



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting 26th January 2023 – Redacted Minutes

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

Minute 3. In memoriam Kazuo Komagata

Professor Kazuo Komagata, a life member of the ICSP since 1994, a life member of the World Federation for Culture Collections, and recipient of the van Niel International Prize (2005) and the Bergey Medal (2005), passed away on 9 September 2022 at the age of 93. An obituary, written by his former students M. Sakamoto and K.-i. Suzuki will soon be published in the IJSEM.

Minute 4. Minutes of the 15th December 2022 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 15th December 2022 meeting were approved. 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 5. Matters Arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 27st October 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 minutes of the 29th September 2022 and 27th October meetings of the Executive Board on the ICSP website, and he did not yet add further updates to the website, including the minutes of the 11th October plenary meeting of the ICSP, updating the lists of Full Members and Life Members, and posting short CVs of deceased Life Members on the ICSP website. Ongoing.

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- E.R.B. Moore did not yet submit an invoice for expenses made in 2021 for maintenance of the ICSP website to P. Nielsen for reimbursement. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and S.L.W. On did not yet draft a paper explaining the positive aspects of the work of the ICSP to the general public. Ongoing, longer term.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has compiled proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes. See Minute 9.
- M. Göker did not yet liaise with P. Nielsen to arrange payment of the ICSP bursary to LPSN starting January 2023. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has liaised with M. Göker to discuss the ways LPSN should acknowledge sponsorship by the ICSP. The ICSP logo is now clearly displayed on the LPSN website and text added in the 'Acknowledgements for the Third LPSN Era' section.
- M. Göker sent the full text of the envisaged ICSP FAQ to E.R.B. Moore to create a tab on the ICSP website for the FAQ document. Creation of the tab is ongoing.
- S.L.W. On did not yet write up the summary of the 25th October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy, to be circulated among the larger ICSP membership, and possibly to be published in the IJSEM. Ongoing.
- M. Göker and A. Oren did not yet discuss the proposal to set up a database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists. Ongoing.
- M. Göker estimates that the monthly costs involved in setting up and maintaining a database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists will be around 50-100 GBP. He mentioned that part of the honorarium that LPSN receives from the ICPS could be used for the purpose.
- A. Oren has sent reminders at the beginning of January to those societies currently represented in the ICSP that have not yet renewed membership. Since then, P. Švec was reappointed by the Czechoslovak Society for Microbiology. The Belgian National Committee for Microbiology and the Portuguese Society for Microbiology are processing the re-appointment of P. De Vos and C. Manaia, respectively. There are two candidates from the New Zealand Microbiology Society, and therefore an election will be held.
- M. Göker has requested culture collections (not including DSMZ and not yet including ATCC) that maintain 'singleton' type strains (i.e. those only available in a single culture collection), to share the strains with at least one other collection in a different country.
- A. Oren has requested curators of the DSMZ to share 'singleton' type strains not available elsewhere with at least one other collection in a different country. Replies were received from S. Spring, R. Hahnke and R. Pukall, and these were forwarded to M. Göker.
- E.R.B. Moore convened the Publications Committee on January 24 to discuss problems of the long delays between acceptance of papers and their publication in the IJSEM, the poor quality

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of the typesetting, and DOI numbers that cannot be accessed. See Minute 13.

- E.R.B. Moore has notified M.E. Trujillo that the ICSP Executive Board has approved the nomination of Hilal Ay as a new editor of the IJSEM.

- R. Rossello-Mora has forwarded copies of the Trends in Microbiology commentary that Y. Shouche has published with S.N. Venter and other co-authors to the members of the Executive Board.

Minute 6. Changes in ICSP membership

The Federation of Microbiological Societies of Japan has appointed Mitsuo Sakamoto (RIKEN) as its delegate to the ICSP. The Federation of Korean Microbiological Societies has appointed Jung-Sook Lee (KRIBB) as its delegate. The Nepalese Forum for Medical Microbiology has appointed Santosh Thapa as its delegate. All appointments will end in March 2026. A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe have welcomed the three new members to the ICSP.

Minute 7. Discussion of revised membership options

I.C. Sutcliffe presented a draft ballot form in which the ICSP members are requested to vote on the proposal that the ICSP Executive Board should ask IUMS for permission to amend its membership structure (via changes to its statutes) such that the restriction of '1 IUMS Member Society = 1 delegate' is removed and replaced by a system whereby IUMS Member Societies will be permitted to delegate more than one member to ICSP, proportionate to their size. The text of the ballot was approved. I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren will send the ballot to the voting members of the ICSP.

Minute 8. The ICSP-sponsored session during the FEMS congress in Hamburg in July.

T. Woyke, the recipient of the van Niel prize, will not be able to attend the congress in Hamburg. A. Oren intends to present a contributed talk entitled "Nomenclature of prokaryotic taxa under the rules of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes: updates from the 2022 revision of the Code and future developments", and he had circulated a draft abstract, to be submitted on behalf of the ICSP Executive Board. No objections or comments were received, and he will submit the abstract before the 31st January deadline. Names of possible candidates to give invited talks were discussed. I.C. Sutcliffe, who organizes and chairs the session, will consider inviting one or more of these colleagues after we have more information about abstracts submitted for this session. It is not yet clear what financial support the invited speakers will receive from the conference organizers.

