



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Executive Board Meeting 28th January 2021

(redacted version)

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

The following 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), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), and R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 7th January 2021 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 7th January 2021 meeting were approved with a minor change proposed by E.R.B. Moore. A. Oren will distribute 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 E.R.B. Moore 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 26st November 2020 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 E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore has not yet contacted G.M. Garrity to advance the preparation of the editorial 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 convened a meeting of the Publications Committee, which took place on Monday, 25th January.
- S.L.W. On is awaiting final confirmation from one group before working on the preparation of an editorial for publication in the IJSEM to present the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has not yet inquired who chairs the organizing committee of the 2022 IUMS conference to propose a plenary session on systematics.
- A. Oren has coordinated the writing of an editorial for IJSEM about the change to continuous publication. This editorial, co-authored by G.M. Garrity, E.R.B. Moore, I.C. Sutcliffe and M.E. Trujillo, includes the emendation of Rules 24b, Note 1 to Rule 27, and Note 2 to Rule 33b. It was submitted on 13th January; a revised version will be submitted in the coming days.

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- I.C. Sutcliffe has prepared the text of the ballot on the proposed inclusion of the rank of phylum in the ICNP (see further Minute 5).
- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted W.B. Whitman to finalize the transferring of signatures with the NatWest Bank. I.C. Sutcliffe now has access to online banking facilities; P. Nielsen and E.R.B. Moore still do not have access.
- S.L.W. On has tried to contact L. Dijkshoorn and C.T. Bull to reactivate the working group on education and outreach. No replies were received. They will therefore attempt to make a new start for the working group without their assistance.

Minute 5. Ballot on proposal to include the rank of phylum in the ICNP

The draft ballot form on the proposal to include the rank of phylum in the ICNP was discussed and approved with a minor modification proposed by S.L.W. On. On 31st January, A. Oren will send the ballot form to all voting members of the ICSP.

Minute 6. ICSP website management

E.R.B. Moore explained that Derek Cardew of the University of Gothenburg has started working on the ICSP website. Minor updates can already be made now. Rob Samson, Secretary of IUOMS, apparently has control of the server, probably located in the Netherlands, so that we cannot yet make major changes to the ICSP website. I.C. Sutcliffe will contact Professor Samson to obtain access to the server. E.R.B. Moore will present an estimate of the salary cost of Derek (per hour cost and estimated number of hours needed), to be reimbursed by the ICSP based on quarterly invoices to be sent by the CCUG / University of Gothenburg. These financial arrangements will be discussed during the next ICSP Executive Board meeting.

Minute 7. Report from the Judicial Commission

D.R. Arahal reported (by e-mail) that no new opinions were issued in the past month, and that discussions on (to become) Opinions 103-113 are ongoing.

Minute 8. Report from the IJSEM

E.R.B. Moore and A. Oren reported that the IJSEM has now implemented continuous publication. An editorial, explaining the changes, including the necessary modifications of the rules of the ICNP, has been submitted for publication (see Minute 4).

The need for more frequent updates from the editor-in-chief of the IJSEM, the possible need to increase the number of editors, and the format and frequency of editorial board meetings were briefly discussed. These are matters to be dealt with by the Publications Committee, which reports to the Executive Board. The Publications Committee has met on 25th January and will meet again in February. A. Oren will distribute the minutes of that meeting to all members of the Executive Board.

Minute 9. Update from the Editorial Board of the ICNP

The public discussion on the inclusion of the rank of phylum in the ICNP has almost ended. E.R.B. Moore will distribute an updated summary of the discussions. The ballot will be held in

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February (see Minute 5).

The public discussion on the way the cyanobacteria should be treated under the ICNP also almost ended. On 1st February, I.C. Sutcliffe will invite G.M. Garrity and A.V. Pinevich to respond to the comments until the end of March in accordance with Article 13 (b) (4) of the statutes of the ICSP.

