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1. The best classification scheme would be based on function. However, the functions of several kinesins are not yet clearly defined, and some kinesins have functions in more than one context.
2. Which abbreviation should be used to designate all kinesin motors? I see two possibilities: **kin** or **KIF**. I'd much prefer kin. First, kin is a self-explanatory abbreviation for kinesin, akin to myo for myosin and dyn for dynein. KIF is an artificial construct, and even not quite correct (it is supposed to stand for kinesin superfamily, so it should be KSF). Second, KIF is another name for hashish. Sorry, my dear friend Nobutaka, but KIF would not be a very fortunate choice.
3. Based on the considerable number of kinesin sequences already known a basic classification scheme already has emerged. Satisfyingly, all trees built so far agree on a number of major families. These include: C-terminal kinesins, I-type kinesins (MCAK-family), conventional, KRP85/95, Unc104, MKLP, BimC, Kip3, CENP-E, and Chromokinesin; plus a number of orphans and potential emerging new families.
4. Proposal for a classification scheme: I would propose to maintain the basic family subdivision and to rename them uniformly. I see two possibilities:
 - (a) family names based on a single-letter code akin to the single letter code of amino acids. In most cases a characteristic letter in the previous family name is picked up, thus preserving a memo-link to the previous designation:

C-terminal kinesins	KinC	
MCAK-family	KinI	(for intermediate)
"K"onventional kinesins	KinK	
KRP85/95	KinH	(for heterodimeric)
Unc104-family	KinU	
MKLP-family	KinM	
BimC-family	KinB	
Kip3-family	KinP	
CENP-E family	KinE	
Chromokinesins	KinO	

Newly emerging families could be named accordingly. Subdivisions of a family, as they seem to emerge in the C-type kinesins and chromokinesins, could be designated KinCa, KinCb and KinOa, KinOb. Individual kinesins should be designated with the species initials and a letter if there are more than one. Thus, for example, the three conventional kinesins of the mouse would be MmKinKa, MmKinKb, and MmKinKc, and the kinesins of *Neurospora crassa* would be NcKinC, NcKinK, NcKinUa, NcKinUb, NcKinM, NcKinB, NcKinP, NcKinE, and NcKinO. Still cumbersome, but clear.

- (b) Alternatively, a Roman numeral code akin to the myosins could be used, though I would still use KinC for C-terminal kinesins and KinM, in this case, for motor-domain-in-the-middle kinesins. The families would be:

C-terminal kinesins	KinC	
MCAK-family	KinM	(here for middle, to avoid confusion with KinI)
Conventional kinesins	KinI	
KRP85/95	KinII	
Unc104-family	KinIII	
MKLP-family	KinIV	
BimC-family	KinV	
Kip3-family	KinVI	
CENP-E family	KinVII	
Chromokinesins	KinVIII	

Then the *Neurospora crassa* kinesins, for example, would read: NcKinC, NcKinI, NcKinIIIa, NcKinIIIb, NcKinIV, NcKinV, NcKinVI, NcKinVII, and NcKinVIII.

Both schemes are open-ended, so new families can be added as more information accumulates. Orphans will remain orphans with their present names until placed in an existing or a new family. Some problems may arise, for example with the many C-terminal plant kinesins. But if we leave everything as is, we'll have even more problems.