



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting August 3rd 2023 - Minutes

Chair:

I. C. SUTCLIFFE
Northumbria University
U.K.

Minute 1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9.00 a.m. UK time.

Vice-Chair:

E. R. B. MOORE
University of Gothenburg
Sweden

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), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large elect) joined the meeting as an observer. Apologies were received from R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large) and C. Manaia (Vice-Chair elect).

Executive Secretary:

A. OREN
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Israel

Secretary for Subcommittees:

S. L. W. ON
Lincoln University
New Zealand

Minute 3. Welcoming M. Sakamoto

I.C. Sutcliffe welcomed M. Sakamoto (Executive Board Member-at-Large elect) who participated in the meeting as an observer.

Treasurer:

P. NIELSEN
Novozymes, Copenhagen
Denmark

Members at Large:

R. HAHNKE
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

Minute 4. Minutes of the 29th June 2023 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 29th June 2023 meeting were approved with a minor correction. No redaction was needed. A. Oren will distribute the unredacted 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.

Y. SHOUCHE

National Centre for Microbial
Resource
India

Members of the Judicial Committee

Chair:

D.R. ARAHAL
University of Valencia
Spain

Minute 5. Matters Arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has forwarded 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.

- E.R.B. Moore has posted the minutes of the 25th May 2023 of the Executive Board on the ICSP website.

- E.R.B. Moore nearly complete the posting of short CVs of deceased Life Members on the ICSP website. H. Christensen pointed out that the missing information about Thomas Gibson (1892-1973) can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1099/00207713-24-4-553>. E.R.B. Moore will post this on the website. It was also noted that P. Nielsen had named the species *Bacillus gibsonii* in his honour.

- I.C. Sutcliffe, M. Göker and A. Oren did not yet finalize the draft revision of the ICSP statutes. Ongoing.

- S.L.W. On has finalized the summary of the 25th October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy and submitted the manuscript for publication in the IJSEM.

- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post the minutes of the 24th January meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.

Vice-Chair:

H. CHRISTENSEN
University of Copenhagen
Denmark

Secretary:

M. GÖKER
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

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- I.C. Sutcliffe has finalized and signed the letter drafted by M. Göker to arrange payment of the honorarium to LPSN for 2023.
- P. Nielsen has drafted the financial report on the 2020-2023 term to be submitted to IUMS.
- 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 (Executive Secretary IUMS). Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore has finalized and posted the minutes of the 2nd May meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren has invited the newly elected members of the next Executive Board to join the upcoming Executive Board meetings as observers.
- A. Oren has (on behalf of S.L.W. On) sent the proposal received for the formation of a new subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Borrelia* to the members of the Executive Board. See Minute 11.
- A. Oren has contacted S.L.W. On concerning the recent publication by the ICSP subcommittee for the taxonomy of the *Chlamydiae* of the minutes of its closed meeting held on 25th August 2022 and of an article in *New Microbes and New Infections*. See Minute 11.
- A. Oren has sent the ballot on ICNP emendations to the voting members of the ICSP on 1st July. See Minute 8.
- E.R.B. Moore has contacted M.E. Trujillo to provide guidelines on how to deal with requests for validation of names based on isolates from Brazil as type strains.

Minute 6. New restrictions on the availability of type strains isolated in France

M. Göker reported that the working group on type strain accessibility is assessing the potential problem caused by new restrictions imposed by the French authorities. E.R.B. Moore has contacted the French authorities and the European Culture Collections' Organization (ECCO), and is waiting for replies. E.R.B. Moore will contact P.-E. Fournier, the French delegate to the ICSP, and discuss the issues with him.

A. Oren mentioned that the July issue of the *IJSEM* contains a paper proposing a new combination for which the type strain of the basonym *Weizmannia faecalis* Kieu *et al.* 2023 was isolated in France. It was suggested that until further notice, the List Editors should not list such names as validly published.

Minute 7. Election of new commissioners of the Judicial Commission

Following the closure, on 15th July, of the ballot to elect the 28th Class of the Judicial Commission and a fifth new commissioner to join the 26th Class, a ballot was held from 15th June to 15th July. Out of the 34 voting members, 26 returned the ballot. I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren served as the tellers. The results were as follows: C. Bull, 16; R. de la Haba, 12; C. Dunlap, 14; M. Figge, 4; P. Mattarelli, 7; M. del C. Montero-Calasanz, 14; P. Švec, 11; P. Vandamme, 18; A. Ventosa, 16; S. Ventura, 15; there was one abstention. C. Bull will join the 26th Class, P. Vandamme, A. Ventosa, and S. Ventura the 28th Class. The voting members of the ICSP will be rebaloted for the 4th position in the 28th Class between C. Dunlap and M.C. Montero-Calasanz. The ballot will held from 4th-19th August, I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren will be the tellers.

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The Judicial Commission will decide when to elect its officers. Until then, the current officers will continue to serve. According to the ICSP statutes, the Chair of the ICSP is in charge of the organization of the elections.

Minute 8. Outcome of the ballot on the proposed emendations of the ICNP

After a six-month period of public discussions on the Slack platform, a ballot was held from 1st-31st July in which the members of the ICSP voted on proposed emendation of Rules 8, 15, 22, 25a, 30(3)(b), 30(4), 34a, and Appendix 7 of the ICNP. H. Christensen and Y. Shouche were the tellers. H. Christensen reported on the outcome. A. Oren will prepare a manuscript to announce the results, circulate it among the members of the Executive Board for comments, and then submit it to the IJSEM, with the collated comments posted on the Slack channel as a supplementary file. The results will also be announced to the members of the ICSP and JC by email.

