



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-Publications Committee Meeting - 15th March 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:
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Lincoln University
New Zealand

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Novozymes, Copenhagen
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Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

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National Centre for Microbial
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India

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

An apology was received from R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC).

For matters discussed in Minute 5 we were joined by Gaynor Redvers-Mutton, Head of Business Development and Sales, the Microbiology Society.

Minute 3. Minutes of the 23th February 2021 meeting of the Publications Committee

No comments were raised, and the minutes were approved.

Minute 4. Matters arising

Following the discussion about the IJSEM impact factor at our meeting of 23th February, A. Oren sent a letter prepared by E.R.B. Moore to all ICSP members on 26th February, inviting recommendations how to improve the impact factor and relevance of the IJSEM (to be sent by March 31, 2021). No replies were received yet. A. Oren will resend the letter as a reminder.

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

I.C. Sutcliffe presented Gaynor Redvers-Mutton and introduced her to members of the committee.

G. Redvers-Mutton first performed a 'health check' to ascertain whether the ICSP and the IJSEM editors are happy with the relationship with the Microbiology Society. All parties appear to be fully happy with the current relationship and practices.

The new publishing agreement must also include reference to the publication of the new revision of the ICNP, so that production of the new code will be a smooth process. A. Oren explained that there is no fixed revision cycle of new versions of the ICNP, and new revisions will be prepared in the future only when

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there will be a need for a new version. The current effort to prepare a revision of the ICNP is planned to be ready in the autumn of 2022. We can use the existing template, so that formatting the document for publication will be simple. It is essential that the ICNP will be published as open access, whether costs are covered by the Microbiology Society or by the ICSP. Discussion included whether the new ICNP should be published in a regular issue of the IJSEM or as a supplement. The current version of the ICNP (2008 revision, published as a supplement in 2019) is a highly cited document (as of 16th March 2021 the IJSEM website mentions 265 citations; ISI-Web of Science gives 203, of which 91 citations in IJSEM papers).

G. Redvers-Mutton explained 'Plan S', launched in 2018 by a coalition of mainly European funders of research (<https://www.coalition-s.org/>), and its time scheme. The end of December 2024 is the deadline after which funders will only fund publication in open access journals. The IJSEM is relatively little affected as not many of its papers are based on research funded by this coalition. The Microbiology Society is advancing the 'publish and Read' model (<https://www.microbiologyresearch.org/publish-and-read>), which started last year as a pilot, to replace the classical subscription model.

In the past there were objections to page charges/publication fees for papers in the IJSB; the topic does not seem to have been formally discussed in recent years. It is the goal of the Society to move to full open access as much as possible.

The sub-committee consisting of E.R.B. Moore, I.C. Sutcliffe and M.E. Trujillo will further work with G. Redvers-Mutton and her colleagues at the Microbiology Society to draft the new publishing agreement.

G. Redvers-Mutton explained that the Microbiology Society treats the Journal as one of its own, would like to develop a long term strategy (covering the Plan S period and beyond) to protect the commercial interests of the Journal, and she therefore believes it to be in all parties interests for the Microbiology Society to have a formal/financial stake in the journal. Because of the three-party relationship IJSEM – ICSP – IUMS, IUMS must be a partner in signing the publishing agreement. IUMS owns the journal, and the ICSP is a 'COMCOF' of the IUMS. G. Redvers-Mutton stated that IUMS does not gain financially from the journal. Based on our experience from the past, IUMS is mostly not very communicative and responsive. G. Redvers-Mutton will therefore draft a Memorandum of Understanding, to be discussed by the ICSP and the IUMS before finalization of the publishing agreement. She aims at having a signed agreement by the end of 2021, which will replace the current agreement due to expire at the end of 2022.

The question whether the Microbiology Society should continue to financially support LPSN, now part of the DSMZ, was not further discussed; this issue should be discussed at a future meeting.

G. Redvers-Mutton is working on the financial statement as required by the ICSP statutes.

Minute 6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 14 April 2021, 8 a.m. UK time.

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Minute 7. AOB

M.E. Trujillo presented a message received from the USDA-ARS culture collection (NRRL). The collection prefers to issue documents as proof of deposition and availability of type strains ('certificates') only after publication of papers in the IJSEM and not at the time of the first submission of the manuscripts. This causes problems for authors. M.E. Trujillo will forward the relevant material to I.C. Sutcliffe, and at its upcoming meeting on 25th March, the ICSP Executive Board will follow this up.

A. Oren reported about changes in the preparation of the Notification Lists following the change in format of the IJSEM without continuous page numbers. The list editors have already produced two lists in the new format. A little more work is involved, but the additional workload is not excessive.

A. Oren reported about recent correspondence between Brian Tindall and the Microbiology Society staff about the text of the heading and the introductory paragraph of recently published validation lists. The list editors had modified the old text following a proposal by B.J. Tindall (2019, ijsem.0.003338), who now requests to be acknowledged. M.E. Trujillo reported that the staff of the Microbiology Society has replied to B.J. Tindall's messages about this and about an additional issue he had raised.

Minute 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09.55.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 16 March 2021