



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-EB Meeting 15th December 2022 - 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 8.00 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), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), D.R. Arahall (Chair JC), R. Rossello-Mora (Vice-Chair, JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), and Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large).

Minute 3. In memoriam Monique Gillis

Professor Monique Gillis (Ghent, Belgium) passed away in August. The Executive Board remembered her many contributions, including as an associate editor of the IJSB and as a member of the Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Agrobacterium* and *Rhizobium*. An obituary was published in the November issue of the IJSEM (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.005645>).

Minute 4. Minutes of the 29th September 2022 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 27th October 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.

Minute 5. Matters Arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted 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 did not yet post the minutes of the 29st September 2022 meeting of the Executive Board on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe and A. Oren have prepared short CVs of deceased Life Members V.B.D. Skerman, P.H.A. Sneath, H.G. Trüper, and L.G. Wayne and sent these to E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website. E.R.B. Moore thanked M. Göker for a list of additional suggested updates of the ICSP website.

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- 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.
- 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 liaised 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. The paper will be submitted as soon as the online platform for submission of manuscripts for the special issue is ready.
- 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; the intention is prepare a draft version no later than the end of March 2023.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, has begun compiling proposals for restructuring of the ICSP statutes. Ongoing.
- M. Göker did not yet liaise with P. Nielsen to arrange payment of the ICSP bursary to LPSN starting January 2023. Ongoing.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has sent M. Göker some suggestions as to how the LPSN website should acknowledge sponsorship by the ICSP. Ongoing.
- A. Oren has distributed 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 has not yet posted the minutes of the 11th October plenary meeting of the ICSP on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore has not yet updated the lists of Full Members and Life Members on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- The members of the Executive Board have reviewed the discussions currently posted on Slack to check whether any problems may arise when these discussions are hidden 90 days after posting. No special problems were encountered. We will keep using the free version of the Slack platform.
- Several members of the Executive Board have sent M. Göker suggestions to improve the draft FAQ document to be posted on the ICSP website. M. Göker integrated them into one document and sent it to E.R.B. Moore.
- S.L.W. On did not yet 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. Ongoing.

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- M. Göker and A. Oren did not further discuss the proposal to set up a database management system for managing the Validation Lists, Notification Lists, and other relevant lists. Ongoing.
- M. Göker did not yet 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. Ongoing.

Minute 6. Changes in ICSP membership

I.C. Sutcliffe briefly reviewed different ideas to expand the membership of the ICSP, as discussed in further depth during the online plenary meeting of the ICSP held on 11th October and presented for comment and discussion in Slack since 11th August. No comments were posted, and the discussion period is now closed. I.C. Sutcliffe will review the original proposals to determine if any should be put to the ballot. It was noted that discussions in the 11th October plenary meeting did not favour changing the process with regard to co-option, whilst opinions varied with regard to possible changes to the '1 IUMS Member Society = 1 delegate' system.

The Swiss Society for Microbiology has appointed Dr. Stefan Emler (Smart Gene Services, Lausanne) as a full member of the ICSP.

On 27th November A. Oren has once more written to all eligible microbiological societies that have not yet appointed a delegate to the ICSP.

A. Oren reported that membership of the following 17 Full Members was confirmed for the term April 2023 – March 2026: M. Birbir, C. Brady, B. Duim, S. Emler, P.-E. Fournier, R. Hahnke, D.G. Hatzinikolaou, P. Hugenholtz, W.-J. Li, L. Maldonado, E.R.B. Moore, P. Nielsen, J. Olivares, A. Oren, M. Šeruga Musić, I.C. Sutcliffe, and A. Ventosa. L. Maldonado will succeed W.B. Whitman as the delegate of BISMIS. In the beginning of January, A. Oren will send reminders to those societies currently represented in the ICSP that have not yet named a new or renewed delegate.

Minute 7. Listing of correct names in LPSN

M. Göker has received many queries about the way synonyms are listed as correct names on the LPSN website. E.R.B. Moore stated that the issue causes distress to the clinical microbiology field, and many medically oriented microbiologists do not understand the meaning of 'freedom of taxonomic opinion'. The explanation given on the LPSN website (<https://lpsn.dsmz.de/text/fag#why-and-how-does-lpsn-assign-the-status-correct-name>) contains all the necessary information.

Minute 8. Singleton Deposit Initiative

M. Göker explained that ~450 type strains described prior to 2001 and even a few later ones were deposited in one culture collection only. This causes problems, for example, when the name of a species represented by a single culture collection deposit should serve as the basonym for a new combination. M. Göker therefore has initiated an effort to ensure that all type strains will be available from two culture collections. He will write to the culture

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collections that maintain the strains and request them to share them with at least one other collection in a different country. To avoid a possible conflict of interest, A. Oren volunteered to request the DSMZ to share such cultures in its possession with other collections.

Minute 9. Status of journals that correct articles containing effectively published names

To qualify for effective publication of names, printed and/or electronic material must provide a permanent record (Rule 25a of the ICNP). This means that corrections, if necessary, must be published in a separate corrigendum and not by correcting or updating the original article. The list editors of the IJSEM recently received a request for validation of the name *Variovorax terrae*, published in the Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology (<https://doi.org/10.4014/jmb.2205.05018>). Because of an incorrect culture collection accession number, a corrigendum should have been published, reprinting the species protologue with the correct information. However, the journal modified the published paper instead, and printed a corrigendum (<https://doi.org/10.4014/jmb.2022.3209.1217>) that is unsatisfactory, as it does not comply with Rule 30. As the publisher or the editors of the journal are unwilling to restore the original publication and publish a satisfactory corrigendum, A. Oren proposed to exclude the Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology as a journal in which names can be effectively published (Rule 25a), to be validated later in the IJSEM (Rules 27 and 30). This proposal was accepted unanimously.

