



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## ICSP-EB Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> 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), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), R. Rossello-Mora (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from P. Nielsen (Treasurer) and D.R. Arahal (Chair JC).

### Minute 3. Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 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 4. Matters Arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 15<sup>st</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 meetings of the Executive Board on the ICSP website.

- E.R.B. Moore has posted a short CV of the late Kazuo Komagata on the ICSP website. Preparation and posting of short CVs of additional deceased Life Members on the ICSP website is ongoing.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted IUMS Secretary R. Samson to discuss how to implement the proposed changes to the ICSP membership as approved by the ICSP members. R. Samson replied that he needs to discuss this matter at the next IUMS Executive Board meeting, but he expects no objections that ICSP will amend its statutes. In his opinion, the ICSP can propose modification of its membership structure to secure that the committee can function in the best academic and scientific way.

- I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren met on Zoom on 21<sup>st</sup> March to compile proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes, and discussed a revised version of the statutes drafted by M. Göker. See Minute 8.

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- S.L.W. On did not yet finalize the summary of the 25<sup>th</sup> October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy for publication in the IJSEM. Ongoing.
- M. Göker has made some progress clarifying the technical requirements for a proposed database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted the organizers of the FEMS conference and notified them that the ICSP has withdrawn from the planned session at the conference in Hamburg in July. Further correspondence on the topic was held with A. Ventosa. A. Oren was invited to give a presentation on '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' in a flash presentation session.
- R. Hahnke has contacted the organizers of the VAAM meeting in September to inquire whether they are interested in hosting an ICSP-sponsored session. See Minute 7.
- E.R.B. Moore has submitted invoices to P. Nielsen for paying D. Cardew for maintenance of the ICSP website.
- A. Oren has sent 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 has not yet published the minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> January meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet convene a meeting of the Publications Committee; he intends to convene the committee in April.
- A. Oren has prepared a pdf file based on the current Word version of the text of the 2022 revision of the ICNP; the document was posted as a preprint on the ICSP website and is also available on the Zenodo platform (see Minute 18).
- P. Nielsen has received ICSP's annual honorarium from the Microbiology Society. M. Göker may now liaise with P. Nielsen to coordinate the transfer of the annual honorarium to LPSN.
- E.R.B. Moore has replied to the letter sent on 16<sup>th</sup> 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 has drafted revisions to the process for nominating recipients of the van Niel prize for consideration by the University of Queensland. The proposed revision should provide a greater role of the ICSP in the selection process, as in the past the ICSP only had an advisory function. All members of the Executive Board should send to I.C. Sutcliffe no later than 7<sup>th</sup> April their comments on the draft revisions to the process for nominating recipients of the van

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Niel prize for consideration by the University of Queensland. I.C. Sutcliffe will then send the proposed revisions to the University of Queensland. All members of the Executive Board are invited to propose candidates for the next van Niel prize, to be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting.

## **Minute 5. Discontinuing use of the Gotomeeting platform**

Our subscription to the Gotomeeting platform ends in mid-April. It was decided not to renew the subscription. For the next Executive Board meetings, A. Oren will set up a Zoom meeting. The incoming Executive Board may further discuss which platform to use for future meetings.

## **Minute 6. The beginning of the new three-year term and Executive Board elections**

Y. Shouche has been reappointed as the Indian National Society Academy delegate to the ICSP. This brings the number of Full Members starting 1<sup>st</sup> April to 28 (for a list, see the Appendix below). I.C. Sutcliffe will welcome all members to the new three-year term. The following current full members will end their term on 31<sup>st</sup> March: V. Chalker, S. Danova, P. De Vos, E. Tóth, and W.B. Whitman. S.L.W. On will continue serving on the Executive Board as the Secretary of Subcommittees until 31<sup>st</sup> August. G. Felis and P. Rahi end their term as co-opted members. I.C. Sutcliffe will send letters of thanks to the outgoing members for their past service. A. Oren will forward the new list of members to E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website and to R. Samson, Executive Secretary of IUMS. I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren will prepare a draft report summarizing the activities of the ICSP in the past three years, to be endorsed by the Executive Board and forwarded to IUMS. In mid-April, A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe will contact all voting members of the ICSP to invite nominations for officers on the Executive Board; the ballot should start no later than mid-June.