Minute 9. Ballot on the proposal to include the categories kingdom and domain in the ICNP

The six-month period that started with the publication of the proposal in the IJSEM will end on 7th August. A. Oren will then collate the very few comments posted on the Slack channel. As the authors of the proposal (M. Göker and A. Oren) do not wish to respond (as per ICSP Statute 13 (b) (5)), I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren will prepare the ballot material to be distributed to the voting members of the ICSP on 9th August. E.R.B. Moore will be one of the tellers. I.C. Sutcliffe will contact C. Manaia to ask whether she is prepared to serve as the second teller.

Minute 10. ICSP report to IUMS

A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe have prepared a draft version of the report over the period April 2020 – March 2023 and circulated it to the members of the Executive Board. All members of the Executive Board are requested to check the document and send their comments to A. Oren no later than 9th August. On 10th August, A. Oren will send the report, together with the financial report prepared by P. Nielsen, to R. Samson and H. Lawrence, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of IUMS.

Minute 11. Update on Subcommittees

S.L.W. On reported that the minutes of the online pan-subcommittee meeting held in October were submitted for publication in the IJSEM.

The proposal to establish a new subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Borrelia* was unanimously approved. S.L.W. On will contact the authors of the proposal and invite them to start the activities of the new subcommittee.

S.L.W. On, I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren held an online meeting on 18th July to discuss the actions of the subcommittee on the taxonomy on *Chlamydiae* as the Minutes of the 25th August 2022 meeting of that subcommittee (IJSEM 2022;72:005712) and the paper published in *New Microbes and New Infections* (2023;54:101158) do not accurately reflect the rules and norms of the ICSP. S.L.W. On has drafted a letter to be sent by him to G. Greub and N. Borrel, Chair and Secretary of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy on *Chlamydiae*.

Minute 12. Report from the Judicial Commission

The ballot on the endorsement of Opinion 129 by the voting members of the ICSP is ongoing, and will

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close on 6th August. A. Oren, who serves as one of the tellers, reported that by 2nd August, 20 out of 34 voting members had returned the ballot.

Minute 13. Update from Publications Committee

There was nothing to report.

Minute 14. Update from IJSEM

E.R.B. Moore reported that the meeting of the editorial board, scheduled for 8th September and originally planned to take place in person in London, will be fully virtual, as few editors responded to the invitation to travel to London.

Issues relating to the Nagoya protocol get more complicated now as France has apparently joined the list of countries that have issued special restrictive regulations. E.R.B. Moore will work with M.E. Trujillo to form a new and active panel of experts to consult the Editors and the List Editors of the IJSEM in problematic cases.

Minute 15. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

I.C. Sutcliffe has written a short announcement about the 2022 revision of the ICNP that was published in the July newsletter of the Microbiology Society.

Minute 16. Treasurer's update

P. Nielsen reported that the draft financial report over the period April 2020 – March 2023 is ready. The report was circulated to the members of the Executive Board for comments. It will be submitted to the Secretary and the Treasurer of IUMS together with the report on the activities of the ICSP during that period.

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

Except for the problems relating to the Nagoya protocol, in that France has apparently joined the list of countries that have issued special restrictive regulations (see Minute 14), there was nothing to report.

Minute 18. Update on the Singleton Deposit Initiative

M. Göker had nothing to report.

Minute 19. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach

The ICSP Executive Board and IJSEM will be represented at the focused meeting on 'What's in a Name? Fit-for-purpose bacterial nomenclature' on 26th- 27th September at the University of Strathclyde Glasgow Technology and Innovation Centre by I.C. Sutcliffe, M.E. Trujillo, and M. Göker. E.R.B. Moore also plans to attend the meeting.

A Oren reported that the nomenclature workshop he will give in Guangzhou on 6th November, preceding the BISMIS conference, will not be a one-day as originally planned, but a three-hour event.

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Minute 20. Other business

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: 31st August 9 am UK time.

Adjourned at 10.45.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 4th August 2023

Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 29th June 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 29th June 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.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post the minutes of the 24th January meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.
- 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 (Executive Secretary IUMS).
- E.R.B. Moore, to liaise with P.-E. Fournier to discuss the novel regulations about availability of biological material issued by the French government.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to prepare the second ballot for the election of the fourth member of the 28th class of the JC to be voted on within two weeks.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and/or E.R.B. Moore to liaise with the JC to organise the election of new officers of the JC.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to prepare the ballot on the proposal to include the categories kingdom and domain in the ICNP, to be sent to the voting members of the ICSP on 8st August by A. Oren together with the collated comments posted on the Slack channel.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to ask C. Manaia whether she would be willing to serve as a teller for the ballot on the proposal to include the categories kingdom and domain in the ICNP.
- All members of the Executive Board, to study the draft report to IUMS and send comments to A. Oren no later than 9th August.
- All members of the Executive Board, to study the draft financial report to IUMS and send comments to P. Nielsen no later than 9th August.

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- A. Oren, to send the finalized report over the period April 2020 – March 2023, together with the financial report prepared by P. Nielsen, to R. Samson and H. Lawrence, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of IUMS.
- S.L.W. On, to contact the authors of the proposal for the establishment of a subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Borrelia* and notify them that the proposal was approved by the Executive Board.
- S.L.W. On, to finalize the letter to be sent to N. Borrel and G. Greub about the concerns of the Executive Board about the recent actions of the subcommittee on *Chlamydiae*.
- E.R.B. Moore, to liaise with M.E. Trujillo to form a new and active panel of experts that can be consulted by the IJSEM editors on matters relating to the Nagoya protocol and local restrictions on the availability of type strains.