



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting March 31<sup>th</sup> 2022, 8 am UK time

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

## 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

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

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

**Treasurer:**  
P. NIELSEN  
Novozymes, Copenhagen  
Denmark

### Minute 3. In memoriam Robert G.E. Murray

**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

I.C. Sutcliffe marked the death of Robert G.E. Murray, who passed away on February 18 at the age of 102. Bob Murray, a Life Member of the ICSP, has been a member and chair of the ICSP, a member of the Judicial Commission, and an editor for IJSB. He was one of the authors of the proposal to establish the *Candidatus* status for yet uncultivated prokaryotes. The genus *Robertmurraya* Gupta *et al.* 2020 and the species *Deinococcus murrayi* Ferreira *et al.* 1997 were named in his honor. E.R.B. Moore will post a preprint of an obituary to Bob Murray, written by S. Koval and D. Heinrichs (University of Western Ontario), for the Canadian Journal of Microbiology, to be replaced later with a link to the published paper.

### Minute 4. Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 meeting of the Executive Board

**Secretary:**  
M. GÖKER  
Leibniz Institute DSMZ  
Germany

The draft minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 meeting were approved with minor corrections suggested by M. Göker. 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 5. Matters arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post the redacted minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website. He will soon post the minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> January and the 24<sup>th</sup> February meetings.
- A. Oren has informed the members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy of the appointment of M.E. Trujillo to a second term as Editor-in-Chief of the IJSEM.
- A. Oren has sent the link to the ICSP response to the comment “Science depends on nomenclature, but nomenclature is not science” by K.G. Lloyd and G. Tahon, published in Nature Reviews Microbiology, to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. The paper is now published in its final format (*Nat. Rev. Microbiol.* 2022;20:249–250).
- I.C. Sutcliffe has reminded the editors of Nature Microbiology that a decision on our response to the letter from P. Rahi is long overdue. See Minute 6.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has opened a separate workspace in the Slack channel for informal discussions on further revisions of the ICNP. The site is functional, and will be announced at the beginning of July, after the ballot on the current revision of the ICNP is closed.
- As S.L.W. On did not participate in today’s meeting, we hope to receive an update at the next meeting on the action point to contact the chairs and secretaries of those subcommittees on taxonomy that did not yet send lists of taxa dealt by their subcommittees, requesting to provide lists similar to the list sent by the subcommittee on “*Campylobacter* and related bacteria”.
- Y. Shouche and E.R.B. Moore reported that the preparation of an Editorial for the IJSEM to guide Indian authors on how to deal with problems related to the Nagoya Protocol and Rule 30(4) of the ICNP is ongoing.
- A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe reported that we will use the Zoom platform to host a planned online course on nomenclature Latin. A. Oren expects to prepare the material in the coming two months.
- The action point for all members of the Executive Board to consider options for the ICSP to hold its next plenary, either in person or online, is ongoing. The item will be on the agenda of the April meeting.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has notified the Judicial Commission before its upcoming meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March that the deviation from Article 8(i) and the first sentence of Article 8(d) is permitted for a limited time only and for dealing with the current special situation.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has not yet contacted IUMS chair E. Ron and IUMS secretary R. Samson to check whether the IUMS may consider a more flexible way to nominate members to the ICSP beyond the current system. He will wait until the publishing agreement is finalized (see Minute 10).

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

- S.L.W. On and E.R.B. Moore have not yet updated the list of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on the ICSP website. S.L.W. On is asked to contact E.R.B. Moore about the updating of the list of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- A. Oren has prepared a draft manuscript proposing emendations of the ICNP (use of genus names as nomenclature types for all higher taxa; emendation of Rules 8, 15, 22, 30(3)(b), 30(4), 34a, and Appendix 7), to be submitted to the IJSEM following the procedure outlined in Article 13(b)(1) of the ICSP statutes. He will further work on this draft with the other members of the ICNP Editorial Board in the coming weeks.
- A. Oren has prepared the draft ICSP ballot to request approval of the revisions to the ICNP, and circulated it among the members of the editorial board in the coming weeks for comments and approval (see Minutes 7 and 12).
- A. Oren has invited expression of interest from members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy who might be interested in helping ICSP raise its social media profile. M. Göker reported that Maria Chuvochina might be interested to manage an ICSP Twitter account. I.C. Sutcliffe will contact M. Chuvochina to ask whether she is indeed willing to do so.
- As a meeting of the Executive Board on 28<sup>th</sup> April is not possible, for the next meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> April is preferred over 5<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Minute 6. Response from Nature Microbiology to our response to Praveen Rahi**

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that following an initial rejection, and appeal, the editor has agreed to consider a revised version. A new version was submitted and has been in review for a few weeks. If necessary, I.C. Sutcliffe will send another reminder in a week from now.

## **Minute 7. Ballot on 2022 revisions to the ICSP**

A. Oren reported that the ballot forms are ready to be sent to the voting members on the evening of 31<sup>st</sup> March: a full version of 407 pages, a short version of three pages where the members can endorse or reject en bloc all proposals made by the editorial board, and separate votes on eight items that need specific attention, along with a document that contains the tables, and a letter with explanations. He has added the draft Judicial Commission opinions 112-122 to Appendix 5, which will soon be submitted to the ICSP for endorsement. M. Göker will amend the letter accompanying the ballot material with information about recent opinions issued by the Judicial Commission and their consequences for the retroactivity of Rule 8. I.C. Sutcliffe, A. Oren and R. Hahnke will serve as tellers. The ballot will remain open for three months.