## **Minute 7. ICSP participation in the VAAM meeting in Göttingen in September**

R. Hahnke and A. Lipski are in charge of the organization of a session on systematics during the VAAM meeting in Göttingen in September. I.C. Sutcliffe will check with T. Woyke whether she would be willing to deliver the van Niel prize lecture during that conference. The EB members agreed that the ICSP may sponsor participation of an additional speaker at the meeting to present ICSP-related issues.

## **Minute 8. Update on Statutes revision**

Following the meeting of I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren on 21<sup>st</sup> March to compile proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes, more work on the draft document is needed. Issues to be addressed include clarification of the type of majority needed in votes ('plurality' vs. 'majority'), the membership structure (pending approval by IUMS), the extent to which the ICSP and Judicial Commission should be 'separated', the establishment of Ad Hoc committees, and the place where different types of minutes should be published (IJSEM, the ICSP website, and/or other platforms such as Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/>)). I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren will continue the discussions and then circulate a draft version of the revised statutes to the members of the Executive Board for comments. I.C. Sutcliffe will send the final draft to R. Samson of the IUMS for comments. Then the document should be submitted for publication in

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the IJSEM, to be authored by at least five ICSP members, and preferentially by all members of the Executive Board.

## **Minute 9. Update on Subcommittees**

S.L.W. On reported that the *Vibrionaceae* subcommittee has sent a list of taxa under their jurisdiction, and that this list was already forwarded to M. Göker. No such lists were yet received from the subcommittees on the taxonomy of phototrophic bacteria and of methanogenic archaea. R. Hahnke reported that the minutes of the first meeting of the subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Myxococcota* are in press.

## **Minute 10. Update from the Judicial Commission**

M. Göker reported that the 'Guidelines for interpreting the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes and for preparing a Request for an Opinion' document (Arahal *et al.*, <https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.005782>) was published online on 13<sup>th</sup> March. The paper with Judicial Opinion 128 is now online (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.005797>). I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren will request the larger membership of the ICSP (including current members of the JC and subcommittee chairs) to nominate candidates to fill the vacancies in the JC.

## **Minute 11. Update from the Publications Committee**

There were no updates. E.R.B. Moore will convene a meeting of the Publications Committee in April.

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

R. Birtles finished his term as an editor, and E.R.B. Moore has volunteered to replace him. The Executive Board thanked E.R.B. Moore for his willingness to serve as an editor for IJSEM.

## **Minute 13. Update from the editor-in-chief of the ICNP**

The preprint version of the 2022 revision of the ICNP can now be accessed through the ICSP website and through the Zenodo platform (see Minute 18). On 28<sup>th</sup> March, A. Oren returned the latest version of the page proofs with numerous comments and corrections suggested by all members of the ICNP editorial board to the staff of the Microbiology Society. Extensive reformatting will be necessary before the document can be published in the IJSEM.

## **Minute 14. Update from the treasurer**

I.C. Sutcliffe explained that a financial report should be prepared soon, to be submitted to IUMS. The Microbiology Society still holds funds to be paid to LPSN as honorarium for the last few years. J. Manning of the Microbiology Society is prepared to transfer these funds to the ICSP, which can then pay LPSN. I.C. Sutcliffe will confirm to the Microbiology Society that the ICSP is willing to receive the money. I.C. Sutcliffe and P. Nielsen will liaise with the treasurer of IUMS to check the tax exemption status of these funds.

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

On March 18, Y. Shouche gave a talk about 'The National Biodiversity Act and Problems in Describing New Taxa' in the framework of the BISMIS Live online seminar series (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC577RiuuRE>).

## **Minute 16. Update on the Singleton Deposit Initiative**

M. Göker reported that nine culture collections had already responded to his request to collaborate in the Singleton Deposit Initiative. He is still waiting for twelve other culture collections to respond.

