



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting 2nd March 2023 - 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), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahall (Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from P. Nielsen (Treasurer) and Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 26th January 2023 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 26th January 2023 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.

Minute 4. Matters Arising/Action points from previous meetings

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

- E.R.B. Moore has posted the minutes of the 29th September and 27th October 2022 meetings of the Executive Board and the minutes of the 11th October plenary meeting of the ICSP on the ICSP website. The minutes of the 15th December 2022 meeting of the Executive Board are not yet posted on the website. Short CVs were added for a few deceased Life Members, further updates are ongoing.

- S.L.W. On did not receive additional lists of taxa from the subcommittees on taxonomy to be included in LPSN by M. Göker.

- E.R.B. Moore has submitted invoices for expenses made in 2021 and 2022 for maintenance of the ICSP website to P. Nielsen for reimbursement.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has liaised with FEMS about speakers for the July 2023 symposium in Hamburg. See Minute 5.

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- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren have sent out the ballot on proposed changes to the ICSP membership structure on January 29. The ballot was closed on February 28. From the 34 members eligible to vote, 22 votes were received. 14 members endorsed the proposal to open discussions with IUMS on changing the membership structure of the ICSP, 8 members rejected the proposal, and there were no abstentions. I.C. Sutcliffe will contact IUMS Secretary R. Samson to discuss how to implement the proposed changes.
- M. Göker has sent proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes to I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren. Ongoing.
- M. Göker has liaised with P. Nielsen to arrange payment of the ICSP bursary to LPSN. J. Manning at the Microbiology Society has also been in contact regarding the need to arrange retroactive payments to LPSN held by the Microbiology Society to LPSN, and will contact M. Göker.
- S.L.W. On has circulated a draft summary of the 25th October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on 1st March.
- M. Göker has received an offer from a German provider for the maintenance of a database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists. Estimated costs are Euro 20-40 per month. The Microbiology Society must be involved in the discussions on setting up and maintaining the system. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore has notified M.E. Trujillo that the ICSP Executive Board has approved the nomination of M. Gomila as a new editor of the IJSEM.

Minute 5. The ICSP-sponsored session during the FEMS congress in Hamburg in July

FEMS reconfigured the format of the planned ICSP-sponsored session to offered 15-minute talks only, without the option of inviting speakers for a plenary talk. Only three abstracts were submitted for the session, two of which were found suitable. FEMS offered to merge the ICSP session with a session on microbiomes. The Executive Board discussed the offer and decided to decline it, as such a session will do little to explain and promote the work of the ICSP. I.C. Sutcliffe will contact the meeting organizers and notify them of the decision. Alternative venues for an ICSP-sponsored session may be the VAAM meeting in Göttingen, Germany, September 10-13, or the BISMIS conference planned to take place in Guangzhou, China in November. R. Hahnke will contact the organizers of the VAAM meeting to inquire whether they are interested in hosting such a session.

Minute 6. The management and cost of the ICSP website

The Executive Board thanked D. Cardew for his work on the ICSP website. E.R.B. Moore should liaise with P. Nielsen about paying D. Cardew for his services in 2021 and 2022.

The Executive Board thanked R. Samson (IUMS) for updated several aspects for the platform hosting the website and installing more protection. Unfortunately, in the process the formatting of the pages of the website was reconfigured. R. Samson has registered D. Cardew

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and E.R.B. Moore as 'Superusers', which will allow us the ability to make changes and additions that we could not do before. D. Cardew has indicated that he is happy to continue as Website Manager during the next term of the ICSP that starts in April. The incoming Executive Board should further consider how the website should be managed. M. Göker suggested examining whether others in addition to D. Cardew and E.R.B. Moore may be enabled access to the site to post and modify information.

Minute 7. Membership term beginning 01 April 2023 and Executive Board elections

A. Oren reported that currently we have 27 full members who will serve in the new term starting 1st April. S.-L. Huang will replace M.-C. Lai for the Taiwan Society of Microbiology, L. Maldonado will replace W.B. Whitman for BISMIS, and M. Stott will replace S.L.W. On for the New Zealand Microbiological Society. A. Oren will send reminders to the five microbiology societies currently represented in the ICSP that have not yet renewed the membership of the current delegates or appointed other delegates. The current Executive Board will continue to serve until August 31st. Its main task will be the organization of the election of a new Executive Board and appointment of co-opted members; further it should deal with ongoing business only and not make significant new decisions.

Minute 8. Update on Subcommittees

S.L.W. On reported that three subcommittees had not yet sent the requested list of taxa. He has circulated a draft summary of the 25th October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and invited comments. The finalized document will be submitted for publication in the IJSEM in the coming weeks.

The following subcommittee meeting minutes were recently published:

Borel N. *et al.*, International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP) Subcommittee on the taxonomy of Chlamydiae: Minutes of the closed meeting, 25 August 2022, ESCCAR Meeting Lausanne, Switzerland. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2023;73:005712.

