



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting February 24<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

**Treasurer:**  
P. NIELSEN  
Novozymes, Copenhagen  
Denmark

### Minute 3. Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 meeting were approved with minor corrections suggested by E.R.B. Moore and R. Hahnke. 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 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

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

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> January 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 posted the redacted minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website.

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

- As E.R.B. Moore has informed the Microbiology Society that M.E. Trujillo was appointed to a second term as Editor-in-Chief of the IJSEM, A. Oren will now inform the members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy of the appointment.

**Secretary:**  
M. GÖKER  
Leibniz Institute DSMZ  
Germany

- I.C. Sutcliffe, P. Nielsen, and E.R.B. Moore have all obtained access to the NatWest Bank online banking system.

- 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.

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- Our response to the comment “Science depends on nomenclature, but nomenclature is not science” by K.G. Lloyd and G. Tahon was published in Nature Reviews Microbiology on 18<sup>th</sup> February. E.R.B. Moore has posted relevant links and files on the ICSP website. A. Oren will send the link to the paper to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. I.C. Sutcliffe reported that no editorial decision was yet received from Nature Microbiology on our response to the letter from P. Rahi, which is in review for more than 70 days. I.C. Sutcliffe will send a reminder to the editors in the coming days.

- D.R. Arahal has reminded M.E. Trujillo of the way Request for an Opinion manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with Appendix 8 of the ICNP and of the procedure for handling such manuscripts for the IJSEM as outlined in Article 8b of the ICSP statutes.

- Based on the feedback received from the EB members, I.C. Sutcliffe has notified B. Duim of the local organizing committee of the IUMS conference in Rotterdam in July that the ICSP decided not to organize a session during the conference, due to concerns about the ‘hybrid’ nature of the event. He has thanked the organizers for their willingness to host an ICSP-sponsored session.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has not yet opened a separate workspace in the Slack channel for informal discussions on further revisions of the ICNP; he will do so in the coming month.

- S.L.W. On has not yet contacted 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 list of taxa dealt with by the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Rhizobia and Agrobacteria was received from P. Young.

- A. Oren has forwarded 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, who has posted the document on the ICSP website.

## **Minute 5. Proposal to organize an online course on nomenclature Latin**

A. Oren offered to organize an online course on Latin for nomenclature, similar to the workshops he gave on this topic in Hangzhou (2015), Pune (2017), and Busan (2018). The idea is to give about eight one-hour sessions by Zoom that will be given live and will be recorded for later viewing. The response was very positive. A. Oren will develop materials, and A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe will investigate possibilities for a platform, to be linked to the ICSP website, to host this course.

## **Minute 6. Organization of an ICSP session at a future conference**

As ICSP has declined to participate in the IUMS conference in Rotterdam in July, it is appropriate to identify another conference where the ICSP can organize a scientific session and hold a meeting of the delegates. Possibilities are the ISME meeting in Lausanne in August, the

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BISMIS meeting scheduled to take place in October in Guangzhou, and the FEMS Meeting in Hamburg in July 2023. Another possibility is an online meeting of the ICSP members by Zoom. This will be followed up at the next meeting of the Executive Board.

## **Minute 7. ...**

(Redacted)

## **Minute 8. Deviation from Article 8(i) of the ICSP statutes by the Judicial Commission**

At the request of Markus Göker, secretary of the Judicial Commission, the Executive Board discussed the basis of the current deviation from Article 8(i) of the ICSP statutes, earlier approved to assist the Judicial Commission to eliminate the historical backlog in the handling of Requests for an Opinion. The following two options were considered:

Option 1: The deviation from Article 8(i) and the first sentence of Article 8(d) is permitted for a limited time and for dealing with a special situation, justified by a decision of the ICSP-EB. A permission for the JC to deviate from other articles of the ICSP statutes cannot be inferred from this deviation from the statutes (although a permission to deviate from the statutes to deal with another special situation may be given at another time by the ICSP-EB or the ICSP).

Option 2: The deviation from Article 8(i) and the first sentence of Article 8(d) is an example that indicates that it may make sense to be flexible with the statutes in general. The JC can infer from this example that the JC can deviate from other Articles of the statutes on its own when the JC concludes that such a deviation makes sense.

Support for Option 1 was unanimous. I.C. Sutcliffe will notify the Judicial Commission before its upcoming meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Another question asked by Markus Göker is, when exactly Article 8(i) and the first sentence of Article 8(d) should come into effect. There are several options, including these:

- a) They come into effect once the JC voted on the last draft for a Judicial Opinion from the backlog and sent the result to the secretary of the ICSP.
- b) They come into effect once the ICSP voted on the last draft for a Judicial Opinion from the backlog and communicated the outcome to the JC.
- c) They come into effect once the last Judicial Opinion from the backlog was published in the IJSEM.

This question will be discussed later by the Executive Board. Markus Göker suggested to ask the Judicial Commission to send an according proposal to the Executive Board.

## **Minute 9. Diversifying the ICSP membership**

Praveen Rahi has been co-opted as a member of the ICSP by a clear majority vote. P. Rahi was already notified and is pleased to join the ICSP.

