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## Minutes of the IOCB Board Meeting No. 4/2021 on March 29, 2021

Present: Ullrich Jahn, Pavel Jungwirth, Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Radim Nencka, Tomáš Obšil, Radek Pohl, Pavel Šácha, Petr Slavíček, Petr Svoboda. The external members showed their negative tests on Covid 19 not older than 7 days.

Guests: Zdeněk Hostomský, Jana Pokorná, Martin Fusek

Secretary: Irena Valterová

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

1. *The lawsuit against IOCB Tech and i&i Prague and counter-measures.* Martin Fusek summarized the situation on a lawsuit filed by an unknown person against IOCB and the headquarters of IOCB Tech and i&i Prague. In response, IOCB pressed charges for libel. IOCB group leaders were informed about the situation at their meeting on March 26. IOCB will create a website where all financial operations between IOCB and the two companies will be clearly explained and accessible to all employees. The IOCB Board expressed full support to the IOCB Director concerning this issue.
2. *IOCB budget 2021 proposal.* Detailed questions to the budget proposal were answered by Jana Pokorná. There were a few requests for small changes in the budget tables to make them clearer. These changes will be added by the economy department and the budget will be approved by the Board at its next meeting. A specific question concerning investment to the land in Krč as discussed on previous meetings was answered by the Director. The land will be bought only under the condition that the authorities will change the purpose of this land and will allow to build the intended institute.
3. *IOCB Nomination for the CAS Wichterle Premium.* Five nominations were submitted, the Board selected and supported nominations of Tomáš Slanina and Eliška Procházková.
4. *Update IOCB and the planned virology centre.* The Director informed on recent developments. There are still 2 parallel options in play as explained in minutes of previous Board meetings.
5. *IOCB Goals, Mission, and Organization 2021-2025.* The document is close to being approved. M. Fusek asked for time until April 1st to add some more points. The Board members may send additional comments to U. Jahn not later than April 1st. The final document will then be approved *per rollam*.
6. *Ethical issues.* The Board invited Prof. Radek Zbořil and his group leader Prof. Pavel Hobza to discuss with the Board members in person or online issues concerning scientific data management. In particular, the Board was concerned about the following. In November 2020, Prof. Radek Zbořil already as an IOCB employee retracted his 2016 *Nature*

*Communications* paper with a retraction note stating that the authors "no longer had the raw data and thus are unable to verify the claims in the published paper". At roughly the same time, in August 2020 Prof. Zbořil defended himself in front of the scientific community represented by the Learned Society stating explicitly that the first author of this paper Dr. Jiří Tuček made only a technical error which he acknowledged and fixed by providing the correct data to the editor of Nature Communications. The Board was concerned by the mutual inconsistency of these two statements and wanted to discuss the issue with Prof. Zbořil also in the light of the fact that he now publishes with the same co-author under IOCB address. Unfortunately, neither Prof. Zbořil nor Prof. Hobza agreed to participate in person or online discussion with the Board. Prof. Zbořil sent written comments, however, they were unrelated to the topic and did not help clarifying the situation. The Board as an advisory body in such issues is thus left with stating openly its concern and delegating possible further action to the management of IOCB.

In a more general terms, the Board suggests that IOCB establishes a Data Management Plan, which provides a framework to deal professionally with the increasing amount and complexity of scientific, administrative, and service data produced at IOCB. The Board invites J. Polách as the IT department leader to discuss this issue at the next Board meeting.

*7. Upcoming IOCB contribution to the US MIT-CZ and MIT-CAS Seed Program:* The Director described the aims of the fund, the CAS involvement and the request to IOCB for financial contribution to the fund: The fund aims to support collaboration between MIT and Czech Institutions. Establishing it financially will take place over three years. Three contributions of \$ 100.000 per year are required to establish it; it was signed into effect on 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 2021. IOCB Tech agreed to provide the Czech contribution. The program is open for the whole CAS, especially supporting collaboration of young investigator groups. The Board suggests to periodically review of the activity of the fund.

The next Board meeting will take place on April, 26<sup>th</sup> at 9.00 in the Director's meeting room.

April 5, 2021