



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-Executive Board Meeting 6th January 2022

Chair:
I. C. SUTCLIFFE
Northumbria University
U.K.

Redacted minutes

Vice-Chair:
E. R. B. MOORE
University of Gothenburg
Sweden

Minute 1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8.00 a.m. UK time.

Executive Secretary:
A. OREN
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Israel

Minute 2. Record of attendance

The following members of the Executive Board participated: I.C. Sutcliffe (Chair), E.R.B. Moore (Vice-Chair), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), and R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC).

Secretary for Subcommittees:
S. L. W. ON
Lincoln University
New Zealand

Treasurer:
P. NIELSEN
Novozymes, Copenhagen
Denmark

Minute 3. Minutes of the 25th November 2021 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 25th November 2021 meeting were approved. A. Oren will distribute a redacted version of the minutes to the members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, and chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and he will send a copy to E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website.

Members at Large:

R. HAHNKE
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

Y. SHOUCHE
National Centre for Microbial
Resource
India

Members of the Judicial Committee

Chair:
D.R. ARAHAL
University of Valencia
Spain

Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 30th September Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

Vice-Chair:
R. ROSSELLÓ-MÓRA
Mediterranean Institute for
Advanced Studies
Illes Balears Spain

- E.R.B. Moore has posted the redacted minutes of the 1st July, 29th July, 26th August and 30th September 2021 Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website.

Secretary:
M. GÖKER
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

- E.R.B. Moore still does not have access to the NatWest Bank online banking system. I.C. Sutcliffe will obtain a new Activation Code.

- A. Oren has participated in the meeting of the Taxonomy Group of the Catalogue of Life on 1st December. As he was not invited to participate in the meeting of 5th January, he will contact the convenor. If relevant he will in the future recommend M. Göker as a second delegate of the ICSP to join the group.

- A few members of the Executive Board have posted new comments on the proposed revision of the ICNP on the Slack platform.

- E.R.B. Moore has removed e-mail contact information for most ICSP members from the ICSP website.

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- I.C. Sutcliffe has corresponded with B. Duim for further details about the proposed ICSP symposium at the IUMS Congresses 2022. See Minute 5.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted two members of ICSP who rarely engage in voting to remind them of their obligation to participate. A letter of apology was received from one member, who promised to become more active in the future.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has reminded R.A. Samson of the IUMS and G. Redvers-Mutton of the Microbiology Society to advance the discussions about the renewal of the Publication Agreement for the IJSEM. See Minute 6.

- A. Oren has reminded all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy on 7th December that the Slack discussion on the revision of the ICNP will be closed on 31st December.

- Y. Shouche and E.R.B. Moore have started the preparation of an Editorial for the IJSEM to guide Indian authors how to deal with problems related to the Nagoya Protocol and Rule 30(4) of the ICNP.

- A. Oren, M. Göker, R. Hahnke, E.R.B. Moore and I.C. Sutcliffe have prepared on behalf of the Executive Board a response to the Correspondence letter published in Nature Microbiology by Praveen Rahi. The manuscript was submitted in December and receipt was acknowledged on January 5th. The editors of Nature Microbiology recommend authors to post the submission to an appropriate preprint archive. The Executive Board agreed that I.C. Sutcliffe, the corresponding author of the paper, may post the manuscript to BioRxiv.

Minute 5. Planning an ICSP session at the IUMS 2022 conference

B. Duim, the Dutch delegate to the ICSP and member of the organizing committee of the IUMS 2022 conference to be held in Rotterdam in July, offered three possibilities for an ICSP session during the conference: (1) Have the ICSP meeting during lunch time (90 min). There will be a room and lunch boxes available. (2) Have the ICSP meeting during one of the Keynote or Bridging sessions. At this time, there are vacant rooms. (3) Have a small room for the ICSP meeting at the time of the workshops. The ICSP will then have to pay for the room.

Following an email survey, I.C. Sutcliffe summarized these options, as well as other options such as an online ICSP meeting or sessions at the 2022 FEMS conference in Belgrade, at the FEMS 2023 conference in Hamburg (the organizers of that event have already offered to host a session), or the 2022 BISMIS conference in Guangzhou. There was no unanimous support for any of the options.

I.C. Sutcliffe will contact T. Woyke, the recipient of the van Niel International Prize, and ask whether she would be willing to travel to Rotterdam in July to deliver the prize lecture. If the reply is positive, he will contact B. Duim and request reserving a good time slot for a meeting in a room that accommodates up to 100 participants.

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Minute 6. Update on the preparation of the new publishing agreement for the IJSEM

I.C. Sutcliffe and M.E. Trujillo, later joined by E.R.B. Moore, had a meeting with G. Redvers-Mutton and P. Cotgreave of the Microbiology Society. G. Redvers-Mutton has circulated a doodle poll in order to set up a 3-way Microbiology Society-IUMS-ICSP meeting.

