



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting July 28th 2022

Redacted Minutes

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 9.05 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; attended the discussions described in Minutes 3-7 and 14), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahall (Chair JC) and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from P. Nielsen (Treasurer) and R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 23th June 2022 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 23th June 2022 meeting were approved. Before distribution of the document to the ICSP members and publication on the ICSP website, Minute 5 and Action Point no. 11 should be redacted. 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 forwarded the minutes of the 19st May 2022 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 minutes of the 21st April and 19th May meetings of the Executive Board and updated the listing of active subcommittees on taxonomy on the ICSP website.

- A. Oren has finalized and submitted the revised manuscript to mBio to respond to the Opinion by Panda et al. The paper was accepted for publication on 29th June. No page proofs were yet received; A. Oren was notified by the editorial office of mBio on 25th July that the page proofs will be sent soon, together with a response by Panda et al. to our paper (if forthcoming).

- I.C. Sutcliffe has made a proposal for an online meeting of the ICSP members in the second half of this year (see Minute 7).

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- S.L.W. On did not yet send the lists of taxa received from the subcommittees on taxonomy to M. Göker to be included in LPSN. Ongoing.
- S.L.W. On has contacted E.R.B. Moore about the updating of the list of Subcommittees on Taxonomy on the ICSP website and notified him which inactive subcommittees to delete.
- S.L.W. On has sent a message to the chairs and secretaries of all Subcommittees on Taxonomy to explore the possibility of organizing an online meeting at the end of October.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has sent a last reminder to those ICSP members who had not yet returned the ballot form to vote on the revision of the ICNP.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has reopened the Slack channel to involve the public in continued discussions on further future emendations of the ICNP.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet submit an invoice for expenses made in 2021 for maintenance of the ICSP website to P. Nielsen for reimbursement. Ongoing.
- A. Oren has notified a Russia-based scientist that the list editors cannot approve his/her validation request because of the embargo on Russia-based scientists by the Microbiology Society.
- A. Oren has notified D. Hobern of Catalogue of Life that M. Göker has agreed to be his substitute at the special meeting of the Taxonomy Group that will take place on 28th June.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has checked with G. Redvers-Mutton of the Microbiology Society whether the IUMS has reacted to the last version of the publishing agreement sent at the end of May. In the meantime, the IUMS has signed the agreement (see Minute 12).
- S.L.W. On has set to A. Oren a list of minor errors in the ballot on the proposed revision of the ICNP that may need to be addressed.

Minute 5. Outcome of the ballot on revisions to the ICNP

Out of the 28 voting members, 26 had completed the ballot form by 30 June. The outcome of the voting on all proposed emendations was clear, with the exception of the voting on the proposed inclusion of the term isonym in Rule 24a: 11 in favour, 13 against, and 2 abstentions'. Thus, there was a 'relative majority' against the inclusion of the term isonym, but not a 'simple majority'. The Executive Board endorsed the interpretation by the tellers (I.C. Sutcliffe, A. Oren, R. Hahnke) that the proposal to include the term isonym in the ICNP was rejected.

On 7th July, A. Oren communicated the outcome of the ballot to members of the ICSP, the members of the Judicial Commission, and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. I.C. Sutcliffe has posted the result on the Slack channel.

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Minute 6. Proposals for expanding ICSP membership

I.C. Sutcliffe explained the draft discussion document he had circulated earlier with proposed mechanisms for expanding the ICSP membership, which currently lacks appropriate disciplinary and geographic diversity. Significant changes to our membership structure will require the approval of IUMS, as well as changes to the ICSP Statutes. Among the options proposed are securing delegates from IUMS member societies that lack representation (ongoing), identification of suitable and willing candidates in countries where a member society lacks a delegate, expanding co-option and revision of the statutes to make co-option a more straightforward process, and changes to the ICSP membership structure. Notably, the ICSP Statutes could also be revised to amend the '1 IUMS Member Society = 1 delegate' formula such that IUMS Member Societies could be permitted to delegate more than one member to ICSP, proportionate to their size. To allow further discussions, I.C. Sutcliffe will finalize the document and add it on the Slack channel; A. Oren will then circulate it to the members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. Following a suitable discussion period, substantive changes will need to be put to an ICSP vote.

