



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-Executive Board Meeting 26th November 2020

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:

R. ROSSELLÓ-MÓRA
Mediterranean Institute for
Advanced Studies
Illes Balears Spain

Secretary:

M. GÖKER
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

Minute 1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8.00 a.m. UK time.

Minute 2. Record of attendance

All members of the Executive Board participated: I.C. Sutcliffe (Chair), E.R.B. Moore (Vice-Chair), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 29th October meeting of the Executive Board

The minutes of the 29th October meeting were approved with two minor changes in Minute 9 requested by S.L.W. On. A. Oren will distribute a redacted version of the minutes to the members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, and chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and he will send a copy to F. Venter to be added to the ICSP website.

Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren, has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 1st October Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and sent a copy to F. Venter to be posted on the ICSP website.

- A. Oren has contacted the Federation of Korean Microbiological Societies, the Council of Finnish Academies, and the Science Council of Japan to invite those institutions to send a delegate to the ICSP. A reply was received from Jung-Sook Lee representing the Federation of Korean Microbiological Societies: he will forward the invitation to the society that this year presides over the Federation. No further updates were received. No replies were received from the Council of Finnish Academies and the Science Council of Japan. A. Oren will forward copies of the correspondence to E.R.B. Moore, who may then try to contact these institutions.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted Tanja Woyke, recipient of this year's van Niel Prize, to invite her to give an outreach online talk. Dr. Woyke prefers to talk in person if during the next year a suitable international meeting will be held. It was decided to wait a few months until it will become clear what relevant international meetings will be held in 2021 and in what format, and he will then contact Dr. Woyke again.

- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren reported that the minutes of the ICSP plenary held during the 8th Congress of European Microbiologists held in Glasgow in July 2019

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

have been submitted for publication in the IJSEM by L. Dijkshoorn. The Editor-in-Chief of the IJSEM is handling this submission.

- A. Oren has sent copies of the discussion documents on the proposed inclusion of the rank of phylum and the status of the Cyanobacteria under the ICNP to F. Venter, and they are already available on the ICSP website.
- D.R. Arahal has contacted M.E. Trujillo to explain the correct procedures for the handling of new Requests for an Opinion, as outlined in Article 8 of the statutes of the ICSP.
- No progress was yet made with the preparation of an editorial for publication in the IJSEM, to be written by E.R.B. Moore, A. Oren, G.M. Garrity and M.E. Trujillo, to clarify the purpose of type strains, the problematic issue of restrictive Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs), and proposed emendation of Rule 18a of the ICNP. A. Oren will contact G.M. Garrity who had volunteered to coordinate the preparation of this editorial.
- E.R.B. Moore has contacted M.E. Trujillo to clarify the problems with restrictive MTAs. The presence of restrictive MTAs attached to culture collection documents will be flagged by the IJSEM editorial office to alert the handling editors.
- I.C. Sutcliffe did not prepare a formal proposal yet to expand ICSP membership. This can be dealt with later. He reminded the Executive Board that at any time co-opted members can be proposed in accordance with Article 2(b) of the statutes of the ICSP.

Minute 5. Publications Committee

I.C. Sutcliffe explained that, in accordance with Article 9 of the statutes, the ICSP has a Publications Committee. Its members are the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ICSP, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the JC, the Executive Secretary of the ICSP, the Secretary for Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and the Editor-in-Chiefs of the publications authorized by the ICSP, i.e., the Editor-in-Chief of the IJSEM and the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP. E.R.B. Moore and A. Oren (ex officio chair and secretary of the Publications Committee) were requested to convene a meeting of this committee in the beginning of 2021.

Minute 6. Report from the Judicial Commission

D.R. Arahal reported that the Judicial Commission is working on the backlog of Requests for an Opinion. No further updates are available.

