



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting 27th October 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 9.15 a.m. UK time.

Minute 2. Record of attendance

The following members of the Executive Board participated: I.C. Sutcliffe (Chair), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), S.L.W. On (Secretary of 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 E.R.B. Moore (Vice-Chair), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), and R. Rossello-Mora (Vice-Chair JC).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 29th September 2022 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 29th September 2022 meeting were approved after correction of a few typos. 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 redacted minutes of the 1st September 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 23rd June, the 28th July and the 1st September meetings of the Executive Board on the ICSP website. The website needs to be further updated by adding the names of new Full Members M. Šeruga Musić, J. Olivares-Pacheco and D. Hatzinikolaou, and newly appointed Life Member G.M. Garrity. Short CVs should be added for deceased Life Members V.B.D. Skerman, P.H.A. Sneath, H.G. Trüper, and L.G. Wayne. A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe will provide further information to E.R.B. Moore.

- E.R.B. Moore has posted 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, on the ICSP website.

- S.L.W. On did not send any new lists of taxa received from the Subcommittees on Taxonomy to M. Göker to be included in LPSN. Ongoing.

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- 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.
- I.C. Sutcliffe invited M.E. Trujillo to the open online meeting of the ICSP held on 11th October. M.E. Trujillo participated in the meeting.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has corresponded with S. Koval, suggesting submission of a paper by A. Oren for a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Microbiology to honour the contributions of Robert Murray to microbiology. A. Oren will liaise with S. Koval.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted G.M. Garrity to ask whether he accepts the appointment as Life Member of the ICNP. G.M. Garrity was pleased to accept the appointment.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and S.L.W. On did not yet draft a paper explaining the positive aspects of the work of the ICSP to the general public. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has contacted Paul Young (University of Queensland; vice-president of IUMS) to obtain clarifications about the procedure for nominating candidates for the van Niel International Prize. No reply was yet received.
- D.R. Arahal has contacted M.E. Trujillo to remind her of the need to forward Request for an Opinion papers to the Judicial Commission immediately after acceptance of the manuscripts.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has started compiling proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe requested E.R.B. Moore to convene the Publications Committee to discuss current problems with the production process of the IJSEM such as the slow online publication of accepted papers and problems with the typesetting of References sections. See Minute 12.
- A. Oren has forwarded information about a recently received IJSEM submission from Brazil with description of new prokaryotic taxa and the validation requests received for names of three species recently isolated from India and published in Archives of Microbiology to E.R.B. Moore, to be discussed further by the advisory group on availability of type strains.

Minute 5. LPSN bursary

M. Göker recused himself and did not participate in the discussions.

The ICSP Executive Board had earlier approved to grant a bursary to LPSN to contribute to the cost of its operation, pending the finalization of the publication agreement with the Microbiology Society and IUMS. The Executive Board now discussed the details. A proposal to sponsor LPSN for the year 2023, to be reviewed annually afterwards, was approved by four voting members and one abstention. In return, the LPSN website must clearly show the sponsorship by the ICSP. M. Göker should liaise with Treasurer P. Nielsen to arrange payment starting January 2023. I.C. Sutcliffe will liaise with M. Göker to discuss the ways LPSN should acknowledge the sponsorship by the ICSP.

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Minute 6. Feedback on the online ICSP meeting

I.C. Sutcliffe reported on the online plenary meeting of the ICSP held on 11th October. The meeting was attended by 22 delegates, including six members of the Executive Board. The Chair I.C. Sutcliffe reported on ICSP activities. A. Oren reported on the new revision of the ICNP and on the outcome of the ballot approving the revisions, and I.C. Sutcliffe presented ideas on how to improve the ICSP membership structure. It was clear that there was a range of opinions, although less support for extending co-option than other options. Participants were directed to contribute to the discussion further via the Public-Slack workspace. A. Oren has prepared the minutes of the meeting, which will be published on the ICSP website and circulated to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy after making a few corrections suggested by S.L.W. On.

Minute 7. Changes in ICSP membership

The Hellenic Scientific Society 'Mikrobiokosmos has appointed Dr. Dimitris G. Hatzinikolaou of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece as its delegate to the ICSP for the period October 2022 – March 2026. A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe have welcomed Dr. Hatzinikolaou to the ICSP. E.G.B. Moore will be requested to update the membership list on the ICSP website.

A. Oren reported that membership of the following 14 Full Members was confirmed for the term April 2023 – March 2026: M. Birbir, C. Brady, B. Duim, P.-E. Fournier, R. Hahnke, Dimitris G. Hatzinikolaou, P. Hugenholtz, W.-J. Li, L. Maldonado, P. Nielsen, A. Oren, M. Šeruga Musić, I.C. Sutcliffe, and A. Ventosa. L. Maldonado will succeed W.B. Whitman as the delegate of BISMIS.

Minute 8. Changes to Slack archiving, implications for ICSP discussions

I.C. Sutcliffe explained that the Slack platform has changed its terms and conditions. When using the free version, files will be hidden after 90 days. A paid subscription would cost about GBP 6-7 per user per month. The members of the Executive Board felt that a paid subscription is not justified. Therefore, all members of the Executive Board should look at the discussions currently posted on Slack, check whether any problems may arise when these discussions are hidden, and if necessary copy the relevant files elsewhere. It seems likely that future discussions can be conducted within the constraints of the 90 day access period.