A. Oren reported that he had received a query from Fernando Valiente, president of the Sociedad de Microbiología de Chile, asking whether his society can still send a delegate to the ICSP. He had replied that the ICSP is looking forward to welcoming a delegate as a full member, in accordance with Article 2 (a) of the ICSP statutes.

Minute 7. Proposal for an online plenary meeting of the ICSP in October

The Executive Board discussed the proposal prepared by I.C. Sutcliffe to hold an online plenary meeting with all ICSP members, the members of the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. Thursday 13th October was suggested as the tentative date, 9 am UK time. The proposed agenda includes (1) Chair's report on ICSP activities; (2) The new revision of the ICNP – outcome and reflections on the ballot; (3) Discussion of options for a new membership structure; (4) The impact of the Nagoya Protocol on the work of the ICSP, and (5) Questions and Answers. I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren will prepare the meeting agenda and send out invitations to all involved.

Minute 8. Renewing the membership of ICSP delegates

As the membership term of all ICSP members will end on 1st April 2023 (Article 2 (a) (1) of the ICSP statutes), A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe will prepare draft letters to the current full members of the ICSP to ask whether they want to continue for another three-year term and obtain mandate from renewal from their societies. Letters will also be sent to all other relevant microbiological societies that are members of IUMS, inviting them to appoint a delegate. The letters should be sent out by A. Oren in the beginning of September.

Minute 9. Response of the ICSP to the letter received from the U.S. National Park Service concerning material transfer agreements

On June 24, the ICSP received a letter from Ann Hitchcock, Senior Advisor for Scientific

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Collections, the U.S. National Park Service concerning the acceptability of the material transfer agreements attached to proposed type strains isolated from the National Parks. On 6th July, E.R.B. Moore replied that the ICSP considers the restrictions described in the MTAs as unacceptable. The ICSP may consider the matter closed until we receive a response from A. Hitchcock. I.C. Sutcliffe will check with E.R.B. Moore about any later correspondence on this topic.

Minute 10. Update on Subcommittees

S.L.W. On reported that a proposal to establish a new subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Myxobacteria* (*Myxococcales*) was submitted by R. Hahnke, R. Garcia, R. Müller, D. Whitworth and J. Wink. The Executive Board approved the proposal.

S.L.W. On has invited the chairs and secretaries of all Subcommittees on Taxonomy to participate in an online meeting at the end of October.

A. Oren reported that a joint open meeting of the Subcommittees on the Taxonomy of the *Halobacteria* and *Halomonadaceae* was held in Alicante, Spain on 28th June, and that the minutes were already submitted for publication.

Minute 11. Report from the Judicial Commission

D.R. Arahal reported that the paper with opinions 112-122 of the Judicial Commission was accepted for publication in the IJSEM but is not yet online. Draft opinions for all remaining requests (no. 123-127) have been prepared, and ballots among the members of the Judicial Commission are ongoing. The opinions will soon to be sent to A. Oren for endorsement by the ICSP membership.

A paper with guidelines for future authors of Request for an Opinion manuscripts is in preparation. It was agreed that this paper would not require approval by the voting members of the ICSP but should be submitted to the IJSEM with other ICSP members being suggested as reviewers.

M. Göker reported that he has recently submitted a new Request for an Opinion to be published in the IJSEM. He noted that the Executive Board still needs to decide when exactly Article 8 (i) and the first sentence of Article 8 (d) of the ICSP statutes should come into effect. This was left open at the 24th February meeting of the Executive Board (see Minute 8 of that meeting). The Executive Board discussed the options proposed, and decided that they come into effect once the Judicial Commission voted on the last draft for a Judicial Opinion from the backlog and sent the result to the secretary of the ICSP (option (a) presented in Minute 8 of the 24th February meeting).

Minute 12. Update from the Publications Committee

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that the IJSEM publication agreement between Microbiology Society, IUMS and ICSP was signed by IUMS officials, and already countersigned by I.C. Sutcliffe. He will forward the document to E.R.B. Moore to be signed, and then send it to be countersigned by

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the officials of the Microbiology Society.

