

Minutes of NgoRS Board Meeting (15 May 2025)

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order):

Alison Criss (Treasurer)
Jennifer Edwards (President)
Odile Harrison (At-large Member)
Kate Seib (At-Large Board Member)
Evgeny Semchenko (At-large Member)
Julie Stoudenmire (At-large Member)
Nathan Weyand (Secretary)

Absent Board Members:

Alexis Branch (Trainee Member)
Caroline Genco (Past President)
Trevor Moraes (At-large Member)
Hank Seifert (Ex Officio Member)
Crista Wadsworth (Director of Communications)

Board meeting summary (*Action items highlighted*):

1. **Federal nonprofit tax form.** This was submitted by Alison and accepted in early May.
2. **Membership renewal.** We reviewed that renewals won't be accepted until July 1st. The NgoRS website is not set up to renew memberships prior to July 1st.
3. **Future meetings.** Jenn will be sending out meeting requests to the board for 2026.
4. **The Early Career Researcher Outstanding Paper Award.** We currently have four nominated papers. *Board members that are not co-authors on the papers will serve as referees.* Criteria for review include: 1) Significance to the field; 2) Quality of data; 3) Presentation of the data (including, scholarly discussion of the data); and 4) Innovation. Referees will submit an overall score of 1-4 (1 best, to 4 not as good). The lowest score will win, and ties will be ranked by the referees using the criteria. *Referees will email scores to Jenn by May 28th.*
5. **Workshop discussions.** The date chosen for the next workshop will be September 11th at 7 AM USA Eastern time. *Nathan is setting up a shared google document for collection of useful resources including URLs. This resource list will be added to the NgoRS website sometime after the event. The links will also be shared in the October issue of the voice.* The focus of the workshop will be **"Preparing yourself for the job market"**. A diverse panel is desired including representatives. Panel suggestions included those from academia (research intense & teaching intense), industry, patent law (attorney and/or others working in the area of intellectual property), clinician scientists, or clinical microbiology lab workers (government or regional/state labs), science writers. The board wishes to invite panelists that are earlier in their career so they can better advise NgoRS trainee members who are getting ready to transition to a new position. *Crista will send an email to the membership requesting suggestions for panel members. Jenn will seek suggestions in the June edition of The Voice.*
6. **Voice & Protocols.** Protocol suggestions for the Voice were discussed.
 - a. *July/August protocols. Julie and Nathan will work on collecting information* for 1) Chemically defined media for growth of the gonococcus; 2) Growth assays for the gonococcus (plate assays, batch cultures, incubation conditions, etc).
 - b. *August edition of the Voice.* Jenn will be traveling. *Julie volunteered to help with the August issue.*

Respectfully submitted,

N. Weyand, NgoRS Secretary.