



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## ICSP-Executive Board Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**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 9.00 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), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC) and Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large).

### Minute 3. Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 meeting were approved. 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 posted on the ICSP website.

### Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has incorporated the changes proposed by R. Hahnke and A. Oren in the minutes of the 25<sup>st</sup> March 2021 Executive Board meeting, and has forwarded the minutes to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commissions and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and has sent a copy to E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website.

- E.R.B. Moore reported that his efforts to prepare an editorial with G.M. Garrity to clarify the purpose of type strains, the problematic issue of restrictive MTAs and propose emendation of Rule 18a of the ICNP are ongoing.

- S.L.W. On is still working on an editorial for publication in the IJSEM to present the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has sent two reminders to the voting members of the ICSP to respond to the ballot to resolve the status of the Cyanobacteria under the ICNP. Thus far, 14 votes were received, and more are expected to be submitted before the ballot closes on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

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- R. Hahnke and S.L.W. On reported on the ongoing efforts to prepare a letter to be sent to colleagues involved in prokaryotic taxonomy, encouraging them to get involved in ICSP-related activities.
- M. Göker has provided information about the current financial status of LPSN to the chair and vice-chair in view of future discussions on financial support of LPSN by the ICSP and/or the Microbiology Society.
- The members of the Executive Board have studied the SeqCode initiative (see further Minute 5).
- I.C. Sutcliffe has replied to the memo received from G.M. Garrity; receipt of the reply was acknowledged.
- As Y. Shouche could not participate in the meeting, we hope to obtain an update from him at the next meeting about his correspondence with the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC) to inquire whether the current system of deposition of type strains causes problems due to the cost involved in processing of cultures and authentication.
- E.R.B. Moore has sent a message to the president of the European Culture Collections' Organization (ECCO) to inquire whether the current system of deposition of type strains causes problems due to the cost involved in processing of cultures and authentication. Receipt of the message was acknowledged.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has asked C.T. Bull to close the ICSP Twitter account.
- E.R.B. Moore has not yet forwarded his correspondence from Prof. Paul Hoskisson to the Publications Committee.
- I.C. Sutcliffe reported that he received smart card readers for the ICSP NatWest account. One card reader was forwarded to P. Nielsen; another sent to E.R.B. Moore was not yet received. No authorization code was yet received from the previous treasurer, W.B. Whitman.

## **Minute 5. Response of the ICSP to the SeqCode initiative**

I.C. Sutcliffe introduced the SeqCode initiative and initiated a discussion whether the ICSP should respond or ignore the SeqCode, which is expected to operate in parallel with the ICNP. The ICSP cannot completely ignore the SeqCode, as according to General Consideration 5 of the ICNP, the Code applies to all prokaryotes. Members of the Executive Board differed in opinion whether the SeqCode is necessary in view of the provisions for description of *Candidatus* taxa given in the ICNP, and in view of the confusion expected when two independent nomenclature systems will operate simultaneously.

It was decided that publication of a response from the ICSP to the SeqCode initiative is desirable. E.R.B. Moore volunteered to lead the preparation of such a document, aided by M.

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Göker, S.L.W. On and A. Oren. The draft response must be approved by the ICSP membership before submission for publication. P. Nielsen suggested that the implications of the SeqCode initiative be discussed at future ICSP meetings, such as the proposed meeting aligned with IUMS2022 (Minute 14).

## **Minute 6. Report from the Judicial Commission**

D.R. Arahal reported that opinions no. 103-112 were being finalized and will soon be ready to send to the voting members of the ICSP for approval.

## **Minute 7. Report from the Publications Committee**

E.R.B. Moore reported that the Publications Committee has met on 17<sup>th</sup> May, and the minutes of that meeting have been distributed to the members of the Executive Board.

E.R.B. Moore, I.C. Sutcliffe and M.E. Trujillo will hold another meeting in the near future with Gaynor Redvers-Mutton of the Microbiology Society to prepare a later meeting with the officials of IUMS to finalize the publication agreement for the IJSEM.

M. Göker repeated the request for partial funding of LPSN by the ICSP from the income obtained from the journal as the level of funding for LPSN from other sources after 2022 is still unknown. He has provided summary information about the current financial cost of running LPSN to E.R.B. Moore and I.C. Sutcliffe to inform discussions with the Microbiology Society regarding honoraria. The Executive Board invited him to submit a formal request for funding for LPSN by the ICSP.

E.R.B. Moore reported on the ongoing discussion on how to improve the quality of many new species description papers submitted to the IJSEM.

## **Minute 8. Update from IJSEM**

A. Oren reported that the list editors have recently received a relatively large number of validation requests for names effectively published several years ago. M. Göker confirmed that he had resumed his efforts, through LPSN, to convince authors to validate effectively published names.

