



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

EB-ICSP Meeting April 25th 2024 – Redacted Minutes

Chair:

E.R.B. MOORE
University of Gothenburg
Sweden

Vice-Chair:

C.M. MANAIA
Universidade Católica Portuguesa
Portugal

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

M. SAKAMOTO
RIKEN BioResource
Research Center
Japan

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 10.00 CEST.

Minute 2. Record of attendance

The following members of the Executive Board (EB) participated: E.R.B. Moore (Chair), C. Manaia (Vice-Chair), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), R.L. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). An apology was received from S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 4th April 2024 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 4th April 2024 meeting were approved after a minor correction. A. Oren will distribute the redacted minutes to the members of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (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 minutes of the 25th January 2024 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 EB meeting of 9st January and 25th January 2024 on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore has corresponded with R. Hahnke to discuss ways to deal with culture collections that provide 'certificates' of availability of type strains but cannot be contacted. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet publish the minutes of the 9th February meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- Some, but not all EB members have created a Zenodo account. Ongoing.
- C. Manaia, M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore have discussed the draft letter informing the IJSEM editorial board about some important guidelines, including regarding the SeqCode, with M.E. Trujillo. See Minute 14.
- R. Hahnke started discussing procedures to check and evaluate MTAs that may restrict availability of type strains from culture collections with E.R.B. Moore. Ongoing.

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- Several members of the EB have sent E.R.B. Moore suggestions for the format of the ICSP session during the IUMS Conference in Florence in October. See Minute 7.

Minute 5. Co-option of new ICSP members

The ballot for co-option of R.R. de la Haba, J. Vazquez-Boland and A. Sidarenka will close on 30th April. Documents for the nomination of M. Figge as a co-opted member are complete. A second candidate has been nominated for co-option, and the nomination letters will probably become available soon. A. Oren will send out the ballot on 1st May or soon thereafter, when all required documents are available.

Minute 6. Update on the transfer of funds from MS to ICSP and from ICSP to DSMZ

[Redacted] The honorarium to LPSN for the years 2018-2022 was paid by the Microbiology Society (MS) to the ICSP in 2023. ICSP has recently paid the honorarium for the years 2019 to 2022 to the DSMZ. The honorarium for 2023 and 2024 will be paid to the DSMZ account when the ICSP has received 2024 honorarium from MS. The issue of payment for 2018 is still open; it will be kept as a reserve to be used later for special projects such as the automation of the preparation of the Validation Lists.

Minute 7. Update on IUMS 2024 Conference

Different suggestions for the format of the 90-minute ICSP session at the IUMS Conference in Florence were discussed. It was decided that, after opening of the session and presentation of the van Niel International Prize to T. Woyke (10 minutes), T. Woyke will give her prize lecture (30 minutes), followed by 10 minutes discussion time. It will be followed by two 20-minute talks on, 1) the history of the ICSP and, 2) on recently proposed emendations of the ICNP and the ICSP statutes. A. Oren will notify the ICSP membership of the format of the session. A. Oren and M. Göker, respectively, volunteered to give these presentations, and they will prepare abstracts of their talks. E.R.B. Moore will notify the organizers of the IUMS Congress in Florence no later than 15th May of the format and list of speakers for the ICSP session. E.R.B. Moore will contact P. Nielsen on the reimbursement of travel expenses to T. Woyke and the other speakers.

Minute 8. Planning of plenary meetings of the ICSP

The EB proposed to schedule a plenary meeting of the ICSP in the late afternoon (CEST) of 13th June. E.R.B. Moore will prepare a draft agenda. A second plenary meeting will be scheduled to take place in Florence on 22nd October, preceding the IUMS Conference (23rd-25th October).

Minute 9. Availability of type strains from culture collections

The EB discussed how to deal with any hidden restrictions that may exist on the availability of type strains isolated from US National Parks sites, as exemplified by the case of the request for validation of the name *Duganella violaceipulchra*, deposited in the ATCC and the CCOS collections. As far as is known, a customer (third party) who orders such a strain from the ATCC only needs to sign an US National Parks Service MTA, which would not need to be counter-signed by the US National Park Service. No reasons were brought forward against the validation of this name based on the documents supplied.

