



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-Executive Board Meeting 7th January 2021

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), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahall (Chair JC), R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). P. Nielsen (Treasurer) did not participate.

Minute 3. Minutes of the 26th November 2020 meeting of the Executive Board

The minutes of the 26th October 2020 meeting were approved. 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 added to the ICSP website.

Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous meetings

- A. Oren has forwarded the redacted minutes of the 29st October 2020 Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and sent a copy to F. Venter to be posted on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren has forwarded copies of his correspondence of 2nd October to the Council of Finnish Academies and the Science Council of Japan to E.R.B. Moore.
- A. Oren has contacted G.M. Garrity to coordinate the preparation of an editorial for publication in the *IJSEM*, to be written by E.R.B. Moore, A. Oren, G.M. Garrity and M.E. Trujillo, to clarify the purpose of type strains, the problematic issue of restrictive MTAs and to propose emendation of Rule 18a of the ICNP. Dr. Garrity replied that the relevant information was already presented by Garrity and Tindall (*Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2008;58:1987-1990). E.R.B. Moore stressed that the issue has become more important recently and that emendation of Rule 18a is important to define the kind of material acceptable as type for species and subspecies. E.R.B. Moore will contact G.M. Garrity to advance the preparation of the editorial.
- No meeting of the Publications Committee was yet convened. E.R.B. Moore will contact the members of the committee to schedule a meeting, preferentially on January 25 or 26.
- On 26th November, A. Oren sent copy of Validation List 198 (in preparation) to M. Göker.
- A. Oren sent a copy of the editorial on 'Preparing a revision of the International

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Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes' (IJSEM, in press;

<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.004598>) to all members of the Executive Board.

- S.L.W. On is working on an editorial for publication in the IJSEM to present the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore has liaised with F. Venter to transfer the management of the ICSP website server to Sweden; the process is nearly completed.

Minute 5. Planning of a plenary session during the 2022 IUMS conference

The next IUMS meeting is scheduled to take place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, July 18-22, 2022. I.C. Sutcliffe will inquire who chairs the organizing committee and propose a systematics plenary session to be organized by the ICSP. It also may be an opportunity to present the new revision of the ICNP.

Minute 6. Report from the Judicial Commission

M. Göker has set up a new server for the Judicial Commission through the computer system of the DSMZ to handle the files for discussion by the Judicial Commission.

No new opinions were issued in the past month but work is ongoing on Opinions 103-113.

Minute 7. Report from the IJSEM

E.R.B. Moore reported on current attempts to solve the problem of publication of species descriptions with MTAs from the US National Parks Authority attached to proposed type strains.

A. Oren reported that *Candidatus* List no. 2 with names of new *Candidatus* taxa published in 2019 and addenda to List no. 1 was submitted for publication, and that *Candidatus* List no. 3 with names published in 2020 is almost ready for submission. Validation List 198, now completed. It is unusually long, in part thanks to the efforts of M. Göker to encourage authors of effectively published names to validate the names, and in part to the recent publication of a special issue of *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek* with description of numerous new taxa of *Planctomycetes*.

A. Oren will coordinate the writing of an editorial for IJSEM about the change to continuous publication, with article numbers instead of continuous page numbers, from the beginning of 2021. This editorial, to be co-authored by M.E. Trujillo, I.C. Sutcliffe and E.R.B. Moore, will include proposals to emend Rule 24b(2) and Note 2 to Rule 33b of the ICNP to address issues relating to priority and the way nomenclatural authorities must be cited.

A. Oren explained that some electronic journals have tried to correct errors in taxonomic descriptions so that the proposed names can be approved for validation. Journals that allow correcting and updating of published papers, instead of publication of separate corrigenda or errata, do not provide a permanent record, as required by Rule 25a of the ICNP. A recent case was presented that is currently being dealt with by the List Editors of the journal.

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Minute 8. Update from the Editorial Board of the ICNP

A. Oren presented the status of the public discussion about the proposed inclusion of the rank of phylum in the rules of the ICNP. The discussion about the rank of phylum must be concluded at the end of January and the ballot by the voting ICSP members must be held in February. E.R.B. Moore has summarized the comments posted thus far (circulated to the discussion forum on 05/01/21), to be posted on the ICSP website. Members will be requested to vote on the following: (1) whether the rank of phylum must be included in the rules of the ICNP; (2) what should be the ending of phyla names: *-ota*, *-aeota*, or otherwise; (3) whether the ending (*-ota* or otherwise) should be applied consistently or can the Judicial Commission make exceptions; (4) whether the nomenclatural type of a phylum should be one of the contained classes or one of the contained genera. I.C. Sutcliffe will prepare the final text of the ballot, to be approved at the upcoming meeting of the Executive Board. Based on the outcome of the ballot, the relevant rules of the ICNP will be emended in the draft new revision.

The public discussion on the status of the cyanobacteria under the rules of the ICNP is ongoing.

Minute 9. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On reported that the *Leptospiraceae* subcommittee is also active, so that there are 15 active subcommittees on taxonomy. Thus far, he did not succeed in reactivating the subcommittee on Gram-negative anaerobic rods but has corresponded with the Secretary.

Following a question by M. Göker, ways were discussed to get more young scientists involved in the work of the subcommittees on taxonomy. It was suggested that subcommittee Chairs should be encourage to actively recruit younger and more diverse members.

Minute 10. Treasurer's update

The treasurer, P. Nielsen did not join the meeting. I.C. Sutcliffe reported that the process of transferring of signatures with the NatWest Bank is ongoing, and will be completed soon. I.C. Sutcliffe will remind W.B. Whitman to contact NatWest Bank in order to finalize the process.

Minute 11. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility

Y. Shouche reported about his discussions with the Indian Biodiversity Authority on the availability of type material for research and the possibility to comply with the requirements of the ICNP. A possible solution may be that customers must register with the Biodiversity Authority to be allowed to obtain type strains. However, the criteria for registration are not clear, and it must be clarified whether such registration means a restriction.

R. Hahnke reported that 273 strains held in the DSMZ for which the genetic material has been sampled in India after February 5th 2003 (when the Biological Diversity Act of India entered into force) are no longer listed in its online catalogue and are at currently not available from the collection.

R. Hahnke presented details of the new website of the German Nagoya Protocol HuB:

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www.nagoyaprotocol-hub.de.

Minute 12. Working group on Education & Outreach

R. Hahnke has written to L. Dijkshoorn and C.T. Bull to reactivate the working group, but did not yet receive replies. S.L.W. On will contact them again, as well as other potential partners, in a new attempt to reactivate the working group.

Minute 13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday January 28th 2021, 8 am UK time.

Minute 14. AOB

There was no other business.

Minute 15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10.05.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 8 January 2021

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Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 26st November 2020 Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commissions and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and send a copy to E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact G.M. Garrity to advance the preparation of the editorial to clarify the purpose of type strains, the problematic issue of restrictive MTAs and propose emendation of Rule 18a of the ICNP.
- E.R.B. Moore and A. Oren, to convene a meeting of the Publications Committee, preferentially on January 25 or 26.
- S.L.W. On, to complete the preparation of an editorial for publication in the IJSEM to present the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to inquire who chairs the organizing committee of the 2022 IUMS conference to propose a plenary session on systematics.
- A. Oren, to draft an editorial for IJSEM about the change to continuous publication.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to prepare the text of the ballot on the proposed inclusion of the rank of phylum in the ICNP.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact W.B. Whitman to finalize the transferring of signatures with the NatWest Bank.
- S.L.W. On, to contact L. Dijkshoorn, C.T. Bull and other potential partners to try to reactivate the working group on education and outreach.