## **Minute 17. Update from the working group on Education and Outreach**

A. Oren reported that he had been the judge for a bacteria-naming contest organized for Spanish high school students by M. del C. Montero Calasanz, which was sponsored by the IJSEM with a cash prize. The students were asked to find suitable Latin names for new *Blastococcus* species. The event was extensively covered by the local press. Information is also found on the ICSP Twitter account and will also be posted on the ICSP website. A. Oren further reported that his paper for the special issue of the Canadian Journal of Microbiology in memory of Robert Murray was selected as the Editor's Choice for that issue (<https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/news.2023.03.31.02/full/>). M. Göker has prepared an updated version of the FAQ document for the ICSP website and requested the Executive Board to approve the minor changes. It was agreed that minor changes can be made in the document without prior approval.

## **Minute 18. Other business**

A discussion was held about the current state of the ICSP website and ideas for future improvements. We only have limited resources for keeping the website up to date. The question was addressed as to whether the pages of the website should be made editable by a larger number of persons who could be authorized to edit selected pages. This option should be discussed further by M. Göker, E.R.B. Moore and D. Cardew, and any change to be made in the way the website is operated should be coordinated with R. Samson of IUMS. It may also be possible to move all ICSP documents that are not published in the IJSEM to Zenodo, which gives a free backup server and provides DOI numbers. M. Göker has created a Zenodo 'ICSP community' page (<https://zenodo.org/communities/icsp>), where the preprint version of the 2022 revision of the ICNP and the FAQ document were already uploaded.

Date of next meeting: **27<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 9 am UK time.**

Adjourned at 10.15

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023

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## Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 meeting 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, M. Göker and A. Oren, to finalize the preparation of a draft revision of the ICSP statutes.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to send the draft to revision of the ICSP statutes to R. Samson (IUMS) for comments.
- S.L.W. On, to finalize the summary of the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 check with T. Woyke whether she would be willing to deliver the van Niel prize lecture during the VAAM meeting in Göttingen in September.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and R. Hahnke, to discuss the desired format of possible roundtable discussion or workshop during the VAAM meeting in September; E; R. Hahnke, to further discuss this with the organizers of the conference.
- E.R.B. Moore, to publish the minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> January meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to convene a meeting of the Publications Committee in April.
- M. Göker, to liaise with P. Nielsen to coordinate payment of the honorarium to LPSN for 2023.
- All members of the Executive Board, to send to I.C. Sutcliffe no later than 7<sup>th</sup> April their comments on the draft revisions to the process for nominating recipients of the van Niel prize for consideration by the University of Queensland.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to send to the University of Queensland after 7<sup>th</sup> April the proposed revisions to the process for nominating recipients of the van Niel prize.
- All members of the Executive Board, to propose candidates to be nominated for the next van Niel prize, to be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting.

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- A. Oren, to set up a Zoom meeting for the next meeting of the Executive Board.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to welcome all appointed full members of the ICSP to the new three-year term.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to thank the outgoing full and co-opted members for their past service.
- A. Oren, to forward the new list of ICSP members to E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the website.
- A. Oren, to forward the new list of ICSP members to R. Samson, Executive Secretary of IUMS.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to prepare a draft report summarizing the activities of the ICSP in the past three years, to be endorsed by the Executive Board and to be forwarded to IUMS.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to contact all voting members of the ICSP in mid-April to invite nominations for officers on the Executive Board.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to contact the larger membership of the ICSP (including current members of the JC and subcommittee chairs) to invite nominations for candidates to fill the vacancies in the JC.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to confirm to J. Manning at the Microbiology Society that the ICSP is willing to receive the money owed to be paid as honorarium to LPSN.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and P. Nielsen, to liaise with the treasurer of IUMS to check the tax exemption status of the funds to be paid as honorarium for LPSN.
- M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore, to discuss with D. Cardew possible changes to be made in the way the ICSP website is operated, which should be further coordinated with R. Samson (IUMS).

