



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## ICSP-EB Meeting April 21<sup>th</sup> 2022

**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

### 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), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), and R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC). Apologies were received from E.R.B. Moore (Vice-Chair), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC).

### Minute 3. Minutes of the 31<sup>th</sup> March 2022 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 31<sup>th</sup> March 2022 meeting were approved with minor corrections suggested by I.C. Sutcliffe. A. Oren will distribute 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

- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post a preprint of the obituary to R.G.E. Murray, written by S. Kovacs for the Canadian Journal of Microbiology on the ICSP website; an update of the website is scheduled to take place next week.

- A. Oren has 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 did not yet 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; an update of the website is scheduled to take place next week.

- S.L.W. On did not yet contact E.R.B. Moore about the updating of the list of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on the ICSP website; he will do so next week and state which inactive subcommittees should be deleted from the list.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted M. Chuvochina to ask whether she is willing to manage a Twitter account of the ICSP. No confirmation was yet received.

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

- A. Oren is working 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. This project is ongoing, and the manuscript will be submitted after the ballot for approval of the 2022 revision of the ICNP is closed.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has reminded the editors of Nature Microbiology that a decision on our response to the letter from P. Rahi is overdue. See Minute 5.
- A. Oren has send out the ballot on the proposed revisions of the ICNP on 31<sup>st</sup> March to the voting members of the ICSP. Thus far, two members have returned their votes.
- M. Göker has amended 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 has edited the draft opinions 112-122 issued by the Judicial Commission and sent the final version to A. Oren, who has sent the documentation for endorsement by the voting members of the ICSP. The ballot was opened on 11<sup>th</sup> April and will be closed on 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- M. Göker has organized 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. See Minute 8.
- E.R.B. Moore has submitted the expenses made in 2021 for maintenance of the ICSP website to the finance department of the University of Gothenburg to prepare an invoice to be sent to P. Nielsen for reimbursement. E.R.B. Moore will add a statement about the number of hours spent on the maintenance of the website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe did not yet send to Y. Shouche the 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. This material can be included in the Editorial, in preparation for publication in the IJSEM.

## **Minute 5. Response from Nature Microbiology to our response to Praveen Rahi**

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that he received a partial reply on 18<sup>th</sup> April, noting the matter is in hand, and a full response from the editor is expected soon. It appears the Nature Microbiology would still prefer a commentary on the issues around Nagoya, rather than corrections to the Rahi article, but hopefully will respect our 'right of reply'.

## **Minute 6. Planning a plenary meeting of the ICSP**

The members of the executive board agreed that it is important to convene a plenary meeting of the ICSP, if possible in 2022. A physical meeting during or close to the ISME conference in Lausanne in August does not appear feasible. A meeting during the FEMS conference in Hamburg in July 2023 may be possible. Another option is the BISMIS meeting scheduled to take place in Guangzhou and now postponed until the autumn of 2023. As we would like to get the

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

members of the ICSP involved earlier than that, an online meeting will be considered. I.C. Sutcliffe will explore possibilities for an online meeting of the ICSP members in the second half of this year.

## Minute 7. Update on Subcommittees

R. Hahnke informed the board that J. Wink, R. Hahnke and further colleagues wish to establish a new subcommittee on taxonomy to deal with the *Myxococcales*.

A. Oren announced that the subcommittee on *Halobacteria* will hold an online closed meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May, and he invited S.L.W. On to participate, in accordance with Article 5 (f) (3) of the statutes of the ICSP. This subcommittee is scheduled to hold a joint open meeting with the subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Halomonadaceae* during the Halophiles 2022 conference in Alicante, Spain, in June.

S.L.W. On will contact E.R.B. Moore about the updating of the list of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on the ICSP website, notifying him which inactive subcommittees to delete.