Minute 9. FAQ for the ICSP website

I.C. Sutcliffe thanked M. Göker for drafting a Frequently Asked Questions document explaining the functioning of the ICSP, intended to be posted on our website. Several members of the Executive Board brought forward suggestions to improve the document. All members of the Executive Board to share further comments and suggestions via e-mail. R. Hahnke recommended that the Executive Board should approve future additions to the FAQ before they are posted on the ICSP website. The current version of the FAQ should be finished during next week after receiving comments from S.L.W. On and others. M. Göker should then liaise with E.R.B. Moore to create a tab on the website for the FAQ document.

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Minute 10. Update on Subcommittees

S.L.W. On reported on the online meeting held on 25th October with chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. About 20 participants attended the meeting. S.L.W. On will write up a summary of the meeting, to be circulated among the larger ICSP membership. He also intends to prepare a report to be published in the IJSEM.

Minute 11. Update from the Judicial Commission

On 1st October, the ballot for ratification of Opinions 123 - 127 was closed. Of the 29 ICSP members eligible to vote, 22 had completed the ballot. Opinions 123, 126, and 127 were unanimously approved, for Opinion 124 there was one abstention, and for Opinion 125 one vote against and one abstention.

D.R. Arahal reported that the Judicial Commission has nearly finished the voting on the draft for Opinion 128, which will soon be sent to A. Oren to request ratification by the voting members of the ICNP.

The minutes of the Judicial Commission meeting held on 27th July were published online on 25th October (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.005583>).

Minute 12. Update from the Publications Committee

I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren reported about the meeting of the Publications Committee held on 18th October with the participation of H. Cook and D. Nikadon of the Microbiology Society. Issues discussed were the backlog of typeset and approved papers waiting to be published online, the sometimes problematic quality of the typesetting, and the difficulty to make corrections in the References sections in the online page proof correction site. The staff of the Microbiology Society already started to reduce the backlog of papers to be made available online. They will make efforts to improve the typesetting process and inquire about the problems encountered with the typesetting of the References sections, which are probably due to a software problem.

Minute 13. Update from the IJSEM

There were no further updates to report.

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

The editors of the ICNP are currently waiting for the typesetters of the IJSEM to send the first version of the page proofs of the 2022 revision of the ICNP.

Minute 15. Update from the treasurer

P. Nielsen did not participate in the meeting; I.C. Sutcliffe had nothing to report.

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

E.R.B. Moore did not participate in the meeting, and Y. Shouche had left. R. Hahnke had nothing to report.

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

M. Göker has initiated the preparation of a Frequently Asked Questions section to be added on the ICSP website. Ongoing. R. Hahnke had nothing further to report.

Minute 18. Other business

I.C. Sutcliffe reported about another recent malware attack targeting ICSP members.

M. Göker had circulated documentation to some members of the Executive Board on his proposal to improve the infrastructure used by the IJSEM editorial staff, the List Editors and other IJSEM editors by setting up a database management system owned by the Microbiological Society or the ICSP and hosted on an appropriate server. This database is intended for managing the Validation Lists, including establishment of an online form on which requests for validation can be submitted, managing data related to the Notification Lists, and generating future Notification Lists. M. Göker and A. Oren will further discuss this idea with the Microbiology Society staff, and M. Göker will obtain an estimate of the costs involved in setting up and maintaining such a system.

Date of next meeting: **24st November 2022, 8 am UK time.**

Adjourned at 10.00.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 29th October 2022

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Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 29st September 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 29st September 2022 meeting of the Executive Board on the ICSP website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren, to prepare short CVs of deceased Life Members V.B.D. Skerman, P.H.A. Sneath, H.G. Trüper, and L.G. Wayne, to be sent to E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website.
- S.L.W. On, to send any lists of taxa received from the subcommittees on taxonomy to M. Göker to be included in LPSN.

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- E.R.B. Moore, to submit an invoice for expenses made in 2021 for maintenance of the ICSP website to P. Nielsen for reimbursement.
- A. Oren, to liaise with S. Koval about the submission of a paper for a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Microbiology to honour the contributions of Robert Murray to microbiology.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and S.L.W. On, to draft a paper explaining the positive aspects of the work of the ICSP to the general public.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to compile proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes.
- M. Göker, to liaise with P. Nielsen to arrange payment of the ICSP bursary to LPSN starting January 2023.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to liaise with M. Göker to discuss the ways LPSN should acknowledge sponsorship by the ICSP.
- A. Oren, to distribute the minutes of the 11th October plenary meeting of the ICSP 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 11th October plenary meeting of the ICSP on the ICSP website.
- E.G.B. Moore, to update the lists of Full Members and Life Members on the ICSP website.
- All members of the Executive Board, to look at the discussions currently posted on Slack, check whether any problems may arise when these discussions are hidden, and, if necessary, copy the relevant files elsewhere, as files on Slack will be hidden after 90 days.
- All members of the Executive Board, to circulate the final comments and suggestions to improve the draft FAQ document via e-mail.
- M. Göker, to liaise with E.R.B. Moore to create a tab on the ICSP website for the FAQ document.
- S.L.W. On, to write up the summary of the 25th October meeting of chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees on Taxonomy, to be circulated among the larger ICSP membership, and possibly to be published in the IJSEM.
- M. Göker and A. Oren, to discuss the proposal to set up a database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists.
- M. Göker, to obtain an estimate of the costs involved in setting up and maintaining a database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists.