



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

EB-ICSP Meeting 26th September 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.M. Manaia (Vice-Chair) (joined the meeting at 10.55 CEST), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from D.R. Arahal (Chair, JC) and P. Nielsen (Treasurer).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 29th August 2024 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 29th August 2024 meeting were approved after a minor correction. A. Oren will distribute a redacted version of the minutes to the members of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP), the Judicial Commission (JC), 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 July 2024 EB meeting to all members of the ICSP, the JC and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post the minutes of the 25th July 2024 meeting on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post a link to the ICSP Statutes more prominently on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- A. Oren has notified the ICSP members not affiliated with IUMS affiliated societies that they are eligible for a discounted registration fee for the IUMS 2024 conference in October.
- A. Oren has sent information about the open plenary meeting in Florence, Italy on 22nd October to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet invite the officials of IUMS to participate in the open plenary meeting of the ICSP in Florence, Italy on 22nd October. Ongoing.
- M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore have discussed the draft revision of the ICSP Statutes in the first half of September. See Minute 9.

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- A. Oren did not yet convene all authors of the proposed revision of the ICSP Statutes document to finalize the proposals and prepare the ballot. See Minute 9.
- A. Oren has sent a reminder on 19th September to the ICSP members who have not yet returned the ballot form for M.J. Pallen's proposal to emend the section on formation of prokaryote names from personal names in Appendix 9 of the ICNP.
- M. Göker has sent to A. Oren the authors' response and additional material to be forwarded to the voting members with the ballot on the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals to emend the ICNP.
- A. Oren has sent out the ballot on the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals to emend the ICNP on 5th September.
- A. Oren has invited C.M. Manaia to serve as a teller for the ballot on the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals.

Minute 5. Co-option of new ICSP members

A. Oren reported that T. Eisenberg, M. Hamada, J. Heo, H. Imachi, P. Kuhnert, I. Kurtböke and J Tambong have all been elected with a large majority as co-opted members of the ICSP. A. Oren and E.R.B. Moore have welcomed the new co-opted members to the ICSP. Their names and affiliations will be added to the ICSP website.

A. Oren notified the EB of a letter received from A. Ventosa who expressed his opinion against the appointment of many co-opted members, especially from countries that are already represented by full members. In his opinion, co-option is justified when the nominee is involved in some specific aspects of the work of the ICSP. M. Göker mentioned that he knew of only one person whose co-option was necessary to enable that person to hold a specific position (office) in the ICSP. All other co-options had the purpose of making the ICSP more representative, e.g. in terms of professions, gender and countries covered, and progress has been made in this respect. E.R.B. Moore will add this topic to the agenda of the plenary meeting to be held in Florence on 22nd October.

Minute 6. Update on the IUMS 2024 conference, Florence, Italy

I.C. Sutcliffe will not be present at the conference to hand out the van Niel International Prize to Tanja Woyke. E.R.B. Moore has contacted representatives of the University of Queensland who will attend the conference, inviting a delegate to present the prize.

Minute 7. The plenary meeting of the ICSP at the IUMS 2024 conference, Florence, Italy

E.R.B. Moore circulated a draft agenda for the plenary meeting. The document was briefly discussed. E.R.B. Moore will prepare a new version of the agenda and send it to A. Oren, to be circulated among all ICSP members for comments and any revisions, to be returned to E.R.B. Moore by October 4.

Minute 8. Nomination of a candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize

E.R.B. Moore has obtained further information about the financial arrangements related to the

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van Niel International Prize. The role of the ICSP is strictly advisory to the University of Queensland, which is responsible for awarding the van Niel International Prize. ICSP has no formal financial obligations associated with the van Niel Prize. The formal nomination of a candidate for the 2024 prize should wait until we receive further information from the University of Queensland about their financial obligations.

Minute 9. Ballot for voting on the revision of the ICSP Statutes

E.R.B. Moore, M. Göker and A. Oren discussed the draft ballot form prepared by A. Oren. Further minor adjustments are required before the ballot can be sent out. E.R.B. Moore, M. Göker and A. Oren will then finalize the draft ballot form and send it to all authors of the proposal for revision of the statutes for comments before the plenary meeting in Florence. The document will then be presented at the plenary meeting. The ballot can be sent out soon after the Florence meeting.

Minute 10. Update from the Judicial Commission

There were no updates.

Minute 11. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

A. Oren reported that the announcement of the decision by the ICSP on emendation of Appendix 9 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes to regulate the use of connecting vowels in compound names after stems ending in the same vowel, proposed by M.J. Pallen, was accepted for publication in the IJSEM after a long delay, and will soon be published (A. Oren. Emendation of Appendix 9 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes to regulate the use of connecting vowels in compound names after stems ending in the same vowel. IJSEM 74: 006535).

The ballot on M.J. Pallen's proposal to emend the section on formation of prokaryote names from personal names in Appendix 9 of the ICNP (IJSEM 74: 006233; 2024) will remain open until 28th October. A. Oren and E.R.B. Moore are the tellers. On 19th September, Oren has sent a reminder to the members who had not yet returned the ballot. As of 26th September, 22 of the 53 eligible members had voted. Following a comment received from M. Göker, A. Oren explained that the proposal as presented on the ballot form needs to be amended with information on the starting point, i.e. when the new regulation comes in effect, and a statement of non-retroactivity needs to be added. A. Oren and M. Göker will further discuss the way to formulate a Note to the emendation.

The ballot on the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals to emend the ICNP (D.R. Arahal *et al.*, IJSEM 2024;74:006188) started on 5th September and will remain open until 4th December. A. Oren and C.M. Manaia are the tellers. As of 26th September, 26 of the 53 voting member had returned the ballot form. In mid-October, A. Oren will send a reminder to the ICSP members who have not yet returned the ballot.

A. Oren reported that a proposal to add a Note to Rule 8 of the ICNP was published on 16th September by A. Oren, M. Kostovski and M.J. Pallen (IJSEM 74: 006527). A. Oren has posted information on the Slack channel to notify that the proposal will be open for discussion for six months.

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A. Oren proposed that, in view of the many important emendations of the ICNP approved since the publication of the 2022 Revision, and the additional emendations currently being voted on, preparation of a 2025 Revision of the ICNP is justified. The EB members agreed. A. Oren will prepare a draft document in the coming 1-2 months, to be discussed by the Editorial Board of the ICNP, and then to be presented to the ICSP membership for discussion and voting. A. Oren will update J. Kelly at the Microbiology Society that we intend to publish a new revision of the ICNP in the second half of 2025.

Minute 12. Update from Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On has received a message from P. Rahi, stating that a formal proposal to revive the subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Neisseria* will soon be submitted.

Minute 13. Update from the Treasurer

According to the ICSP Statutes, a statement of accounts shall be furnished by the Treasurer to the EB-ICSP before September 1 of each year. P. Nielsen prepared a draft statement covering the period from August 1st 2023 to July 31st 2024, which was circulated among the EB members. All EB members are requested to check the document and send any comments to P. Nielsen, E.R.B. Moore and C.M. Manaia no later than 4th October. The document will be presented at the upcoming plenary meeting in Florence.

Minute 14. Update from the Working Group on Education & Outreach

S.L.W. On did not yet schedule a meeting with M. del C. Montero-Calasanz.

No updates were made to the ICSP website in the past month, and there was nothing new to report about the use of social media.

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

There were no updates.

Minute 16. Update on the Singleton Initiative

M. Göker had no updates. He reminded that the process of exchanging cultures between collections will take time.

Minute 17. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotic Nomenclature

M. Göker reported that the committee meets regularly. An interim meeting was held on 2nd September, and the next full meeting is scheduled for 1st October.

Minute 18. Update from the Publications Committee

There were no updates.

Minute 19. Update from the IJSEM

C.M. Manaia reported on the IJSEM editorial board meeting held in London on 6th September.

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The meeting was attended by EB members E.R.B. Moore, C.M. Manaia, A. Oren and D.R. Arahal. She presented information from the Publisher's Report presented at that meeting and the discussions held about the impact factor of the journal and the quality of the papers published. C.M. Manaia will check with N. Froude of the Microbiology Society whether the documents presented during the 6th September IJSEM editorial board meeting and the minutes of that meeting (yet to be distributed) may be circulated among the EB-ICSP members.

Closing matters: Other business

E.R.B. Moore had received a complaint from W.B. Whitman about the handling of the ballot for the 'Best of Both' Worlds proposals that allegedly contravened Article 4d of the ICSP statutes. E.R.B. Moore, M. Göker and A. Oren have discussed the accusations and found them unjustified. E.R.B. Moore will respond to W.B. Whitman.

The next meetings of the EB will be start at 09.00 CET. E.R.B. Moore will contact all EB members to check whether the last Thursday of each month is still the best day for the EB meetings, or another day of the week is preferred.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 CEST.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren, 27th September 2024.

Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 29th August 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 25th July 2024 and 29th August meetings on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post a link to the ICSP Statutes more prominently on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to invite the officials of IUMS to participate in the open plenary meeting of the ICSP in Florence, Italy on 22nd October.
- E.R.B. Moore, to prepare a new version of the agenda of the plenary meeting in Florence and send it to A. Oren, to be circulated among all ICSP members for comments.
- E.R.B. Moore, M. Göker and A. Oren, to finalize the draft ballot form for revision of the ICSP statutes and send it to all authors of the proposal for revision of the statutes for comments before the plenary meeting in Florence.
- A. Oren and M. Göker, to discuss the way to formulate a Note to the proposed new version of Section D of Appendix 9 of the ICNP to add information on a starting point when the new regulation takes effect and the non-retroactivity of the change.
- A. Oren, to send a reminder in mid-October to the ICSP members who have not yet returned the ballot on the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposal.

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- A. Oren, to prepare a draft of the 2025 Revision of the ICNP and send it within 1-2 months to the Editorial Board of the ICNP for discussion and approval.
- A. Oren, to notify J. Kelly at the Microbiology Society that we intend to publish a new revision of the ICNP in the second half of 2025.
- All EB members, to check the statement of accounts prepared by P. Nielsen and send any comments to P. Nielsen, E.R.B. Moore and C.M. Manaia no later than 4th October.
- C.M. Manaia, to check with N. Froude whether the documents presented during the 6th September IJSEM Editorial Board meeting and the minutes of that meeting (yet to be distributed) may be circulated among the EB-ICSP members.
- E.R.B. Moore, to respond to the complaint received from W.B. Whitman about the handling of the ballot for the Best of Both Worlds proposals.