

Minutes of NgoRS Board Meeting (17 April 2025)

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order):

Alexis Branch (Trainee Member)
Alison Criss (Treasurer)
Jennifer Edwards (President)
Odile Harrison (At-large Member)
Trevor Moraes (At-large Member)
Kate Seib (At-Large Board 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):

Caroline Genco (Past President)
Hank Seifert (Ex Officio Member)

Board meeting summary (*Action items highlighted*):

1. **Financial Summary.** Balance: \$20,359.22
2. **Board communications.** The NgoRS Board had trouble communicating at IPNC. To improve on this a Whatsapp group was set up by Odile soon after the April board meeting.
3. **The Early Career Researcher Outstanding Paper Award.** We currently have one nominee from Hank. The next nomination deadline is May 15th, 2025. Jenn asked for volunteers to read the nominated paper or any new ones that get nominated. We can invite external reviewers. Alison asked if a reminder email could be sent to membership. Crista was asked to put a reminder in the body of the email being sent out with the May issue of The Voice. NgoRS has had a goal of three awards per year but discussed making this an annual award because we aren't getting a lot of nominations. The award is to be used to recognize first and senior authored papers from members within eight years of their terminal degree. Criteria are well outlined in a form that can be downloaded from the NgoRS website.
4. **Protocols.** Protocol suggestions for the Voice were discussed.
 - a. **Standard SBA Assay.** We can feature links to published protocols. Many assays are similar but not identical; not harmonized. Alison mentioned recent effort at an Oxford meeting to work toward standardization. Could give a general overview of SBA with links to several published examples. We will start with an SBA reference guide for the May edition of the Voice. *Alison will work on this and communicate with Kate and Ev.* Jenn asked if we could plan on featuring opsonophagocytosis assays for June. Kate suggested merging the two topics into one. Nathan asked if we could have citations to what promotes consistency with SBAs. Ev mentioned that Sanjay had a paper on this topic a while ago. Kate suggested keeping it simple.
 - b. **Growth Media.** Julie brought up getting asked about growth media a lot. How to grow GC in metal restricted media is a common request she receives. NgoRS could provide a list of growth media recipes and hints and tricks on how to use them. We haven't covered chemically defined media in the past. Growth curve protocols were also discussed (batch, incubators used, use of plate readers, CO2 incubators, or protocols for growing without CO2 (i.e. sodium bicarbonate)). *Nathan and Julie will work together to draft lists of relevant examples.*
 - c. Alison asked if protocols will be archived on NgoRS website following publication in The Voice. Yes, protocols are archived on site and accessed via the Protocols tab. The State of the Field section is publicly accessible, and includes information about Pili, Opa and LOS nomenclature (i. e., "protocols" that are really more akin to a reference guide).
5. **Future Workshop planning.** The NgoRS previously announced to its membership that pertinent Workshops would occur tri-annually. To date, we have arranged only one workshop, which took place in January. The Board needs to organize another workshop. Jenn reviewed suggestions received at the IPNC by

attendees of the NgoRS business meeting: 1) Journal club featuring studies related to, but outside, of our field; 2) State of chaos in USA right now (Jenn volunteered to type something up). Discussion on topics included:

- a. Preparing yourself for the job market. Alexis brought up having “Transitions” as a topic for those navigating migration to new positions (graduate student to post-doc; post-doc to tenure track position, etc.). Alison agreed with Alexis about using this topic to further professional development in our trainees. Kate was approached at IPNC about getting a job after finishing a first post-doc; how it might be rare for a university to hire two people working on *N. gonorrhoeae*. Kate suggested having a panel with people of many different backgrounds that could be asked questions. Jenn asked if we could focus a webinar toward “marketing yourself”. Odile mentioned that there were several ECR chats at IPNC about marketing yourself and transitioning to new positions; stressed the need for people on different career paths to sit on the panel. Trevor agreed with a focus on further professional development; that having industry representatives would be good. Nathan brought up a discussion he had with a post-doc at IPNC that is concerned about fielding questions after giving a job talk and skills she could develop to prepare.

Jenn summarized the Board’s discussion as a need for a workshop focused on preparing yourself for the job market. We could run it like the grant writing workshop (we have a set of questions to answer and then open up a Q&A). We could put together a white paper for State of the Field that includes topics such as interview tips and tricks, how to polish your CV, etc. Alison suggested assembly of a diverse panel that allow comparisons and contrasts; creation of a resource list (including useful URLs); that information presented at this webinar could be added to a future issue of The Voice. Odile mentioned the need for a section on artificial intelligence. She is seeing a rise in applications clearly AI generated. [Nathan will start a shared Google Doc to collect ideas](#) related to the next webinar with a focus on the professional development ideas that were discussed.

- b. Job board. Jenn gave some time to Crista about having a job board on the NgoRS website. Crista is happy to compile a list of job postings; be a contact that people could send job postings to. Jenn could make a request in The Voice for job openings. Kate asked if a job email list could be maintained that people could sign up?
- c. US funding chaos. Alison was not in favor of writing about the state of chaos in the USA since it changes so quickly and will be immediately out of date.
- d. Papers from outside our fields. Trevor suggested a workshop for papers outside the field could be focused on researchers on the boundary/skirt of our field, such as researchers looking at *N. gonorrhoeae* + HIV, or *N. gonorrhoeae* + chlamydia, etc. Odile mentioned that the [STIHIV2025meeting](#) in Montreal will be a venue to identify people working on multiple pathogens. Some discussion stressed inviting such researchers as workshop panelist as a way to increase our membership.
- e. Grant writing. Alison reminded the board that the initial Grant Writing Workshop plan was to have several iterations. These need to be explored. Perhaps a panel discussion of those recently on the job market.
- f. DataVis. Odile is doing a workshop on data visualization using R at the STIHIV2025. If this goes well, she could give it to NgoRS perhaps in November.

Jenn suggested we tentatively plan our next webinar be near the end of August. [Odile is willing to help with the panel and planning](#); suggested the 3rd week of August. We can [advertise the webinar after July 1st](#).

6. **Membership benefits & Miscellaneous.** Jenn showed a list of the benefits of NgoRS membership. As the meeting wrapped up Jenn requested pictures from IPNC for The Voice. Jenn will email the Board with the date of a May Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Weyand, NgoRS Secretary.