



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Minutes of the ICSP Publications Committee meeting

2 May 2023, 15.00-16.30 CET

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:

H. CHRISTENSEN
University of Copenhagen
Denmark

Secretary:

M. GÖKER
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

Participants: E.R.B. Moore (chair), H. Christensen, M. Göker, J. Kelly (the Microbiology Society), A. Oren, I.C. Sutcliffe, M.E. Trujillo. An apology was received from D.R. Arahall; S.L.W. On was not present.

Guests: H. Cook, N. Froude (the Microbiology Society); Invited guests, D. Nikadon and A. Monica were not present.

Several aspects were discussed to follow-up the discussions of the Publications Committee on 24 January 2023 and on 18 October 2022:

- The time between the approval of the page proofs by the authors and the online publication of IJSEM papers is still unreasonably long, i.e., often more than two months. J. Kelly admitted that there is a backlog. He explained that the staff of the Microbiology Society makes a final check of all papers before they go online. There still is a staffing problem and the team responsible for this work is currently being reorganized, so that the backlog will hopefully be reduced in the coming months. M. Göker noted that the number of publications in IJSEM was in the 30's in January and February and in the mid-50's in March and April. The publishing staff is optimistic that this trend will continue. However, a time 'goal' for the turn-around time is not yet able to be estimated and the publishing staff do not want to propose an estimate for the turn-around time.

- Typesetting problems still persist, including the problem of unsolicited changes made by the typesetters, in the text of the manuscripts as well as in the References. Severe problems with the References lists remain: the Kriya software used by the typesetters introduces errors, including but not limited to incorrect use of capitals and lower case type and italics vs. roman type. These unsolicited changes are very difficult or even impossible to correct in the page proofs by the authors because of the user-unfriendly online proof correction system where correction of an error often leads to the automatic introduction of new errors. The Microbiology Society staff will follow this up with the Exeter Media staff during the weekly meetings that were recently initiated. The publications staff are optimistic that this will improve on the monthly meeting system that was in place before.

- H. Christensen asked how priority of names is determined. The date of online publication of articles determines priority. The List Editors base the order of names in the monthly Notification Lists on the timeline of publication spreadsheets they receive from the Microbiology Society staff.

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- A. Oren reported that the last corrections to the page proofs of the 2022 Revision of the ICNP were just submitted to the Microbiology Society staff. Following these corrections, the document can be published online without further delay. He commented that the typographical layout of the document looks worse than that of the 2008 Revision published in 2019, especially because it was not possible to indent paragraphs. He wondered why the earlier typeset version could not be used to produce the new revision.

- The 2022 impact factor of the IJSEM is not yet known, but it is clear that the journal is in the fourth quartile in the microbiology category, on the border with the third quartile. Different possible strategies to increase the impact factor of the journal were discussed, but none of the options proposed is likely to lead to the goal of improving the impact factor.

The publication staff agreed to look at alternative impact factor evaluation systems. It was noted that an alternative impact factor system had evaluated the IJSEM with very different quartile standings in Microbiology, Ecology, Evolution, Behavior & Systematics, Immunology & Microbiology, and Medicine.

- The next meeting of the Publications Committee should be scheduled in late July – early August (before August 15, when Martha Trujillo is away).

Summary prepared by A. Oren
3 May 2023