addition, it was mentioned that handling higher density formats (e.g. 3,456-well microplates) could be an issue. There is only a need to create an "A1" reference in the top left (bird eye view) of a plate. It was questioned if this is really a plate/instrument issue..or if the nomenclature has more to do with informatics and databases. For now the MSDC does not have enough information to determine if a specification should be pursued. More input is needed from 1536 users as well as plate reader companies.

□ ACTION ITEM: Mike Shanler to contact 1536 capable reader companies and invite them to either discuss this issue at the next meeting, or to describe their default settings on the list serve.

### **7.3 Lid Governance**

There were questions about how to develop specifications for more automation-compatible lids. It is advised that those interested in this encourage dialog on the list serve.

□ ACTION ITEM: This topic is tabled until the next meeting.

### **7.4 Suggestions for new standards, Weight, PCR plate**

There were questions on how to develop specifications for more automation friendly PCR plates. It is advised that those interested in this encourage dialog on the list serve.

□ ACTION ITEM: This topic will be tabled until the next meeting.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING:**

**Association for Lab Automation (ALA), Palm Springs, 2007.** A date is to be provided upon confirmation with ALA.