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Minute 10. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Minute 11. Update from the Judicial Commission

The voting on the JC Opinion 130 ended on 17th April. The tellers C. Manaia and E.R.B. Moore received 34 votes, all in favor; 0 against; 0 abstaining.

Minute 12. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

Activity on the Slack channel to discuss the proposed emendations to the ICNP has been minimal. On 6th June, the ballot will be opened to vote on the first of the proposed emendations (emendation of Appendix 9 - use of connecting vowels after stems ending in the same vowel). Three more ballots on proposed ICNP emendations will be opened in July.

Minute 13. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

V. Chalker has resigned as chair of the Mollicutes subcommittee. G. Gasparich is acting as interim chair.

Minute 14. Update from the Publications Committee

C. Manaia, M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore met with M.E. Trujillo to discuss the draft letter informing the IJSEM editorial board about some important guidelines, including regarding the SeqCode. The letter was not yet finalized. E.R.B. Moore will send the current version to the members of the EB no later than 28th April for a final check. The finalized letter will be sent to the IJSEM editors on behalf of the ICSP EB.

Minute 15. Update from the IJSEM

A link to the proposed minimal standards for the use of genome data for the taxonomy of prokaryotes (Riesco and Trujillo, IJSEM 2024;74:006300) was placed on Basecamp, the online forum for IJSEM editors.

Minute 16. Update from Treasurer

Beyond the issues reported in Minute 6 there was nothing new to report.

Minute 17. Update from the Working Group on Education & Outreach

On 24th April, A. Oren met online with three high school students from Seekirchen, Austria, in the framework of their “Sparkling Science” project (<https://sparklingbacteria.com/2-sparkling-science-project/>) on biodiversity and ecology of freshwater bacteria. Their academic supervisor is A. Pitt (Innsbruck). The DSMZ is also involved in this project.

M. Göker reported that he started posting information interesting prokaryotic names (“Fun with Names”) on Twitter/X.

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The ICSP website

Several updates were made on the ICSP website. The names of the three newly appointed full members were added to the list of members. A notice and a link to the Obituary for Professor Michael Goodfellow were posted on the ICSP website.

Minute 18. Update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Type strain accessibility

There was nothing new to report.

Minute 19. Update on the Singleton Initiative

M. Göker reported that he had a video conference with ATCC about the Singleton Deposit Initiative. The ATCC appears to be willing to share Singleton strains with other collections.

Minute 20. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotes

M. Göker reported that the Ad Hoc Committee had sent a letter to the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Microbiology, requesting the journal to change its policy on proposals for new names of prokaryotes. A reply was received stating that the journal is generally in agreement with the requested actions; the JCM editors are working on an implementation plan for nomenclature matters.

Any Other Business

E.R.B. Moore has contacted K. Jangid to search for a suitable framework for the ICSP to present the ideas expressed in the 'Best of Both Worlds' paper (Arahal et al., IJSEM 2024,74:6188) on BISMIS Live. No date was yet set for such a presentation.

The next meeting of the EB was scheduled for 23th May, 10.00 CEST.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 CEST.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren, 26th April 2024.

Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 4th April 2024 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 EB meetings of 4th April on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to publish the minutes of the 9th February meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.

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- All EB-ICSP members who have not yet done so, to consider creating a Zenodo account and requesting inclusion in the ICSP group on Zenodo.
- R. Hahnke, to discuss with E.R.B. Moore procedures to check and evaluate MTAs that may restrict availability of type strains from culture collections.
- A. Oren, to send out the ballot for election of new co-opted members on May 1st or soon thereafter, when all relevant documents are available.
- P. Nielsen, to transfer the honorarium for LPSN for 2023 to the DSMZ.
- A. Oren, to notify the ICSP membership of the format of the ICSP session at the IUMS Congress in Florence in October.
- A. Oren and M. Göker, to prepare abstracts for their presentations at the IUMS Congress in Florence in October.
- E.R.B. Moore, to notify the organizers of the IUMS Congress in Florence no later than 15th May of the format and list of speakers for the ICSP session.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact P. Nielsen on the reimbursement of travel expenses to T. Woyke.
- E.R.B. Moore, to prepare a draft agenda for the ICSP plenary meeting planned for 13th June.
- E.R.B. Moore, to send the latest version of the letter informing the IJSEM editorial board about some important guidelines to the members of the EB no later than 28th April for a final check.