Dodsworth JA, Prakash O. International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes: subcommittee on the taxonomy of methanogenic archaea. Minutes of the closed, online meetings held 24 September 2020 and 8 October 2020. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2023;73:005775.

Minute 9. 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 are in press in the IJSEM. D.R. Arahal and M. Göker have started contacting possible candidates to fill the six vacant positions.

Minute 10. Update from the Publications Committee

The Executive Board agreed that the minutes of the 24th January meeting of the Publications

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Committee are ready to be published on the ICSP website. In view of the continuing problems with the typesetting of IJSEM papers and the 2022 revision of the ICNP, E.R.B. Moore will convene another meeting of the Publications Committee in late March.

Minute 11. Update from the IJSEM

It was noted that the statutes of the ICSP have a mechanism to appoint new IJSEM editors, but not to remove an editor in case this may be necessary. This should be taken into account when drafting a new version of the ICSP statutes.

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

No new version of the page proofs of the 2022 revision of the ICNP was received since the previous, highly unsatisfactory version was received from the typesetter on 4th January. It was agreed that A. Oren would prepare a pdf file based on the current Word version of the text, to be posted as a preprint on the ICSP website as soon as possible.

Minute 13. Update from the treasurer

P. Nielsen was not present at the meeting, and I.C. Sutcliffe had no further updates. P. Nielsen should check whether the Microbiology Society has already transferred the annual honorarium to the ICSP, as agreed in the publication agreement. J. Manning at the Microbiology Society has agreed to expedite this payment.

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

E.R.B. Moore had nothing to report. A. Oren asked whether E.R.B. Moore and/or Y. Shouche had already replied to a letter sent on 16th February by D.B. Johnson (Bangor, UK) concerning the possibility of validating a name linked to a type strain isolated from Yellowstone National Park and which is available from culture collections with special restrictions. As E.R.B. Moore replied that he had not seen this letter, A. Oren forwarded him a copy of the letter.

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

R. Hahnke had nothing to report. A. Oren reported that the paper he had written for the special issue of the Canadian Journal of Microbiology in memory of R.G.E. Murray was published online on 28th February ([dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjm-2022-0266](https://doi.org/10.1139/cjm-2022-0266)). A. Oren further reported that he had written two long chapters entitled 'Naming new taxa of prokaryotes – rules and recommendations' and 'Description and naming of *Candidatus* taxa', to be published in the book 'Modern Prokaryotic Taxonomy: Technology and Advances', edited by W.-J. Li *et al.*, and to be published by Springer.

Minute 16. Other business

M. Göker reported that a number of culture collection have already replied to the Singleton Deposit Initiative.

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In the past months, I.C. Sutcliffe tried in vain to contact the University of Queensland to obtain information about the procedure for nominating recipients of the van Niel prize. He recently received the name of a new contact person from P. Hugenholtz, and he now has been given permission to draft revisions to the nomination process.

Date of next meeting: **30st March 2023, 8 am UK time.**

Adjourned at 10.10.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 4rd March 2023

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Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 26th January 2023 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 minutes of the 15th December 2022 and 26th January 2023 meetings of the Executive Board on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to complete the posting of short CVs of deceased Life Members on the ICSP website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact IUMS Secretary R. Samson to discuss how to implement the proposed changes to the ICSP membership as approved by the ICSP members.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren, to compile proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes.
- S.L.W. On, to finalize the summary of the 25th October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy for publication in the IJSEM.
- M. Göker and A. Oren, to further discuss the proposal to set up a database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact the organizers of the FEMS conference, and notify them that the ICSP has withdrawn from the planned session at the conference in Hamburg in July.
- R. Hahnke, to contact the organizers of the VAAM meeting in September to inquire whether they are interested in hosting an ICSP-sponsored session.
- E.R.B. Moore, to liaise with P. Nielsen about paying D. Cardew for maintaining the ICSP website.

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- A. Oren, to send reminders to those microbiology societies currently represented in the ICSP that have not yet renewed the membership of the current delegates or appointed other delegates.
- E.R.B. Moore, to publish the minutes of the 24th January meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to convene a meeting of the Publications Committee in late March.
- A. Oren, to prepare a pdf file based on the current Word version of the text of the 2022 revision of the ICNP, to be posted as a preprint on the ICSP website as soon as possible.
- P. Nielsen, to check whether the Microbiology Society has transferred the annual honorarium to the ICSP.
- E.R.B. Moore and/or Y. Shouche, to reply to a letter sent on 16th February by D.B. Johnson (Bangor, UK) concerning the possibility of validating a name based on a type strain isolated from Yellowstone National Park.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to draft revisions to the process for nominating recipients of the van Niel prize for consideration by the University of Queensland.