



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## ICSP-Executive Board Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Chair:**

I. C. SUTCLIFFE  
Northumbria University  
U.K.

**Vice-Chair:**

E. R. B. MOORE  
University of Gothenburg  
Sweden

**Executive Secretary:**

A. OREN  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Israel

**Secretary for Subcommittees:**

S. L. W. ON  
Lincoln University  
New Zealand

**Treasurer:**

P. NIELSEN  
Novozymes, Copenhagen  
Denmark

**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

**Vice-Chair:**

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

**Secretary:**

M. GÖKER  
Leibniz Institute DSMZ  
Germany

### Redacted minutes

#### Minute 1. Call to order

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

#### 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), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). An apology was received from R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large).

#### Minute 3. Promotion of S.L.W. On to the rank of Professor

I.C. Sutcliffe congratulated S.L.W. On on his promotion to the rank of Professor at Lincoln University, New Zealand.

#### Minute 4. Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 meeting were approved (it was noted that no meeting was held in October). 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.

#### Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> August Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

- E.R.B. Moore had not yet posted the redacted minutes of the July 01, 2021, July 29, 2021 and August 26, 2021 Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website. E.R.B. Moore reported that the updates to minutes of the EB-ICSP meetings would be posted online within the next days.

- E.R.B. Moore still has not obtained access to the NatWest Bank online banking system as authorization from P. Nielsen was not yet received. P. Nielsen reported that the authorization code would be sent to E.R.B. Moore within the next week.

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- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted the Catalogue of Life staff and explained that the ICSP is interested in sending one or more delegates to their Taxonomy Group. A. Oren was appointed delegate, and he will participate in the upcoming meeting of the Taxonomy Group scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>. I.C. Sutcliffe also alerted the Catalogue of Life contact to the benefits of having M. Göker join the group as well, although they have not yet made contact with him. A. Oren will propose this again on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

- A. Oren has sent out the ballot for ratification of the JC Opinions 103-111 to all voting members of the ICSP on October 14<sup>th</sup>, starting the voting process on October 15<sup>th</sup>. See further Minute 6.

- As of November 24<sup>th</sup>, none of the members of the Executive Board other than M. Göker had posted new comments on the Slack platform relating to the proposed revision of Rule 30 of the ICNP. Ongoing action point for all members of the Executive Board.

- M. Göker has uploaded a proposed alternative version of Rule 30(4) of the ICNP on the Slack platform, and sent a copy to E.R.B. Moore to be distributed to the type strain accessibility working group. E.R.B. Moore reported that the proposal of M. Göker was distributed among the participants of the type strain accessibility working group.

- A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe have sent to E.R.B. Moore a list of names of colleagues interested in participating in the "Strain Accessibility Advisory Panel" to be forwarded to M.E. Trujillo for further discussion. E.R.B. Moore reported that a composite list of names of people volunteering to participate in the Strain Accessibility Panel was forwarded to M.E. Trujillo, with a request for how she wants to work with the Advisory Panel.

- E.R.B. Moore did not contact ICSP members listed on the ICSP website to ask whether they want their email addresses removed; a decision was made to remove the listed e-mail addresses, to help prevent future spam/malicious messages. Email addresses of ICSP members with the exception of selected Executive Board members, are no longer listed in the website. E.R.B. Moore indicated that another way to post contact information for ICSP members should be determined, since the ICSP members are the representatives of the respective countries' microbiological societies and need to be contactable by the national society memberships.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has asked B. Duim for further details about the proposed ICSP symposium at the IUMS Congresses 2022. No reply was received yet and a reminder will need to be sent.

## **Minute 6. Ballot on Judicial Commission opinions 103-111**

To ratify the opinions issued, a ballot form was sent to the voting members of the ICSP, and voting took place from 15<sup>th</sup> October until 15<sup>th</sup> November. I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, who served as the tellers, reported that 18 out of the 26 eligible members had voted. All nine opinions were ratified: no. 103, 104, 107, 108, 109, and 110 unanimously; opinion 105 with two abstentions, opinion 106 with one vote against and one abstention, and opinion 111 with one abstention. It was noted that four Executive Board members with voting rights did not send their votes. D.R. Arahal and M. Göker were informed of the outcome on 16<sup>th</sup> November. They reported that the manuscript with the opinions has since been submitted for publication in the IJSEM. Two

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members of ICSP are noted to rarely engage in voting. Each will be contacted by I.C. Sutcliffe to remind them of their obligation to participate.

## **Minute 7. Preferred meeting platform**

I.C. Sutcliffe summarized the result of his survey about the preferred conferencing platform. We will continue using GoToMeeting until early next year when our subscription expires. Then we will purchase a subscription to Zoom.

## **Minute 8. Numbers of validation requests handled by the list editors of the IJSEM**

.A. Oren presented statistics showing the rapid increase in the numbers of validation requests submitted in recent months, with increase in both the number of publications in which the names were effectively published and the average number of effectively published names of taxa per paper. Thus far, the List Editors can cope with the increased workload caused by the large number of validation requests.

