



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting 29th June 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:

H. CHRISTENSEN
University of Copenhagen
Denmark

Secretary:

M. GÖKER
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

Minute 1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9.00 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), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large) joined the meeting at 10.20 a.m. Apologies were received from P. Nielsen (Treasurer), S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees), and D.R. Arahal (Chair JC).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 25th May 2023 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 25th May 2023 meeting were approved after redaction of a number of items. A. Oren will distribute the redacted 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 27th April 2023 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 30th March 2023 and the 27th April meetings of the Executive Board on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore updated some, but not all, of the postings of short CVs of deceased Life Members on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren did not yet finalize the draft revision of the ICSP Statutes. Ongoing. See Minute 7.
- I.C. Sutcliffe did not yet send the draft revision of the ICSP Statutes to R. Samson (IUMS) for comments, as the draft revision was not yet finalized. Ongoing.
- S.L.W. On did not yet complete the draft summary of the 25th October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy for publication in the IJSEM. Ongoing.

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

- I.C. Sutcliffe has liaised with R. Hahnke to plan the ICSPs contribution to a session during the VAAM meeting in Göttingen in September. See Minute 5.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet complete posting of the minutes of the 24th January meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- M. Göker has liaised with P. Nielsen to coordinate payment of the honorarium to LPSN for 2023. See Minute 14.
- P. Nielsen confirmed that the money owed by the Microbiology Society as honorarium to LPSN was received.
- P. Nielsen did not yet draft the financial report on the 2020-2023 term to be submitted to IUMS. Ongoing.
- M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore did not yet 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). Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore has added S. Ventura to the list of full members on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren has distributed an updated list of ICSP members to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. The list was used to update the ICSP website.
- The members of the Executive Board have sent to I.C. Sutcliffe a ranked list of the three candidates for the next van Niel Prize.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has sent a ranked list of the three candidates for the next van Niel Prize to the University of Queensland. The officials of the University of Queensland are happy with our suggestions. I.C. Sutcliffe has drafted a citation to be published in the IJSEM after the University of Queensland will publish the name of the awardee.
- A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe have prepared the ballot for election of the new Executive Board.
- A. Oren has sent the ballot for election of the new Executive Board to all voting members on 1st June. See Minute 6.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted BISMIS President and Secretary K. Jangid and W-J Li to discuss ICSP participation in the BISMIS conference in Guangzhou in November. A positive reply was received, to be further discussed by the incoming Executive Board. See Minute 8.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren have prepared a ballot for the election of the 28th Class of the Judicial Commission. The ballot was sent to the voting members on 15th June; thus far 14 out of the 34 voting members have sent their votes to the tellers, I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren. On 5th July, A. Oren will send a reminder to the members who have not yet voted.

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

- E.R.B. Moore did not yet complete posting the minutes of the 2nd May meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website. Ongoing.

- A. Oren has collated the comments posted on the Slack channel on the proposals to amend Rules 8, 15, 22, 30(3)(b), 30(4), 34a, and Appendix 7 of the ICNP (Oren et al., Int J Syst Evol Microbiol 2022;72:005630). See Minute 13.

Minute 5. Contribution of the ICSP to the VAAM conference in September

The organizers of the VAAM meeting in Göttingen invited the ICSP to contribute to a symposium on "Information on the nomenclature of prokaryotes" on Monday 11th September, 3 - 5 pm. The VAAM wishes to have a discussion, starting with an introduction on both codes (ICNP and SeqCode) to inform and raise awareness among the members, followed by a round table discussion. VAAM will provide free registration, one night hotel accommodation, and up to 500 € for travel. M. Göker volunteered to give the introduction lecture. R. Hahnke, who is one of the organizers of the VAAM conference, will also represent the ICSP at the meeting.

Minute 6. Executive Board elections update

The ballot will close on 30th June. I.C. Sutcliffe reported that thus far, about half of the voting members have returned the ballot form. A. Oren will invite newly elected members of the next Executive Board to join the upcoming Executive Board meetings as observers.

Minute 7. Update on Statutes revision

Preparation of a draft revision of the ICSP Statutes by I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren is ongoing.

Minute 8. Participation of the ICSP in the BISMIS conference in November

I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted BISMIS President and Secretary K. Jangid and W-J Li to discuss ICSP participation in the BISMIS conference in Guangzhou, 7 – 9 November. A roundtable discussion on how the ICNP and Seqcode can cohabit is planned. A. Oren will hold a one-day nomenclature workshop in Guangzhou on 6th November.

Minute 9. Update on Subcommittees

The following meeting minutes were published: 1. Hahnke R.L. et al., International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes: Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Myxobacteria* (*Myxococcota*). Minutes of the closed online meeting, 21 September 2022. Int J Syst Evol Microbiol 2023;73:005846; 2. Mattarelli, P. et al. International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Bifidobacterium*, *Lactobacillus* and related organisms. Minutes of the closed meeting by videoconference, 3 September 2020. Int J Syst Evol Microbiol 2023;73:005892.