Minute 7. Next steps toward revision of the ICNP

A. Oren reported that the public discussion on the proposed revision of the ICNP on the Slack has ended on 31th December. All comments posted have been summarized in a publically available document and an annotated version of the proposals was prepared for use by the Editorial Board of the ICNP. The authors of proposals for emendation of the ICNP published in the IJSEM now have two months to react. The Editorial Board of the ICNP is scheduled to meet on 12th January. The Editor-in-Chief will report at the next meeting of the Executive Board.

Minute 8. Report from the Chair

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that NCBI will adopt the new phyla names, ending in *-ota*, and this announcement has generated some negative comment on social media. As a result, I.C. Sutcliffe was interviewed by the online magazine 'The Scientist' on the topic of the new phyla names. The text can be found at <https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/newly-renamed-prokaryote-phyla-cause-uproar-69578>.

I.C. Sutcliffe also took part in a podcast to discuss taxonomic matters (including the new phylum names proposed), alongside M. Pallen and P. Hugenholtz. The podcast can be found at:

<https://soundcloud.com/microbinfie/69-background-to-bacterial-taxonomy>
<https://soundcloud.com/microbinfie/bacterial-taxonomy-the-grand-vista-is-ahead-of-us>
<https://soundcloud.com/microbinfie/bacterial-taxonomy-into-the-unknown-seqcode-naming-uncultured-multitudes-and-renaming-of-phyla>

Minute 9. Update from the Judicial Commission

M. Göker reported that the Judicial Commission is currently dealing with six Requests for an Opinion. They were divided over the 12 commissioners. For five requests, draft opinions were prepared, two of which are nearly finalized.

Minute 10. Update from the Publications Committee

E.R.B. Moore reported no further news beyond the progress made in negotiations around the publishing agreement (Minute 6) and by the Editorial Board of the ICNP with the revision of the ICNP as outlined in Minute 7.

Minute 11. Update from IJSEM

E.R.B. Moore alerted the Executive Board to the alternative impact factor rating provided by

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SCImago Journal Rank. According to the SCImago ranking, the IJSEM ranks in the first quartile in the category Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics, and in the second quartile in the categories Medicine-Miscellaneous and Microbiology. He has corresponded with the Microbiology Society regarding these rankings but using them to promote the journal is complicated in view of Microbiology Society being a signatory to DORA.

A. Oren reported that Candidatus List no. 3, containing new Candidatus names published in 2020 and addenda to the earlier lists has been typeset, and will soon be available on the IJSEM website.

A. Oren reported the feedback received by the List Editors on the Validation Lists from Seán Turner of NCBI. NCBI monitors and uses these lists.

Minute 12. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

The main updates are outlined in Minute 7. At the next Executive Board meeting, A. Oren will report about the discussion and the decisions made at the meeting of the editorial board of the ICNP, scheduled for 12th January.

M. Göker asked whether we would be able to use the Slack channel in the coming months for informal discussions about proposed revisions of the ICNP. I.C. Sutcliffe replied that, to keep this well separated from the current process, in 1-2 months from now, he will open a new workspace in the Slack channel for that purpose.

Minute 13. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On has sent reminders to the chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy to send him lists of taxa dealt with by each subcommittee. A few responses were received. S.L.W. On will forward the lists received to M. Göker.

Minute 14. Treasurer's update

P. Nielsen had nothing new to report.

Minute 15. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility

E.R.B. Moore had nothing new to report.

Minute 16. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach

S.L.W. On had nothing new to report.

Closing matters

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Minute 17. Other business

A. Oren reported on the completion of a manuscript, co-authored by J. Mareš (České Budějovice) and R. Rippka (Paris) to validate the names of the genus *Cyanobacterium*, the species *Cyanobacterium stanieri*, and the phylum *Cyanobacteriota*. This manuscript will soon be submitted for publication in the IJSEM.

Date of next meeting: **27th January 2022, 8 am UK time**

Adjourned at 9.45

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 6th January 2022

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Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 25th November 2021 meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post the redacted minutes of the 25th November 2021 Executive Board meeting on the ICSP website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to obtain a new activation code to obtain access to the NatWest Bank online banking system, and then to assist E.R.B. Moore, with P. Nielsen, in finalizing the process to obtain access.
- A. Oren, to contact the Taxonomy Group of the Catalogue of Life to receive the link to access the upcoming online meeting of the group.
- Y. Shouche and E.R.B. Moore, to continue the preparation of an Editorial for the IJSEM to guide Indian authors how to deal with problems related to the Nagoya Protocol and Rule 30(4) of the ICNP.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to post our response to the Correspondence letter by Praveen Rahi, submitted to Nature Microbiology, on BioRxiv.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to ask T. Woyke whether she will be able to give the van Niel International Prize lecture in Rotterdam during the IUMS conference in July. If the reply is positive, I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact B. Duim and request the scheduling of an ICSP-sponsored session at the IUMS conference at a convenient time slot, planned for up to 100 participants.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to open a separate workspace in the Slack channel in 1-2 months from now for informal discussions on further revisions of the ICNP.
- S.L.W. On, to send forward lists of taxa received from the Subcommittees on Taxonomy to M. Göker.