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## Appendix: List of members of the ICSP from April 1, 2023

Surname	First name	Country	Society Represented
Birbir	Meral	Turkey	Turkish Microbiological Society (TMC) <a href="https://www.tmc-online.org">https://www.tmc-online.org</a>
Brady	Carrie	UK	Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM) <a href="https://sfam.org.uk/">https://sfam.org.uk/</a>
Busse	Hans-Jürgen	Austria	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Hygiene, Mikrobiologie und Präventivmedizin (ÖGHMP) <a href="https://www.oeghmp.at/">https://www.oeghmp.at/</a>
Dedysh	Svetlana	Russia	Interregional Russian Microbiological Society (IRMS) <a href="http://microbiosociety.ru/about-us">http://microbiosociety.ru/about-us</a>
Duim	Birgitta	Netherlands	Royal Netherlands Society for Microbiology (KNVM) <a href="https://www.knvm.org/home">https://www.knvm.org/home</a>
Emler	Stefan	Switzerland	Swiss Society for Microbiology (SSM) <a href="https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch">https://www.swissmicrobiology.ch</a>
Fournier	Pierre-Edouard	France	Société Française de Microbiologie (SFM) <a href="https://www.sfm-microbiologie.org/">https://www.sfm-microbiologie.org/</a>
Hadzinikolaou	Dimitrios	Greece	Mikrobiokosmos <a href="https://mikrobiokosmos.org">https://mikrobiokosmos.org</a>
Hahnke	Richard	Germany	German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM) <a href="https://www.dghm.org/">https://www.dghm.org/</a>
Huang	Shir-Ly	Taiwan	Taiwan Society of Microbiology (TSM)
Hugenholtz	Philip	Australia	Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) <a href="https://www.theasm.org.au/">https://www.theasm.org.au/</a>
Lee	Jung-Sook	Republic of Korea	Korean Society for Microbiology and Biotechnology <a href="https://www.kormb.or.kr/">https://www.kormb.or.kr/</a>
Li	Wen-Jun	China	Chinese Society for Microbiology (CSM) <a href="http://www.im.ac.cn/en/new/_s.php">http://www.im.ac.cn/en/new/_s.php</a>
Maldonado	Luis	Mexico	BISMIS <a href="https://www.bismis.net/">https://www.bismis.net/</a>
Manaia	Célia	Portugal	Portuguese Society for Microbiology (SPM) <a href="https://spmicrobiologia.wordpress.com/">https://spmicrobiologia.wordpress.com/</a>
Moore	Edward	Sweden	Swedish Society for Microbiology (SFM) <a href="https://www.mikrobiologi.net/organization/organization.php?id=3">https://www.mikrobiologi.net/organization/organization.php?id=3</a>
Nielsen	Preben	Denmark	Danish Microbiological Society (DMS) <a href="https://dms.dk/about-dms">https://dms.dk/about-dms</a>
Olivares-Pacheco	Jorge	Chile	Sociedad de Microbiología de Chile <a href="https://somich.cl">https://somich.cl</a>
On	Stephen	New Zealand	New Zealand Microbiological Society (NZMS) <a href="https://www.nzms.org.nz/">https://www.nzms.org.nz/</a> (No longer full member, but member of the Executive Board until 31.8.2023)
Oren	Aharon	Israel	Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM) <a href="http://www.ism.org.il/">http://www.ism.org.il/</a>
Sakamoto	Mitsuo	Japan	Federation of Microbiological Societies of Japan <a href="http://fmsj.umin.jp/">http://fmsj.umin.jp/</a>



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Šeruga Musić	Martina	Croatia	Croatian Microbiology Society <a href="http://www.hmd-cms.hr">http://www.hmd-cms.hr</a>
Shouche	Yogesh	India	Indian National Society Academy (INSA) <a href="https://www.insaindia.res.in">https://www.insaindia.res.in</a>
Stott	Matthew	New Zealand	New Zealand Microbiological Society (NZMS) <a href="https://www.nzms.org.nz/">https://www.nzms.org.nz/</a>
Sutcliffe	Iain	UK	Microbiology Society (MS) <a href="https://microbiologysociety.org/">https://microbiologysociety.org/</a>
Švec	Pavel	Czech Republic	Czechoslovak Society for Microbiology (CSSM) <a href="https://www.cssm.info/en">https://www.cssm.info/en</a>
Thapa	Santosh	Nepal	Nepalese Forum for Medical Microbiology
Venter	Fanus	South Africa	South African Society for Microbiology (SASM) <a href="https://www.sasm.org.za/">https://www.sasm.org.za/</a>
Ventosa	Antonio	Spain	Spanish Society for Microbiology (SEM) <a href="https://www.semicrobiologia.org/en/">https://www.semicrobiologia.org/en/</a>