

Minutes of NgoRS Board Meeting (17 July 2025)

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order):

Alexis Branch (Trainee Member)
Alison Criss (Treasurer)
Jennifer Edwards (President)
Caroline Genco (Past President)
Trevor Moraes (At-large Member)
Kate Seib (At-Large Board Member)
Hank Seifert (Ex Officio Member)
Evgeny Semchenko (At-large Member)
Julie Stoudenmire (At-large Member)
Crista Wadsworth (Director of Communications)
Nathan Weyand (Secretary)

Absent Board Members (in alphabetical order):

Odile Harrison (At-large Member)

Board meeting summary (*Action items highlighted*):

- 1. Membership renewal.** Hank reviewed current membership numbers. NgoRS currently has 31 professional members (57 expired) and 34 trainee members (189 expired). *The board was asked to remind their trainees to renew their memberships.* Crista sent out a reminder email with renewal instructions earlier today. The board decided to send the August Voice to former members with a note that this will be their last issue unless they renew by August 31st. This gives former members a two month grace period. A company contacted Jenn for access to membership list. Board does not want to share list with companies. *Jenn will decline this request.*
- 2. Future meetings.** Jenn will be sending out meeting requests to the board for 2026. Sep 11th workshop (7 am. Planned panelists: Stephanie Bishop, academic; Erin Garcia, industry; Krista Connelly, NIH). *Jenn will reach out to confirm the panelists' participation.* Scheduled board meetings include Nov 12th, Jan 14th and April 8th. Jenn will schedule a couple more board meetings. One at the end of August will discuss nominations for paper awards and plan for the Sep. 11th workshop. A meeting in February will be to organize for the Spring NgoRS Election. *Crista will set up registration for the workshop. Nathan will resend the google document out to the board members to help with workshop planning.*
- 3. Director of Communications position.** Extension of Crista's position was approved.
- 4. Next IPNC.** Charlene wants to know what NgoRS would like to have at the IPNC 2026. We will have a trainee lunch and need a swag table and have a membership meeting (with a microphone and room). Other ideas discussed included sponsoring a poster session; poster judging and NgoRS awards, monetary awards (travel or registration). Super early bird registration for IPNC will be \$420 for postdocs, \$300 for PhD students. Discussed having some fun stuff at the meeting such as giant microbes for trainee or crocheted diplococci. *Nathan will work to get a crochet pattern for the Voice from his daughter and see if diplococci can be found for purchase on Etsy.*
- 5. Ideas for future protocols.** LOS and pili purification, Opa and Porin preps. The board is trying to find protocols that are not generic but specific to our field. Discussed having the Seifert lab mutant library reviewed again in the Voice. Other suggestions: in vitro and in vivo competition assays (Ram, Jerse labs?). *Nathan will work on an in vitro competition protocol for the end of the year.*
- 6. Caroline started a discussion about having a forum where we talk about this moment in time** (research funding, future of research, diversifying funding). She thinks this is worth a conversation and providing a forum to hearing the concerns of trainees. We can give general career advice. October was proposed as a date to have it. Alexis is willing to be on the workshop panel because she is on the job market and share her experiences.

7. **NgoRS website discussion.** Jenn wants The Early Career Researcher Outstanding Paper Awards added to the website. Organization ideas: have video stuff under one tab. Documents on board members and society could go under one tab. Research links, disease links and protocols could be under one tab. **Hank and Crista will look into tweeking the organization.** Recordings including webinars and symposium. State of Field is publicly accessible. If we could have 3 or 4 headings it could help simplify the website.
8. **The Voice.** **For the September issue a summary of available resources and links at the NgoRS website will be listed.**
9. **Future NgoRS Conference.** NgoRS needs more money if we want an in-person conference. We could use a \$100K donation to allow conference participation by participants that live in countries with lower resources and permit professional management of website. Companies typically donate \$5-10K. ; We are looking for societies and charitable organizations we could reach out to. The Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference was mentioned as an example. MMPC costs have been kept low because it is held at universities. Europe was suggested as a location for the first in-person NgoRS conference, perhaps the UK. **A poll is could be sent prior to the next election to query members about ongoing interest in virtual verses in-person conferences.** The 2027 NgoRS conference will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Weyand, NgoRS Secretary.