## **Minute 9. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP**

A.Oren reported that a meeting of the editorial board of the ICNP was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, and the preparations for the six-month public discussion of the revision of all parts of the ICNP were almost completed. Tables have been prepared that show the current version, the proposed revised version, summary statements that reflect the consensus of the editorial board or, where relevant, different opinions of its members, and the relevant references to proposals for

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updating the ICNP. In the coming weeks, the editorial board members will complete this stage. All documents will be made available in a workspace on the Slack platform. The public discussion will start on 1<sup>st</sup> July. A. Oren will send an announcement also to all members of the ICSP, its Judicial Commission, and the chairs of the taxonomic subcommittees with the request to forward it to others who may be interested to participate in the discussions. The information will also be posted on the ICSP website. The editorial board is still discussing whether the additional publication of an editorial in the IJSEM is necessary to comply with the procedure outlined in the statutes of the ICSP. I.C. Sutcliffe will inquire how to provide members of the public access to the files on the Slack platform and the discussion forum.

## **Minute 10. Update on Subcommittees**

S.L.W. On has started preparing a paper for IJSEM summarizing the current status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. He intends to add a discussion on the future of the subcommittees to increase the general interest in the work of these subcommittees. He intends to advance the establishment of new subcommittees, e.g., for the genus *Burkholderia*. E.R.B. Moore suggested the revival of the subcommittee on *Pseudomonadaceae*.

## **Minute 11. Treasurer's update.**

An invoice for ~ GBP 100 for the use of the GoToMeeting software has been paid by I.C. Sutcliffe, to be refunded later from the ICSP bank account.

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

After E.R.B. Moore has written to the president of ECCO, receipt of the message was acknowledged, but no further reply was received.

R. Hahnke alerted the board to two recently published documents relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol:

- F. Rohden, A.H. Scholz. 2021. The international political process around Digital Sequence Information under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2018–2020 intersessional period. *Plants People Planet*, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ppp3.10198>.

- G. Verkley et al. 2020. New ECCO model documents for Material Deposit and Transfer Agreements in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol. *FEMS Microbiol. Lett.* 367: fnaa044; <https://doi.org/10.1093/femsle/fnaa044>.

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

S.L.W. On reported on the program of the 16th Congress of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists, to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand and Online, 22-25 November 2021 ([faobmb2021.org](http://faobmb2021.org)). This meeting will include a session on taxonomy; one of the speakers will be Phil Hugenholz. This session will be an opportunity to promote taxonomy and explain about the work of the ICSP. S.L.W. On has suggested producing a poster on the work of the ICSP and possibly providing some ICSP sponsorship. EB members are asked to review the FAOMB Sponsorship Prospectus pdf he sent by email 29<sup>th</sup> April.

A.Oren will give a talk about nomenclature of prokaryotes on 17<sup>th</sup> July in the framework of the monthly online lecture series (BISMIS Live) organized by BISMIS (<https://www.bismis.net/index6702.html>).

## Minute 14. Other business

I.C. Sutcliffe mentioned that the ICSP will organize a symposium at the 2022 IUMS Congresses to be held in Rotterdam in July 2022. Marien de Jong is the head of the KNVM national organizing committee, and ICSP member Birgitta Duim is one of its members. We should be deciding what theme to recommend for a symposium and propose 3-4 possible speakers. One of the speakers could be Tanja Woyke, who has been waiting for a chance to deliver the 2020 van Niel International Prize lecture.

I.C. Sutcliffe reminded the Executive Board that it is time to think about whether we wish to make nominations for a 2022 van Niel International Prize. The ICSP can recommend candidates to the University of Queensland. Information about the earlier recipients of the prize is found in Appendix 12 of the ICNP.

E.R.B. Moore explained his preferred procedure for updating the ICSP website. Requests for simple small updates such as changes in membership of committees etc. can be sent directly by e-mail. More substantial changes should first be discussed and approved by the ICSP Executive Board, and then submitted as pdf file. A 'News' tab can be added to the website to post news about relevant conferences, etc.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 am UK time**

## Minute 15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11.05

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 28 May 2021

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## Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 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.
- 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.
- R. Hahnke and S.L.W. On, to prepare a letter to be sent to colleagues involved in prokaryotic taxonomy, encouraging them to get involved in ICSP-related activities.
- Y. Shouche, to inquire with the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC) whether the current system of deposition of type strains causes problems due to the cost involved in processing of cultures and authentication.
- E.R.B. Moore, to forward correspondence from Prof. Paul Hoskisson to the Publications Committee.
- I.C. Sutcliffe to send another smart card reader to E.R.B. Moore.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and P. Nielsen to obtain the authorization code for the NatWest bank account from W.B. Whitman.
- E.R.B. Moore, M. Göker, S.L.W. On and A. Oren to prepare a draft response of the ICSP to the SeqCode initiative.
- M. Göker, to submit a formal request for funding of LPSN by the ICSP.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to inquire how members of the public can access the files for the open discussion on the emendation of the ICNP on the Slack platform and ICSP website, and to prepare the template for the discussion forum to be added to each of the files posted.
- All members of the Executive Board to prepare suggestions (theme/proposed speakers) for the ICSP symposium at IUMS 2022.
- All members of the Executive Board to consider whether nomination of van Niel International Prize candidate(s) for 2022 is appropriate.