## Minute 8. Report from the Judicial Commission

R. Rosselló-Móra reported that according to the responses received so far the Judicial Commission would prefer to fully implement the procedures for handling of Requests for an Opinion as outlined in Article 8 of the statutes of the ICSP as soon as the last overdue opinion still to be issued is submitted for publication in the IJSEM.

A. Oren reported that thus far, five ICSP members have sent their votes for the ratification of Opinions 112-122. He will send reminders around 25<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May. The ballot will close on 11<sup>th</sup> May

## Minute 9. Update from the Publications Committee

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that G. Redvers-Mutton is preparing the final version of the publication agreement for IJSEM, to be signed by the ICSP, the IUMS and the Microbiology Society.

## Minute 10. Update from the IJSEM

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that at the IJSEM-sponsored session on 'Phylogenomics – deed poll for bacteria' held on 4<sup>th</sup> April at the annual conference of the Microbiology Society in Belfast, I.C. Sutcliffe spoke about 'The International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes: ongoing relevance and future challenges'. This was followed by a talk by M.E. Trujillo entitled 'Dear IJSEM, is my name wrong?' The session was attended by 70-100 participants.

A. Oren reported that *Candidatus* List no. 4, including names of new *Candidatus* taxa described in 2021, was prepared, and is now being finalized for publication. The list is much longer than the two previous lists, and contains nearly nine hundred new *Candidatus* species and nearly three hundred new *Candidatus* genera.

## Minute 11. Update from the editor-in-chief of the ICNP

A. Oren reported that thus far only two ICSP voting members have returned the ballot to endorse the 2022 revision of the ICNP. He will send reminders around 1<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June. The

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ballot will remain open until 30<sup>th</sup> June.

A manuscript with newly proposed emendations of the ICNP, to be co-authored by all members of the editorial board of the ICNP and to be published in the IJSEM, is in preparation. Submission is scheduled for July-August. The editorial board will soon start preparing the Preface to the 2022 revision.

## **Minute 12. Update from the treasurer**

P. Nielsen reported that the claims for refunding of travel expenses have been submitted and are being processed.

## **Minute 13. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility**

Y. Shouche and E.R.B. Moore reported that the preparation of an editorial for publication in the IJSEM about the problems with type strain availability due to the restrictions imposed by the Indian Biodiversity Authority is ongoing.

## **Minute 14. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach**

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

I.C. Sutcliffe reported about the discussion on the SeqCode he moderated on 16<sup>th</sup> April in the framework of the BISMIS Live lecture series. A. Oren will present his views on the inclusion of the rank of phylum in the ICNP during the next BISMIS Live session scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> May. The BISMIS team are congratulated for this work on promoting interest in microbial systematics.

## **Minute 15. Other business**

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that our GoToMeeting account was inadvertently automatically renewed for another year. Therefore, we will continue using GoToMeeting for the meetings of the Executive Board and other meetings. Later this year the ICSP will, if needed, open a Zoom account for meetings with a larger number of participants such as an online plenary meeting and outreach events.

Date of next meeting: **19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 9 am UK time**

Adjourned at 9.10

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 21<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

=====

## **Action points**

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 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, to post a preprint of the obituary to R.G.E. Murray, written by S. Kovacs for the Canadian Journal of Microbiology, to be replaced later with the link to the published paper.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post the redacted minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, and 31<sup>st</sup> March 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, notifying him which inactive subcommittees to delete.
- A. Oren, to work with the other members of the editorial board of the ICNP on preparing the Preface to the 2022 ICNP revision and continue working on a manuscript with newly proposed emendations of the ICNP, to be published in the IJSEM.
- 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.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to explore options for an online meeting of the ICSP members in the second half of this year.
- A. Oren, to send reminders around 25<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May to those voting members of the ICSP who had not yet returned the ballot for ratification of Opinions 112-122 of the Judicial Commission.
- A. Oren, to send reminders around 1<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June to those voting members of the ICSP who had not yet returned the ballot for approval of the revision of the ICNP.