Minute 7. Report from the IJSEM

A. Oren explained that in the past weeks the number of requests for validation of names submitted to the IJSEM editorial office has increased sharply, thanks to an initiative of M. Göker and his colleagues, curators of the LPSN website, to contact authors of effectively published names, encouraging them to validate the names. A. Oren welcomed this initiative, and stated that as yet the additional workload for the editorial office staff and the List Editors is not excessive. M. Göker replied that, if necessary, LPSN can reduce the number of messages sent to authors in a certain period. A. Oren will send a copy of current version of Validation List 198 (in preparation) to M. Göker, so that the LPSN curators can estimate how many of the letters sent led to the submission of validation requests.

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Minute 8. Update from the Editorial Board of the ICNP

A. Oren reported that he finished the preparation of an annotated version of the current text of the ICNP, including all Appendices, indicating the proposals for emendation published since 2008 and further suggestions for improving the text. This document is currently with the other members of the Editorial Board for comments. After the ICSP will have decided about the proposed inclusion of the rank of phylum in the rules of the ICNP and about the status of the cyanobacterial nomenclature, the annotated and updated version of the ICNP will be published on the ICSP website for open discussion and comments. The members of the Editorial Board have prepared an editorial, now in press in the IJSEM, explaining the procedure. A. Oren will forward a copy of this editorial to all members of the Executive Board.

Documents explaining the proposed inclusion of the rank of phylum in the rules of the ICNP and proposals for regulating the status of the nomenclature of the cyanobacteria under the ICNP are now found on the ICSP website. Public discussions on both topics have started, but thus far only a few comments were posted.

Minute 9. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On has identified two additional active Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and currently has a list of 14 active subcommittees. The EB invited him to prepare an editorial in the beginning of 2021, providing a list of the active subcommittees, listing the currently inactive ones, and inviting proposals for reactivating inactive subcommittees and/or proposals for establishing new Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

Minute 10. Treasurer's update

P. Nielsen reported that he had not yet met with W.B. Whitman to coordinate the transfer of the bank account. No invoices were received in the past month. He will remind Prof Whitman to speed up the transfer of the bank account.

E.R.B. Moore asked about the financial arrangements for hosting the ICSP website. F. Venter and W.B. Whitman may have further information.

Minute 11. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility

E.R.B. Moore reported that the working group has not been active in the past month.

Minute 12. Working group on Education & Outreach

R. Hahnke and S.L.W. On did not yet establish contact with L. Dijkshoorn and C.T. Bull to reactivate the working group, and they will do so soon. It was suggested that an ICSP presence on social media might become part of this activity.

Minute 13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday January 7th 2021, 8 am UK time.

International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Minute 14. AOB

A Oren explained that some electronic journals have tried to correct errors in taxonomic descriptions so that the proposed names can be approved for validation. Journals that allow correcting and updating of published papers, instead of publication of separate corrigenda or errata, do not provide a permanent record, as required by Rule 25a of the ICNP. This issue may be discussed further during the next meeting of the Executive Board.

Minute 15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09.30.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 27 November 2020

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Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 29st October Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commissions and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and send a copy to F. Venter to be posted on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren, to forward copies of his correspondence of 2nd October to the Council of Finnish Academies and the Science Council of Japan to E.R.B. Moore.
- A. Oren, to contact G.M. Garrity to coordinate the preparation of an editorial for publication in the IJSEM, to be written by E.R.B. Moore, A. Oren, G.M. Garrity and M.E. Trujillo, to clarify the purpose of type strains, the problematic issue of restrictive MTAs and propose emendation of Rule 18a of the ICNP.
- E.R.B. Moore and A. Oren, to convene a meeting of the Publications Committee in the beginning of 2021.
- A. Oren, to send a copy of current version of Validation List 198 (in preparation) to M. Göker.
- A. Oren, to send a copy of the editorial on 'Preparing a revision of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes' (IJSEM, in press) to all members of the Executive Board.
- S.L.W. On, to prepare an editorial for publication in the IJSEM in the beginning of 2021, to present the current status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- P. Nielsen to liaise with W.B. Whitman regarding transfer of the bank account.
- E.R.B. Moore to liaise with F. Venter about maintenance of the ICSP website.