

ICSP-Publications Committee Meeting - 23th February 2021

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 Publications Committee participated: E.R.B. Moore (Chair Publications Committee, Vice-Chair ICSP), I.C. Sutcliffe (Chair ICSP), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC), A. Oren (Executive Secretary ICSP and EiC ICNP), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), M.E. Trujillo (EiC IJSEM).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 25th January 2021 meeting of the Publications Committee

The second paragraph of Minute 4 was changed as follows: 'R. Rosselló-Móra asked whether there might be a conflict of interest for his participation in the discussions of the Publications Committee. The members of the Committee did not find any conflict of interest.' With this correction, the minutes were approved.

Minute 4. Financial report of the IJSEM

According to Article 9 (b) (2) of the statutes of the ICSP, the Publications Committee shall prepare an Annual Report and Financial Statement relating to publications for transmission to the Executive Secretary of the ICSP and the EB-ICSP. I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted Peter Cotgreave, Chief Executive, and Gaynor Redvers-Mutton, Head of Business Development and Sales, the Microbiology Society, to make the necessary arrangements. Gaynor Redvers-Mutton will prepare the requested report by the early summer.

Minute 5. Renewal of the publishing agreement with the Microbiology Society

I.C. Sutcliffe has discussed the renewal of the publishing agreement for IJSEM with Peter Cotgreave and with Gaynor Redvers-Mutton, who will lead for the Microbiology Society. Contact with the current chair of the Publications Panel of the society, Prof Paul Hoskisson, may also be helpful. From the discussions with Ms. Redvers-Mutton it became clear that the Microbiology Society is interested in renewing the publishing agreement for a longer period (five instead of three years). The agreement must also be signed by an official of the IUMS. The Microbiology Society may want to make changes in the existing agreement, e.g., the way it supports the editorial board and adapts to author/funder requirements for open access publication based on 'Plan S' (<https://www.coalition-s.org/>).

A subgroup of the ICSP Publications Committee consisting of E.R.B. Moore, I.C. Sutcliffe and M.E. Trujillo will further deal with the preparation of a new publishing agreement, and invite Ms. Redvers-Mutton to participate in the next meeting of the Publications Committee.

Minute 6. Support of LPSN by the Microbiology Society

Under the past IJSEM publishing agreement, the Microbiology Society financially supported LPSN, and this was acknowledged in the LPSN website (<https://lpsn.dsmz.de/text/acknowledgements> ['second era']). Now LPSN is part of the DSMZ GmbH, which is a non-profit infrastructure organization supported by the State of Lower Saxony and funded by the Federal Government and the German states. It was discussed whether ICSP/Microbiology Society should continue to support LPSN, given that LPSN is now resourced by DSMZ. No clear conclusion was reached. This will also need to be addressed when renewing the IJSEM publishing agreement (Minute 5).

Minute 7. Ways to improve the impact factor of the IJSEM

S.L.W. On inquired about possible ways to improve the impact factor of the IJSEM.

Options discussed included:

- The possibility to invite more review articles. This may not greatly change the impact factor in view of the large number of taxonomic description papers.
- Ways to restrict the number of 'one colony – one species – one paper' articles. This will not be simple as the IJSEM is the official journal of the ICSP and the rules of the ICNP do not preclude publication of such papers and it might prove counterproductive if it results in authors switching to other journals, as this would likely increase the proportion of names that are effectively published but not validated. Moreover, the Microbiology Society may not be interested in greatly reducing the number of papers published in the journal.

E.R.B. Moore proposed to involve the entire ICSP membership in this discussion. He will draft a letter to the ICSP members, to be approved by the Publications Committee. A. Oren will send the letter to the ICSP members, requesting replies within four weeks.

Minute 8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 15 March 2021, 8 am UK time; Gaynor Redvers-Mutton, Head of Business Development and Sales, the Microbiology Society, will be invited to participate.

Minute 9. AOB

There was no other business.

Minute 10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09.45.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 24 February 2021