Minute 10. Update on Subcommittees

The minutes of the joint open meeting of the [Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Halobacteria and the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Halomonadaceae](#) held in Alicante, Spain on 28th June 2022 have been published (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.005584>).

Minute 11. Update from the Judicial Commission

D.R. Arahal reported that the manuscript with Judicial Opinions 123-127 was accepted for publication in the IJSEM on 31st October and was sent to production. A manuscript with guidelines for interpreting the ICNP and preparing a Request for an Opinion was returned for revision on 4th November and a revised version has been submitted on 3rd December. A new Request for an Opinion by M. Göker ("Solving the remaining problems with names of classes") was published on 21st November. This is to become Opinion 128, sent for ratification by the ICSP on 2nd November. The ballot will close on 15th December. A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe serve as the tellers.

Minute 12. Update from the Publications Committee

M. Göker noted a number of recent cases of DOI numbers of IJSEM papers that do not work and papers that do not appear in PubMed. In spite of some improvement in October, the delay between typesetting and online publication is still unreasonably long in many cases. New cases were encountered of very low quality typesetting, including the page proofs of the 2022 Revision of the ICNP. I.C. Sutcliffe requested E.R.B. Moore to convene the Publications Committee in January or February to discuss the above problems and explore possible solutions.

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The recent publication of the *Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes Described from DNA Sequence Data* (the SeqCode) raises questions about how IJSEM should treat names 'validly published' under that code. An editorial was prepared by M. Göker, E.R.B. Moore, A. Oren and M.E. Trujillo, and will be online no later than 16th December (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.005754>). It states that 'validly published under the SeqCode' is not a nomenclatural status under the ICNP, and that in the IJSEM, names published under the SeqCode should be marked as *Candidatus* names or printed in quotation marks. The same measures would need to be taken by other journals that intend to adhere to the ICNP.

Minute 13. Update from the IJSEM

M.E. Trujillo proposed to appoint Hilal Ay (Samsun, Turkey) as an editor of the IJSEM, from the beginning of 2023. In accordance with Article 14(c) of the statutes of the ICSP, the Executive Board was requested to approve the nomination. The nomination was approved unanimously. E.R.B. Moore will notify M.E. Trujillo of the decision.

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

A. Oren has received the page proofs of the 2022 Revision of the ICNP on December 7. Because of the very poor quality of the typesetting and the many unauthorized changes introduced by the production staff, he has returned the document to the typesetters to prepare a new version.

Minute 15. Update from the treasurer

P. Nielsen reported that he has refunded travel expenses to L. Carro and to M. del C. Montero-Calasanz.

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

E.R.B. Moore mentioned that Y. Shouche and co-authors, including S. Venter, have published a paper on the problems connected with the availability of type strains isolated in India, South Africa, Brazil and a few other countries (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tim.2022.10.010>). E.R.B. Moore will circulate this paper among the members of the Executive Board.

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

There was nothing to report.

Minute 18. Other business

I.C. Sutcliffe will chair an ICSP workshop at the FEMS2023 Congress in July 2023 in Hamburg, entitled *Surveying the phylogenomic landscape: the impact of novel methodologies on prokaryotic systematics*. He was requested to appoint an early-career scientist as co-chair. Up to seven abstracts related to the topic will be selected for flash presentations during the workshop. T. Woyke will be invited to give the van Niel Prize lecture. I.C. Sutcliffe requested all

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members of the Executive Board to suggest additional speakers who may contribute to the workshop.

Date of next meeting: **26st January 2023, 8 am UK time.**

Adjourned at 10.05.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 17th December 2022

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Action points

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 27st October 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 and 27st October 2022 meetings of the Executive Board on the ICSP website, and add further updates to the website, including the minutes of the 11th October plenary meeting of the ICSP and updating the lists of Full Members and Life Members.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post short CVs of deceased Life Members on the ICSP website, together with other updates indicated by M. Göker.
- S.L.W. On, to send any lists of taxa received from the subcommittees on taxonomy to M. Göker to be included in LPSN.
- 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 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.
- M. Göker to review proposals from I.C. Sutcliffe as to how LPSN should acknowledge sponsorship by the ICSP.
- E.G.B. Moore, to update the lists of Full Members and Life Members on the ICSP website.
- M. Göker, to liaise with E.R.B. Moore to create a tab on the ICSP website for the FAQ document.

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- 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.
- I.C. Sutcliffe to review the proposals concerning ICSP membership structures to determine if any should be put to the ballot.
- A. Oren, to send reminders the beginning of January to those societies currently represented in the ICSP that have not yet renewed membership.
- M. Göker, to request culture collections (not including DSMZ) that maintain 'singleton' type strains not available elsewhere, to share the strains with at least one other collection in a different country.
- A. Oren, to request the DSMZ to share 'singleton' type strains not available elsewhere with at least one other collection in a different country.
- E.R.B. Moore, to convene the Publications Committee in January or February to discuss problems of long delay between acceptance of papers and their publication in the IJSEM, the poor quality of the typesetting, and DOI numbers that cannot be accessed.
- E.R.B. Moore, to notify M.E. Trujillo that the ICSP Executive Board has approved the nomination of Hilal Ay as a new editor of the IJSEM.
- E.R.B. Moore, to send a copy of the editorial that Y. Shouche has published with S.N. Venter and other co-authors to the members of the Executive Board.
- All EB members – to suggest additional speakers to contribute to the ICSP-sponsored workshop at the FEMS2023 conference in Hamburg.