S.L.W. On reported by email that a proposal for the establishment of a new Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Borrelia* was received, with founding members from Germany, Australia, UK

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

and USA. He will send the proposal to the members of the Executive Board for consideration at the next meeting.

Concerns were discussed on the actions of the 'International committee on the taxonomy of chlamydiae' (sic), as published in *New Microbes and New Infections* 2023;54:101158, and also Minute 11 in their recently published minutes (Borel and Greub, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2023;73: 005712). A. Oren will contact S.L.W. On to discuss the actions of the ICSP Subcommittee for the taxonomy of the Chlamydiae.

Minute 10. Update from the Judicial Commission

M. Göker reported that the Judicial Commission has issued Opinion 129. After publication of the request for this opinion by M. Pallen in the *IJSEM*, A. Oren will send the draft opinion to be endorsed by the voting members of the ICSP.

A. Oren reported that thus far, 11 voting members of the ICSP returned the ballot to elect a 28th Class of the Judicial Commission and to elect a replacement for P.-E. Fournier, who is standing down from the ongoing 26th Class.

Minute 11. Update from the Publications Committee

There was nothing new to report.

Minute 12. Update from IJSEM

A. Oren received a message from N. Froude of the Microbiology Society that the *IJSEM* Editorial Board meeting, scheduled for 8th September to take place in London in person, will probably be changed to a virtual or a hybrid meeting.

On 26th May, a meeting was held to discuss the nomenclature review process. The meeting was attended by M. Chuvochina, M. Kostovski, A. Oren, B. Schink, M. Trujillo, and S. Ventura. A. Oren and B. Schink are happy to continue as nomenclature reviewers. M. Chuvochina does not have sufficient time to devote to routine reviewing for *IJSEM*. Her name will be deleted from the Editorial Board page of the *IJSEM* website, but she is willing to assist if we need her help in the future. S. Ventura will re-join the nomenclature review team. M. Kostovski will be granted full access to the nomenclature review forum, and his name will be added on the Editorial Board page on the *IJSEM* website. M. Kostovski, A. Oren, B. Schink, and S. Ventura agreed on the most efficient way to conduct the online nomenclature review process.

Minute 13. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

A. Oren has collated the comments posted on the Slack channel on the proposals to amend Rules 8, 15, 22, 30(3)(b), 30(4), 34a, and Appendix 7 of the ICNP (Oren et al., *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2022;72:005630). The Editorial Board of the ICNP met on 19th June and decided that no reply is needed. A. Oren will send the ballot material to the voting members of the ICPS on 1st July; Y. Shouche and H. Christensen will serve as the tellers.

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Minute 14. Treasurer's update

M. Göker has drafted a letter to LPSN be signed by the ICSP to formalize the transfer of funds to LPSN as an annual honorarium.

There were no further updates.

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

A. Oren reported that the List Editors of the IJSEM have received a validation request based on an isolate from Brazil. His query to E.R.B. Moore and Y. Shouche on how to deal with the request in view of the special restrictions imposed by the Brazilian authorities remained unanswered. E.R.B. Moore and Y. Shouche will provide guidelines to the IJSEM List Editors on how to deal with requests for validation of names based on isolates from Brazil as type strains.

Minute 16. Update on the Singleton Deposit Initiative

There were no updates.

Minute 17. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach

On 1st June, A. Oren met with D. Mabberley, the chair of the General Committee on Botanical Nomenclature. He briefed Prof. Mabberley about the work of the ICSP, and discussed different issues of nomenclature and nomenclature quality control, the ICNP and the ICN, and the status of the cyanobacteria under both codes.

There were no further updates.

Minute 18. Other business

I.C. Sutcliffe reported on scam messages, sent by someone pretending to be him, to several Executive Board members. He has sent an alert about these fraudulent messages to all ICSP members.

Date of next meeting: August 3rd 9 am UK time.

Adjourned at 11.20

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 1st July 2023

Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 25th May 2023 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 the minutes of the 25th May 2023 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 finalized draft revision of the ICSP statutes to R. Samson (IUMS) for comments.
- 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.
- E.R.B. Moore, to complete posting of the minutes of the 24th January meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to finalize and sign the letter drafted by M. Göker to arrange payment of the honorarium to LPSN for 2023.
- P. Nielsen, to draft the financial report on the 2020-2023 term to be submitted to IUMS.
- 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) – planned for August.
- E.R.B. Moore, to finalize and post the minutes of the 2nd May meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren, to invite newly elected members of the next Executive Board to join the upcoming Executive Board meetings as observers.
- S.L.W. On, to send the proposal received for the formation of a new subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Borrelia* to the members of the Executive Board, to be discussed at the next meeting.
- A. Oren, to contact S.L.W. On concerning the recent publication on behalf of the ICSP subcommittee for the taxonomy of the Chlamydiae in *New Microbes and New Infections*.
- A. Oren, to send the ballot on ICNP emendations to the voting members of the ICSP on 1st July; Y. Shouche and H. Christensen will serve as the tellers.
- E.R.B. Moore and Y. Shouche, to provide guidelines to the IJSEM List Editors on how to deal with requests for validation of names based on isolates from Brazil as type strains.