

Summary of the Agenda and Minutes of Extraordinary Pathoplexus General Assembly Meeting

Date and time: 3 Aug 2026, 17:00 CEST
Place: Virtual (Zoom)

Members present:

Emma Hodcroft (chair)
Anderson Brito
Anja Bedeker
Anna Parker
Arthur Shem Kasambula
Chaoran Chen
Emily Smith
George Githinji
Jamie Southgate
Nick Goldman (joined at 17:11)
Peter van Heusden (left at 17:55)
Richard Neher
Senjuti Saha
Stephen Kanyerezi (joined at 17:22)
Vitor Borges

Head of the meeting: Emma Hodcroft
Keeper of the minutes: Chaoran

Agenda

1. Determination of quorum (5 active members present)
2. Election of keeper of the minutes
3. Outline of the issue of elected role terms & GA meetings and proposed solution

4. Vote to adjust the Pathoplexus Statutes to align elected role terms & annual GA meetings for the Executive Board (EB), Treasurer, and Auditors
5. Vote on a resolution to apply this to the current elected roles, extending all ongoing terms end at the next ordinary GA
6. AOB/open discussion

Minutes:

Start of the Meeting: 17:04 (CEST)

1. Determination of quorum (5 active members present)

- 13 active members present → quorum reached

2. Election of keeper of the minutes

- Chaoran Chen was elected as the keeper of the minutes.

3. Outline of the issue of elected role terms & GA meetings and proposed solution

- Currently the [Statutes](#) read as follows:
 - 5.2.3: (The Executive Board)
 - The term of office is 2 years. Reelection is allowed.
 - 5.2.8: (The Executive Board)
 - If a board member resigns from the Executive Board, the board may appoint a replacement. At the next General Assembly, the appointment of the new board member will be submitted to the assembly for confirmation.
 - 5.3.1: (The Treasurer)
 - The term of office is 2 years. Reelection is allowed.
 - 5.3.3: (The Treasurer):
 - If the Treasurer resigns, the Executive Board may appoint a replacement. At the next General Assembly, the appointment of the new Treasurer will be submitted to the assembly for confirmation.
 - 5.4.3: (The Auditors)
 - Their term of office is 2 years. Reelection is allowed.
- All of these roles are elected (and re-elected) by the GA
- In theory this works well - but in practice it means that these role terms can end at periods that don't align with any GA meeting - meaning an extraordinary GA would need to be called to re-elect a role (or roles). Such votes cannot be held online.
- It has been proposed that a simple solution would be to align elected roles defined by the Statutes (currently the EB, Treasurer, and Auditors) with the annual (ordinary) GA meeting - calculated as the previous GA to starting date.

- This would mean replacing the above wording in sections 5.2.3, 5.3.1, and 5.4.3 with the proposal below in a vote (see agenda point 4), and extending the wording in 5.2.8 and 5.3.3 in a vote (see agenda point 4).
- In addition, to avoid having a vote today on elected terms to renew them another two years, it's proposed to vote on a resolution to apply this to current elected roles, meaning these are extended until the 2028 GA (see agenda point 5)

4. Vote to adjust the Pathoplexus Statutes to align elected role terms & annual GA meetings for the Executive Board (EB), Treasurer, and Auditors

(Nick Goldman joined)

- 4.1 Vote by all present GA members to change the wording in Statutes 5.2.3, 5.3.1, and 5.4.3 to read as follows:
 - "The term of office is 2 years and runs between ordinary General Assemblies. For elections held between ordinary General Assemblies, the term of office is calculated from the previous ordinary General Assembly. *Reelection is allowed.*" (Text in italics remains the same as current)
- Vote count: [accepted with 14/14 votes in favor](#)
- 4.2 Vote by all present GA members to extend the wording in Statutes 5.2.8 and 5.3.3 by adding the following after the first sentence:
 - "The replacement takes over the term of office of the member they replace."
- Vote count: [accepted with 14/14 votes in favor](#)

5. Vote on a resolution to apply this to the current elected roles, meaning these terms are extended until the next ordinary GA

- Vote by all present GA members to adopt the following resolution:
 - "The modified terms shall be applied to the ongoing terms of the Executive Board members, the Treasurer, and the Auditors. Specifically, this means that the terms of Executive Board: Emma Hodcroft, Allison Black, Anderson Brito, George Githinji, and Senjuti Saha; of Treasurer Chaoran Chen; and of Auditors Michael Bridger and Nawaal Weitz expire at the ordinary GA 2027."
- Vote count: [accepted with 14/14 votes in favor](#)

(Stephen Kanyerezi joined)

8. AOB/open discussion

Additional Pathoplexus members:

- Members were encouraged to share recommendations for individuals who might be invited to join Pathoplexus as a member.

Discussion on the Restricted-Use Time limit:

- The current one-year maximum for restricted-use data use terms was discussed, with several members noting they have heard requests - including from LMIC researchers - for a longer limit,

as data analysis often takes more than a year. Wellcome grants, for example, allow up to three years before data must be shared.

- The possibility of a renewal or extension mechanism was raised, though significant concerns were noted: since Pathoplexus allows resharing of data, ensuring that a restriction extension reaches all downstream holders of the data would likely be impossible.
 - Notably this issue exists in the reverse already: data may become Open earlier than the original Restricted-Use Until date. However, in this case users will treat data *more* cautiously than necessary, which is less concerning. If data is thought to be Open but the Restricted-Use period was extended, it is more harmful (and a violation, even if unknowingly) to treat the data as Open when it is in fact Restricted-Use.
- Various alternative approaches were proposed and discussed, including: extending the maximum limit to two or three years without allowing extensions; tying the end of the restriction period to the date of publication rather than a fixed term; or allowing submitters to self-select their restriction duration up to a defined maximum.
 - On INSDC databases, one can 'embargo' data until publication (which means the data is invisible except the submitter), and it automatically becomes public as soon as the accession numbers are detected in a publication.
 - Emma noted that on Pathoplexus, unlike on INSDC, accessions are always publicly visible, which could mean automation is harder, as someone else could use the accessions to try and trigger making the data open.
 - However, currently suspected other violations are mostly currently flagged through community/submitter reporting - a similar system could be in place (where most users are expected to do the right thing, and others could report if data was not made Open as expected).
- The importance of clearly defining what constitutes "publication" was raised - however this is currently defined with regards to how Restricted-Use data can be used (e.g. blog posts are explicitly allowed), and this could be reused.
- It was suggested that outbreak scenarios and routine surveillance may warrant different approaches.
- The question of whether different pathogens or communities could have different terms was raised, though concerns were noted about the difficulty of defining such categories for communities/submitters fairly and without bias.
- Ideas for criteria that could define which pathogens would have longer or shorter Restricted-Use periods (if this option was considered) were sought.
- It was noted that groups wanting full control over their own restriction terms also have the option of running their own Loculus instance, with fully customized sharing restrictions. A stable Loculus release is anticipated by end of year. However, it's also recognised that both running an instance and enforcing those restrictions is a higher burden for submitters.
- No vote was taken; this was an informal discussion to gather community input.
- There will be further informal discussions on the topic.

9. Meeting close at 17:58