## **Minute 9. Update from the Judicial Commission**

In addition to the above-mentioned update about the ballot on Judicial Commission opinions 103-111, D.R. Arahal and M. Göker reported on the handling of six more Requests for an Opinion. These were already assigned to members of the Judicial Commission and the discussions about these requests have started. The Chair thanked the members of the Judicial Commission for their ongoing efforts to reduce the backlog of opinions to be issued.

## **Minute 10. Update from the Publications Committee**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, a meeting took place of I.C. Sutcliffe, E.R.B. Moore, M.E. Trujillo with representatives of the IUMS: R.A. Samson, E.Z. Ron and H. Lawrence. [Redacted]. We now must wait for the result of further discussions between the Microbiology Society and IUMS. I.C. Sutcliffe will periodically remind G. Redvers-Mutton of the Microbiology Society and R.A. Samson of the IUMS of the need to keep the discussions going, so that a meeting of the three parties involved (ICSP Publications Committee, Microbiology Society and IUMS) can be scheduled.

## **Minute 11. Update from IJSEM**

E.R.B. Moore reported that the Strain Accessibility Advisory Panel of five members who volunteered was selected by M.E. Trujillo to assist her on the topic of restrictive MTAs and some culture collection documents. Whether this panel is already working with the IJSEM editors is unknown. M.E. Trujillo had not had the chance to 'meet' with the panel but would contact them when she returned to her Institute.

It may be a good idea to publish editorial(s) in the IJSEM to explain the problems with restrictive MTAs and permissions required from a third party such as a local government to obtain type strains, directed to authors from countries such as India, Brazil, and South Africa. Y. Shouche will work with E.R.B. Moore on the preparation of such an Editorial to guide Indian

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authors how to deal with problems related to the Nagoya Protocol and Rule 30(4) of the ICNP.

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

There has been little activity in the Slack discussions in the past weeks until yesterday when M. Göker started to add new comments. Around December 1<sup>st</sup>, A. Oren will remind all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy that the Slack discussions will be closed on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Minute 13. Update on Subcommittees of Taxonomy**

S.L.W. On contacted the chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy on September 9<sup>th</sup> with a request to define their frame of reference (i.e., a summary of which taxa they have responsibility for, likely at the genus level and above) so that LPSN can be updated to flag the expertise of each subcommittee on the relevant taxon pages. No replies were received yet.

It was noted that the update on the status of the subcommittees was now published (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.005046>).

## **Minute 14. Treasurer's update**

P. Nielsen and I.C. Sutcliffe will assist E.R.B. Moore in completing his access to the online banking system.

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

E.R.B. Moore has prepared a new version of the list of countries with restrictions to the availability of type material. This list can be shared with the IJSEM editors, and will be the basis for further discussions in the working group.

Y. Shouche and E.R.B. Moore will prepare 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.

## **Minute 16. Working group on Education & Outreach**

R. Hahnke updated the Executive Board by email about the "adopt-a-taxonomist" scheme. Thus far, eight volunteers were found willing to participate.

S.L.W. On reported that, because of the Covid-19 situation, the meeting of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists, held in Christchurch, New Zealand, was converted to an online meeting. The poster explaining the activities of the ICSP was displayed online. No information is available about the number of views.

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## Closing matters

### Minute 17. Other business

I.C. Sutcliffe presented a Correspondence letter, published by Praveen Rahi (National Centre for Medical Resources, Pune, India) in Nature Microbiology, and online since November 17<sup>th</sup>. The title is “Regulating access can restrict participation in reporting new species and taxa”, and it deals with the problems caused to Indian microbiologists because of the Nagoya Protocol and the special restrictions on distribution of type material imposed by the Indian government that are incompatible with the requirements of Rule 30(4) of the ICNP. The document contains a considerable number of errors, and a response from the ICSP may be required, provided that Nature Microbiology enables the publication of a response to a Correspondence letter. If it does, A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe will prepare a draft version as soon as possible, to be completed by Y. Shouche and others.

Date of next meeting: **January 6<sup>th</sup> 2022, 8 am UK time**

Adjourned at 10.50

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 25 November 2021

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### Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 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 1<sup>st</sup> July, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> September Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website.
- P. Nielsen and I.C. Sutcliffe to assist E.R.B. Moore in finalizing the process to obtain access to the NatWest Bank online banking system.
- A. Oren, to participate in the meeting of the Taxonomy Group of the Catalogue of Life on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and to recommend M. Göker as a second delegate of the ICSP to join the group.
- All members of the Executive Board, to study the proposed revision of Rule 30 of the ICNP and post their comments on the Slack platform.
- E.R.B. Moore, to find another way to post contact information for ICSP members instead of e-mail addresses on the ICSP website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to again ask B. Duim for further details about the proposed ICSP symposium at the IUMS Congresses 2022.

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- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact two members of ICSP who rarely engage in voting to remind them of their obligation to participate.

- A. Oren, to remind all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy that the Slack discussions on the revision of the ICNP will be closed on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Y. Shouche and E.R.B. Moore, to start 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 and I.C. Sutcliffe, to prepare a draft response to the Correspondence letter published in Nature Microbiology by Praveen Rahi, provided that the journal will allow responding to this letter.