Minute 13. Update from the IJSEM

G.M. Garrity has notified A. Oren and M.E. Trujillo that he intends to resign as List Editor and Nomenclature Reviewer for the IJSEM. The resignation will take effect on 8th September when the IJSEM editorial board meeting will be held. The last lists in which G.M. Garrity will participate are the Notification List for the July issue of the IJSEM and on Validation List no. 208, to be finalized in the beginning of September. I.C. Sutcliffe will thank G.M. Garrity on behalf of the ICSP for the work he did as list editor, nomenclature reviewers and other functions he performed in the past.

M. Göker volunteered to succeed G.M. Garrity as a List Editor. The function of List Editor is not defined in the statutes of the ICSP. The procedure for the appointment of new members of the IJSEM Editorial Board as outlined in Article 14 (c) of the statutes should therefore be followed. I.C. Sutcliffe will therefore contact M.E. Trujillo to advance the appointment of M. Göker as List Editor.

I.C. Sutcliffe commented that it is time to search for younger nomenclature reviewers, who in the future can continue the work currently done by A. Oren and B. Schink. I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren will consider proposals for candidates to join the nomenclature review team of the IJSEM, in discussion with M.E. Trujillo.

A. Oren reported on recurring problems he encountered with the quality of the typesetting of IJSEM papers. He has informed M.E. Trujillo, C. Routledge and J. Clark. It is hoped that a solution will soon be found.

Minute 14. Update from the editor-in-chief of the ICNP

The manuscript of the 2022 revision of the ICNP is nearly ready to be submitted. A few last minor corrections may need to be introduced. It was agreed that the last opportunity for members of the ICNP editorial board to propose changes would be the evening of 1st August. A. Oren already coordinated the format of the document to be submitted with J. Clark and colleagues at the Microbiology Society.

A manuscript with proposals to emend Rules 8, 15, 22, 25a, 30(3)(b), 30(4), 34a, and Appendix 7 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes, with all members of the ICNP Editorial Board as coauthors is also nearly ready for submission. It was agreed that the last opportunity for members of the INCP editorial board to propose change would be the evening of 2st August.

Minute 15. Update from the treasurer

I.C. Sutcliffe reported that IJSEM editor A. Ventosa has received £1500 to attend the meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.

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

Y. Shouche has sent a draft manuscript on 'How legislations can prevent descriptions of new species', with M. da Silva as first author, to E.R.B. Moore, to finalize the document for publication.

Regarding correspondence with the U.S. National Park Service concerning the acceptability of the material transfer agreements attached to proposed type strains isolated from the National Parks, see Minute 9.

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

There was nothing to report.

Minute 18. Other business

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: **1st September 2022, 9 am UK time**

Adjourned at 11.00

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 29th July 2022

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Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 23rd June 2022 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 minutes of the 23rd June meeting of the Executive Board on the ICSP website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to send to E.R.B. Moore the paper by Oren et al. 2022, Reply to 'Regulating access can restrict participation in reporting new species and taxa', Nat. Microbiol. 10.1038/s41564-022-01167-z, to be posted on the ICSP website.
- S.L.W. On, to send the lists of taxa received from the subcommittees on taxonomy to M. Göker to be included in LPSN.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to finalize the document with proposals on expanding the ICSP membership and add it on the Slack channel; A. Oren, to circulate the final version of the document to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

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- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to prepare the online meeting of the members of the ICSP, Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, tentatively scheduled for 13th October, and to send out the invitations.
- A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe, to prepare draft letters to the current full members of the ICSP to ask whether they want to continue for another three-year term and obtain mandate from renewal from their societies, as well as letters to all other relevant microbiological societies that are members of IUMS, inviting them to appoint a delegate.
- E.R.B. Moore, to submit an invoice for expenses made in 2021 for maintenance of the ICSP website to P. Nielsen for reimbursement.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to send the publication agreement, already signed by IUMS and countersigned by him, to E.R.B. Moore to add his signature, and subsequently to be forwarded to the Microbiology Society.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to check with E.R.B. Moore about any further correspondence after 6th July with Ann Hitchcock US National Park Service on the topic of MTAs.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to thank G.M. Garrity on behalf of the ICSP for the work he did as list editor, nomenclature reviewer and other functions he performed in the past.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact M.E. Trujillo to propose M. Göker as second List Editor to replace G.M. Garrity.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to consider proposals for candidates to join the nomenclature review team of the IJSEM.