



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting January 27th 2022, 8 am UK time

Chair:
I. C. SUTCLIFFE
Northumbria University
U.K.

Redacted minutes

Vice-Chair:
E. R. B. MOORE
University of Gothenburg
Sweden

Minute 1. Call to order

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

Executive Secretary:
A. OREN
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Israel

Minute 2. Record of attendance

Secretary for Subcommittees:
S. L. W. ON
Lincoln University
New Zealand

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. Arahall (Chair JC), R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). An apology was received from Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large).

Treasurer:
P. NIELSEN
Novozymes, Copenhagen
Denmark

Minute 3. Minutes of the 6th January 2022 meeting of the Executive Board

Members at Large:

R. HAHNKE
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

Y. SHOUCHE
National Centre for Microbial
Resource
India

The draft minutes of the 6th January 2022 meeting were approved. 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 E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website.

Members of the Judicial Committee

Chair:
D.R. ARAHAL
University of Valencia
Spain

Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous meetings

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

Secretary:
M. GÖKER
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 25th November 2021 Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

- E.R.B. Moore has not yet posted the redacted minutes of the 25th November 2021 Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website. He will deal with this within two weeks.

- E.R.B. Moore and P. Nielsen did not yet finalize the process to obtain access to the NatWest Bank online banking system. I.C. Sutcliffe, E.R.B. Moore, and P. Nielsen will set up a three-way meeting in the coming week to activate the access code.

- A. Oren has contacted the Taxonomy Group of the Catalogue of Life and received the link to access the 2nd February online meeting of the group. He obtained a time slot to discuss ways to further include the prokaryotes in Catalogue of Life based on the LPSN database.

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- Y. Shouche and E.R.B. Moore have prepared a first draft of an Editorial for the IJSEM to guide Indian authors how to deal with problems related to the Nagoya Protocol and Rule 30(4) of the ICNP. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe inquired about the possibility to post the response of the ICSP Executive Board to the Correspondence letter by Praveen Rahi, submitted to Nature Microbiology, on a preprint site. This was found unfeasible, as BioRxiv, Preprints and Research Square do not accept Correspondence letters.
- I.C. Sutcliffe received confirmation from T. Woyke that she is interested to give the van Niel International Prize lecture in Rotterdam during the IUMS conference in July, provided that she will be able to travel. I.C. Sutcliffe then contacted B. Duim to request the scheduling of an ICSP-sponsored session at the IUMS conference. See Minute 6.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has not yet opened a separate workspace in the Slack channel for informal discussions on further revisions of the ICNP, as this will become relevant only in 1-2 months.
- S.L.W. On has sent a few lists of taxa received from the Subcommittees on Taxonomy to M. Göker (see Minute 14).

Minute 5. Update from the Judicial Commission

M. Göker reported that documentation for eight Requests for an Opinion is ready to be discussed. For most, the discussion has been opened. For two more requests, a 'proofreading commissioner' should still be assigned to check the documents, and one more draft is still to be received. Thus, 11 Opinions will likely be included in the upcoming paper to be prepared by the Judicial Commission.

M. Göker explained that the Judicial Commission received relatively many Requests for an Opinion that are poorly prepared and that contain insufficient information to support the request. Appendix 8 of the ICNP explains how Requests for an Opinion should be prepared, and Article 8b of the ICSP statutes outlines the review procedure for Request for an Opinion documents. The peer review process should ensure Requests are appropriately prepared, although this may not have been the case with some in the backlog. D.R. Arahal will remind M.E. Trujillo of the way such documents should be reviewed before publication in the IJSEM and further handling by the Judicial Commission.

Minute 6. Organization of an ICSP session at IUMS – Rotterdam in July

The IUMS committee has agreed to include a 90-minute lunchtime session of the ICSP in the program of the conference, and a room for up to 120 people has been assigned. T. Woyke, the recipient of the van Niel International Prize, has tentatively agreed to present the prize lecture at the conference, pending permission from her employer to travel. I.C. Sutcliffe suggested that A. Oren could present the revision of the ICNP in a 20-minute talk. In addition, we could have an open discussion about the status of the phyla under the ICNP. As the conference will last only two and a half days and will be held in hybrid format, a discussion was held whether there would be enough attendees interested in the ICSP session to justify travel to Rotterdam. Each

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of the Executive Board members should send his opinion to I.C. Sutcliffe no later than end of 28th January UK time.

Minute 7. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

A. Oren reported on the meeting of the ICNP Editorial Board held on 17th January. He there presented a summary of the Slack discussions (July-December 2021) and reported about the arrangements made for authors of emendation requests to respond to the comments posted. The board then discussed the way to proceed to prepare the proposed revision that will be presented to the voting members of the ICSP in April. A. Oren will also prepare a list of major proposals for emendation of the ICNP that were not included in Table 1 in IJSEM 2021;71:004598. This list will be used as the basis for the publication of formal proposals for emendation of the ICNP in the IJSEM, following the procedure outlined in Article 13(b) of the ICSP statutes. These proposals will not be included in the ICSP ballot and in the upcoming revision of the ICNP. A. Oren also reported that the editorial board of the ICNP has co-opted M. Göker as a member.