## **Minute 8. Update on Subcommittees**

Secretary of Subcommittees S.L.W. On did not participate. Updates will be taken next month.

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

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

The Judicial Commission has prepared a draft document with opinions 112-122. The Executive Board expressed its appreciation for the hard work of the Judicial Commission to reduce the backlog. I.C. Sutcliffe will work on the document in the coming weeks and then forward it to M. Göker and A. Oren who will prepare the ballot to endorse the opinions. M. Göker will organize a discussion among the members of the Judicial Commission to determine the exact time point from which the Judicial Commission will implement Article 8 (d)-(i) of the statutes of the ICSP.

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

E.R.B. Moore reported on the progress made. In February, G. Redvers-Mutton of the Microbiology Society sent a revised draft of the publication agreement to the IUMS. In mid-March, she sent a reminder to R. Samson. Last week a reply was received: the Executive Board of the IUMS had studied the proposal and is happy to inform us that the IUMS is ready to accept the proposal. R. Samson appreciates that the journal will provide an annual fee to support the ICSP. Thus, finalization of the agreement to be signed by the Microbiology Society, the ICSP and the IUMS is expected soon. G. Redvers-Mutton is now preparing the final document.

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

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that he and M.E. Trujillo were invited to a meeting of the Microbiology Society council and all editors-in-chief of the society's journals to discuss the position of the Microbiology Society about articles submitted by authors from Russia. Russian authors still can submit papers to the journals, but the manuscripts will be paused and no decisions will be made about their acceptance. "The Microbiology Society's journals will pause the handling of any manuscript where the research is funded by the Russian state or where an author is based in one of those Russian institutions that have publicly expressed support for this cruel and barbaric war." The text of the full statement is found at <https://microbiologysociety.org/news/society-news/a-statement-from-council.html>.

## **Minute 12. Update from the editor-in-chief of the ICNP**

As stated in Minute 7, the ICSP ballot to endorse the proposed revision of the ICNP is ready to be sent out on the date originally planned, 1<sup>st</sup> April. The editorial board still needs to prepare the preface to the new revision. Once the votes are processed, the new version of the ICNP can be sent to the typesetters, hopefully in July.

## **Minute 13. Update from the treasurer**

Now the bank account is accessible again, payments can be made. I.C. Sutcliffe has already received reimbursement of expenses made for access to GoToMeeting. He invited E.R.B. Moore to submit the expenses made in 2021 for maintenance of the ICSP website to the treasurer P. Nielsen. Requests for reimbursement of travel expenses to IJSEM editor-in-chief M.E. Trujillo (IUMS – Belgrade in April) and list editor A. Oren (Halophiles – Alicante in June) have been approved.

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## **Minute 14. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility**

I.C. Sutcliffe will send to Y. Shouche material relevant to availability of type strains and regulations by the Indian government that was deleted when our reply to the letter by P. Rahi was revised for resubmission to Nature Microbiology and that can be included in the Editorial, in preparation for publication in the IJSEM.

## **Minute 15. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach**

As R. Hahnke and S.L.W. On were absent, the working group will report during the next meeting.

## **Minute 16. Other business**

M. Göker alerted the board to international ongoing discussions about restricting access to digital sequence information, similar to the restricted access to biological material based on the Nagoya protocol. Y. Shouche commented that the Indian government favors such restrictions to sequence information. For further information see: <https://www.dsmz.de/collection/nagoya-protocol/digital-sequence-information/dsi-policy-options-webinar-2020> , [https://www.dsmz.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/DSMZ/Keep\\_Digital\\_Sequence\\_Information\\_a\\_common\\_good\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://www.dsmz.de/fileadmin/user_upload/DSMZ/Keep_Digital_Sequence_Information_a_common_good_July_2021.pdf) , and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8866420/>.

Date of next meeting: **21<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 8 am UK time**

Adjourned at 9.25

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

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## **Action points**

- E.R.B. Moore, to post a preprint of the obituary to R.G.E. Murray, written by S. Koval and D. Heinrichs for the Canadian Journal of Microbiology, to be replaced later with a link to the published paper.
- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 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 27<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website.
- S.L.W. On, to contact E.R.B. Moore about the updating of the list of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on the ICSP website.

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact M. Chuvochina to ask whether she is willing to manage a Twitter account of the ICSP.
- A. Oren, to work with the other members of the editorial board of the ICNP on a manuscript with newly proposed emendations of the ICNP, to be published in the IJSEM.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, if necessary, to remind the editors of Nature Microbiology that a decision on our response to the letter from P. Rahi is overdue.
- A. Oren, to send out the ballot on the proposed revisions of the ICNP on 31<sup>st</sup> March to the voting members of the ICSP.
- M. Göker, to amend the letter accompanying the ballot material with information about recent opinions issued by the Judicial Commission and their consequences for the retroactivity of Rule 8.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to edit the draft opinions 112-122 issued by the Judicial Commission and to send the final version to M. Göker and A. Oren to be sent for endorsement by the voting members of the ICSP.
- M. Göker, to organize a discussion among the members of the Judicial Commission to determine the exact time point from which the Judicial Commission will implement Article 8 (d) of the statutes of the ICSP.
- E.R.B. Moore, to submit the expenses made in 2021 for maintenance of the ICSP website to P. Nielsen for reimbursement.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to send to Y. Shouche material relevant to availability of type strains and regulations by the Indian government that was deleted when our reply to the letter by P. Rahi was revised for resubmission to Nature Microbiology and that can be included in the Editorial, in preparation for publication in the IJSEM.
- All members of the Executive Board, to consider options for when/how the ICSP should hold its next plenary, either in person or online.