To explore further possibilities to expand and diversify the membership of the ICSP, I.C. Sutcliffe will check with IUMS chair E. Ron and IUMS secretary R. Samson whether the IUMS may consider a more flexible way to nominate members to the ICSP beyond the current system (one delegate for those IUMS member societies that are interested to send a delegate, plus co-

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option).

As the term of the current ICSP members ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, in autumn we should remind the microbiological societies to extend the membership of the current delegates or nominate others instead.

## **Minute 10. Update on subcommittees**

S.L.W. On reported that the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Rhizobia and Agrobacteria has sent a list of genera dealt with by the subcommittee.

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that the minutes of the closed meeting of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Chlamydiae, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021, have been published (IJSEM 2022;72:005213). These minutes are already listed on the ICSP website.

S.L.W. On commented that the list of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on the ICSP website is out of date. He will work with E.R.B. Moore to update the list.

## **Minute 11. Update from the Judicial Commission**

M. Göker reported that the Judicial Commission will hold an online meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss a number of Requests for an Opinion.

## **Minute 12. Update from the Publications Committee**

E.R.B. Moore reported that Gaynor Redvers-Mutton has contacted R. Samson, Secretary of the IUMS, to revive the negotiations on the renewal of the publishing agreement.

## **Minute 13. Update from the IJSEM**

E.R.B. Moore and A. Oren had nothing to report.

## **Minute 14. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP**

The Editorial Board of the ICNP has held an online ballot to decide to what extent proposals for emendation of the ICNP not formally proposed in the IJSEM can be included in the proposed revision of the code to be sent to the voting members of the ICSP for the ballot to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April. There was a consensus that the more significant proposals for emendation (such as use of genus names as nomenclatural types for all higher taxa; emendation of Rules 25a, 30(3)(b), 30(4), 34a, 50a and 50b) should be formally proposed by the editorial board in a paper to be submitted to the IJSEM to comply with the statutes of the ICSP. A. Oren will prepare a draft in the coming weeks and circulate it among the members of the editorial board. He also will prepare the draft ICSP ballot to request approval of the new revisions of the ICNP and circulate it among the members of the editorial board in the coming weeks.

## **Minute 15. Update from the treasurer**

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P. Nielsen reported that he and E.R.B. Moore now have access to the bank account.

## **Minute 16. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility**

The working group had nothing to report.

## **Minute 17. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach**

R. Hahnke reported that WFCC replied to the mail to send the request to all members of the WFCC. We got one reply from the University of Coimbra Bacteria Culture Collection (UCCCB). Currently 10 scientists are on the "Adopt-a-Taxonomist" list.

## **Minute 18. Other business**

I.C. Sutcliffe commented that the ICSP is not active on social media (Twitter, Facebook etc.). It would be useful to have a volunteer who will promote the ICSP on social media. A. Oren will contact all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, and chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy and ask for volunteers interesting to deal with this topic.

Date of next meeting: **31<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 8 am UK time**

As 28<sup>th</sup> April is not a suitable date for the April meeting, all members of the Executive Board are requested to check whether the most suitable date for this meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> April or 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Adjourned at 9.45

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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## **Action points**

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Executive Board meetings on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren, to inform the members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy of the appointment of M.E. Trujillo to a second term as Editor-in-Chief of the IJSEM.
- A. Oren, to send the link to the ICSP response to the comment "Science depends on nomenclature, but nomenclature is not science" by K.G. Lloyd and G. Tahon, published in Nature Reviews Microbiology, to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

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- I.C. Sutcliffe, to remind the editors of Nature Microbiology that a decision on our response to the letter from P. Rahi is long overdue.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to open a separate workspace in the Slack channel 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".
- 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.
- A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe, to propose a possible platform, to be linked to the ICSP website, to host a planned online course on nomenclature Latin.
- All members of the Executive Board to consider options for the ICSP to hold its next plenary, either in person or online.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to notify the Judicial Commission before its upcoming meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March that the deviation from Article 8(i) and the first sentence of Article 8(d) is permitted for a limited time only and for dealing with the current special situation.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact IUMS chair E. Ron and IUMS secretary R. Samson and check whether the IUMS may consider a more flexible way to nominate members to the ICSP beyond the current system.
- S.L.W. On and E.R.B. Moore, to update the list of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren, to prepare a draft manuscript proposing emendation of the ICNP (use of genus names as nomenclature types for all higher taxa; emendation of Rules 25a, 30(3)(b), 30(4), 34a, 50a and 50b), to be submitted to the IJSEM following the procedure outlined in Article 13(b)(1) of the ICSP statutes.
- A. Oren, to prepare the draft ICSP ballot to request approval of the revisions to the ICNP, and circulate it among the members of the editorial board in the coming weeks for comments and approval.
- A. Oren, to invite expression of interest from members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy who might be interested in helping ICSP raise its social media profile.
- All members of the Executive Board: to check whether 21<sup>st</sup> April or 5<sup>th</sup> May is the most suitable date to hold the April meeting instead of 28<sup>th</sup> April.