Minute 9. Revision of the ICSP Statutes

I.C. Sutcliffe has prepared a list of possible amendments to the Statutes of the ICSP and M. Göker has prepared a draft document with suggested wording for how these can be incorporated. I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren will further work on this to prepare a document that can be submitted to the ICSP for a ballot.

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Minute 10.

(Redacted)

Minute 11. Update on Subcommittees

S.L.W On has circulated lists of taxa covered by all but three of the active subcommittees to M. Göker and will follow up the remaining ones shortly. A report of the pan-Subcommittee online conference is being drafted. M. Göker has established an e-mail service that sends yearly updates of lists of taxon names recorded in LPSN to each subcommittee for which list of covered genera or taxa of higher rank is available.

Minute 12. Update from the Judicial Commission

D.R. Arahal reported that the paper with Judicial Opinion 128 and the manuscript with guidelines for interpreting the ICNP and preparing a Request for an Opinion were accepted for publication in the IJSEM. No new Requests for an Opinion were submitted recently. Candidates must be sought for a new class of four commissioners to begin on 1 September 2023 and two more candidates to replace P.-E. Fournier and R. Rossello-Mora who wish to resign from the Judicial Commission in 2023. It is noted that the Statutes require commissioners to be nominated by the members of the ICSP.

Minute 13. Update from the Publications Committee

The Publications Committee has met on 24th January, with participation of E.R.B. Moore (chair), D.R. Arahal, M. Göker, A. Oren, R. Rossello-Mora, I.C. Sutcliffe, M.E. Trujillo, with H. Cook, J. Kelly and D. Nikadon (from the Microbiology Society), to discuss problems of long delays between the acceptance of papers and their publication in the IJSEM, the poor quality of the typesetting (including that of the ICNP 2022 Revision), and DOI numbers that cannot be accessed. A. Oren has prepared a summary of the meeting, which will become available on the ICSP website in the second half of February after all participants in the meeting will have checked the document for accuracy. Another meeting of the Publications Committee should be convened in about one month to follow up the progress.

Minute 14. Update from the IJSEM

M.E. Trujillo proposed to appoint Prof. Margarita Gomila as an editor of the IJSEM. Prof. Gomila has an extensive expertise and experience with taxonomy analyses of *Pseudomonas*, *Streptococcus* and a range of other microorganisms. In accordance with Article 14(c) of the statutes of the ICSP, the Executive Board was requested to approve the nomination. The nomination was approved unanimously. E.R.B. Moore will notify M.E. Trujillo of the decision.

.A. Oren announced that a draft list of *Candidatus* phyla was prepared, and is currently being finalized by the list editors. The document contains ~180 names of *Candidatus* phyla, divided into three categories: (1) phyla for which a *Candidatus* genus can be identified that can serve as the nomenclatural type; (2) phyla for which no *Candidatus* genus can be identified that can serve as the nomenclatural type, and (3) former *Candidatus* phyla for which a type genus was

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cultivated so that the *Candidatus* status was lost and the phylum name validly was validly published (a single case: *Atribacterota*).

Minute 15. Update from the editor-in-chief of the ICNP

There were no updates.

Minute 16. Update from the treasurer

There were no updates.

P. Nielsen and I.C. Sutcliffe should contact the Microbiology Society to request transfer of the annual honorarium to the ICSP, as agreed in the publication agreement.

Minute 17. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility

There were no updates.

A. Oren mentioned that recently a new validation request was received from India supported by culture collection documents issued by the KCTC and the JCM. E.R.B. Moore asked to receive the documents so that he can check the documents and if necessary correspond with the curators of the culture collections.

Minute 18. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach

There were no updates.

Minute 19. Other business

M. Göker presented a short overview of the status of the ‘Singleton Deposit Initiative’ and the potential problems, e.g., how to deal with still existing (probably) but non-responsive culture collections such as ACAM, ACM, and OCM. It was suggested that the WFCC might assist.

Date of next meeting: **23st February 2023, 8 am UK time.**

Adjourned at 10.20.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 28th January 2023

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Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 15th December 2022 meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

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- E.R.B. Moore, to post the minutes of the 29th September, 27th October 2022 and 15th December 2022 meetings of the Executive Board on the ICSP website, and add further updates to the website, including the minutes of the 11th October plenary meeting of the ICSP, updating the lists of Full Members and Life Members and adding a new tab with the ICSP FAQ.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post short CVs of deceased Life Members on the ICSP website, together with other updates indicated by M. Göker.
- S.L.W. On, to send any remaining lists of taxa received from the subcommittees on taxonomy to M. Göker to be included in LPSN.
- E.R.B. Moore, to submit invoices for expenses made in 2021 and 2022 for maintenance of the ICSP website to P. Nielsen for reimbursement.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to liaise with FEMS about speakers for the July 2023 symposium in Hamburg.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to send out the ballot on proposed changes to the ICSP membership structure.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren, to compile proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes.
- M. Göker, to liaise with P. Nielsen to arrange payment of the ICSP bursary to LPSN starting January 2023.
- S.L.W. On, to write up the summary of the 25th October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy, to be circulated among the larger ICSP membership, and possibly to be published in the IJSEM.
- M. Göker and A. Oren, to discuss the proposal to set up a database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists.
- E.R.B. Moore, to notify M.E. Trujillo that the ICSP Executive Board has approved the nomination of Margarita Gomila as a new editor of the IJSEM.