Minute 8. Reply to the comment by Lloyd and Tahon – Nature Reviews Microbiology

I.C. Sutcliffe and other members of the Executive Board have drafted a response to the comment “Science depends on nomenclature, but nomenclature is not science” published in Nature Reviews Microbiology by K.G. Lloyd and G. Tahon. Different versions have been circulated for comments in the past ten days. It is now ready to be submitted for publication, and I.C. Sutcliffe will do so no later than 30th January.

It might also be important to correspond with the editors-in-chief of Nature Reviews Microbiology and Nature Microbiology to alert them to the publication of commentaries (Lloyd and Tahon, 2022; Rahi, 2021) containing many errors that were not spotted by the handling editors and reviewers; it would be appropriate to ask for such correspondence to be fact checked before publication.

Minute 9. Update from the Publications Committee

G. Redvers-Mutton has sent a new draft memorandum of understanding to I.C. Sutcliffe, who discussed it with M.E. Trujillo and E.R.B. Moore, and sent Microbiology Society some suggest amendments. A three-way meeting between the ICSP, the Microbiology Society and IUMS should then be organized to finalize the publication agreement.

Minute 10. Update from IJSEM

[Redacted]

Minute 11. Treasurer’s update

As stated in Minute 4, a three-way meeting will soon be held between I.C. Sutcliffe, E.R.B. Moore and P. Nielsen to activate the access code and obtain access to the NatWest bank account. There were no further updates.

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

E.R.B. Moore had nothing new to report.

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

Y. Shouche, S.L.W. On, and R. Hahnke have sent a message on 15th November to the WFCC about the education and outreach project "Adopt-a-taxonomist", aiming to give young and interested scientists advice and encouragement from specialists in different fields of taxonomy. They asked whether experts associated with the WFCC may be interested to support this project. No reply was received yet.

Minute 14. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On has received only three replies from chairs and secretaries of subcommittees on taxonomy to his request to send lists of taxa dealt with by each subcommittee. The list sent by the taxonomic subcommittee on "*Campylobacter* and related bacteria" was well presented. S.L.W. On will contact the other subcommittees again, and add the list of *Campylobacterales* taxa as an example of such a list.

A. Oren reported that the minutes of the meetings, 4 August 2015, Tübingen, Germany and of the closed online Meeting from 9–27 August 2021 of the ICSP Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Phototrophic Bacteria were published online on 17th January. He will forward these minutes to E.R.B. Moore, to be posted on the ICSP website.

Closing matters

Minute 15. Other business

The nomination of Praveen Rahi by I.C. Sutcliffe as a co-opted member of the ICSP, and supported by ICSP members Y. Shouche and W.B. Whitman, was sent to the voting members of the ICSP on 19th January. The ballot will be closed on 10th February. A. Oren and D.R. Arahal serve as the tellers.

E.R.B. Moore noted that he had intended to follow up on his message (10/12/21) sent to H. Logan at the Microbiology Society to consider listing the alternative impact factor rating provided by SCImago Journal Rank to promote the journal. I.C. Sutcliffe noted H. Logan had already replied that this is complicated as the Microbiology Society being a signatory to DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment). See Minute 11 of the Executive Board meeting of 6th January.

Date of next meeting: **24th February 2022, 8 am UK time**

Adjourned at 9.45

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 28th January 2022

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Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 6th January 2021 meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post the redacted minutes of the 25th November 2021 and 6th January 2022 Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, P. Nielsen, and E.R.B. Moore, to hold a three-way meeting to obtain access to the NatWest Bank online banking system with the activation code received.
- Y. Shouche and E.R.B. Moore, to continue the preparation of an Editorial for the IJSEM to guide Indian authors how to deal with problems related to the Nagoya Protocol and Rule 30(4) of the ICNP.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to submit our response to the comment “Science depends on nomenclature, but nomenclature is not science” by K.G. Lloyd and G. Tahon no later than 30th January to Nature Reviews Microbiology.
- D.R. Arahal, to remind M.E. Trujillo of the way Request for an Opinion manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with Appendix 8 of the ICNP and of procedure for handling such manuscripts for the IJSEM as outlined in Article 8b of the ICSP statutes.
- All members of the EB, to notify I.C. Sutcliffe no later than 28th January whether they support the scheduling of an ICSP-sponsored session at the IUMS conference in Rotterdam in July.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to open a separate workspace in the Slack channel in 1-2 months from now for informal discussions on further revisions of the ICNP.
- S.L.W. On, to contact the chairs and secretaries of those subcommittees on taxonomy that did not yet send lists of taxa dealt by their subcommittees, requesting to provide lists similar to the list sent by the subcommittee on “*Campylobacter* and related bacteria”.
- A. Oren, to forward the published minutes of the minutes of the meetings, 4 August 2015, Tübingen, Germany and of the closed online Meeting from 9–27 August 2021 of the ICSP Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Phototrophic Bacteria to E.R.B. Moore, to be posted on the ICSP website.