After A. Oren had sent annotated text files of the entire code and its appendixes, including all proposed emendations and further proposals to improve the document, to the other members of the ICNP editorial board in the last months of 2020. D.R. Arahal and R. Rosselló-Móra have returned comments on the entire document, and comments on a short section were received from E.R.B. Moore. A. Oren reminded I.C. Sutcliffe and E.R.B. Moore to comment on the documents sent. A. Oren will then prepare an annotated draft version, including updates based on the outcome of the ballots on the inclusion of the rank of phylum and the status of the cyanobacteria. This version will be posted for public discussion to start no later than July-August 2021.

Minute 10. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On is still waiting for information about the status of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Gram-Negative Anaerobic Rods.

Minute 11. Treasurer's update

P. Nielsen and E.R.B. Moore reported problems with the transferring of signatures with the NatWest Bank, as he cannot supply all documents requested by the bank. P. Nielsen will again contact NatWest Bank in order to resolve this, and if necessary I.C. Sutcliffe will contact NatWest Bank to explain the situation and find a solution.

Minute 12. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility

Y. Shouche reported some progress that may allow non-Indian scientists to access type material deposited in Indian culture collections. A system of online registration will be installed, providing a registration process that would allow access to strains. However, it is not clear what restrictions will remain.

A. Oren and E.R.B. Moore reported on restrictions to access of strains isolated in Puerto Rico, following a letter received from Harald Huber (Regensburg) referring to strains deposited in the JCM, apparently with MTAs that contain many restrictions. In an e-mail message, R. Hahnke explained that the DSMZ is currently negotiating with the National Focal Point in Costa Rica to focus on an acceptable and practical procedure to deposit and exchange cultures where the genetic material has been sampled in Costa Rica.

In an e-mail message, R. Hahnke stated that the P.R. China has regulations and official documents for the access & benefit sharing of genetic material, but these documents are in the Chinese language only.

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Minute 13. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach

S.L.W. On reported that Lenie Dijkshoorn and Carolee Bull had not yet replied to his messages. The working group consisting of S.L.W. On, R. Hahnke and Y. Shouche held an informal meeting to discuss the available resources and possible future activities but a new restart was suggested to be needed.

Minute 14. AOB

I.C. Sutcliffe has received a message from Mohammad Feizabadi, President of Iranian Society of Microbiology, nominating a delegate to the ICSP. However, the ISM is not a member of IUMS, as for technical reasons it cannot pay the membership dues. The possibility of nominating a delegate for co-opted membership was discussed, to be approved by the ICSP membership. However, legal issues connected with the special status of the Islamic Republic of Iran may prevent the ICSP to accept members from that country. I.C. Sutcliffe suggested all EB members inquire about whether their governments restrict engagement with Iranian colleagues. The nomination of the delegate can then be further discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Board.

Minute 15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday February 25th 2021, 8 am UK time.

Minute 16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10.05.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 28 January 2021

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Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 7st January 2021 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 E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact G.M. Garrity to advance the preparation of an editorial to clarify the purpose of type strains, the problematic issue of restrictive MTAs and propose emendation of Rule 18a of the ICNP.
- S.L.W. On, to complete the preparation of an editorial for publication in the IJSEM to present the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to inquire who chairs the organizing committee of the 2022 IUMS conference to propose a plenary session on systematics.
- A. Oren, to send the ballot form on including the rank of phylum to all voting members of the ICSP on 31st January.

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- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact R. Samson (IUMS) to obtain access to the server that hosts the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to provide an estimate of the salary cost of Derek Cardew for maintaining the ICSP website.
- A. Oren, to distribute the minutes of the meeting of the Publications Committee of 24th January to all members of the Executive Board.
- E.R.B. Moore, to prepare an updated summary of the public discussion on the inclusion of the rank of phylum in the ICNP, to be distributed to the ICSP members and to all participants in the discussions.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to invite G.M. Garrity and A.V. Pinevich, after 31st January, to respond to the comments raised during the public discussion on the way the cyanobacteria should be treated under the ICNP.
- P. Nielsen and I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact NatWest Bank to provide P. Nielsen and E.R.B. Moore with access to the ICSP bank account.
- All members, to inquire whether their governments restrict engagement with Iranian colleagues.