

ICSP- International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Officers of ICSP

Unredacted Minutes ICSP-EB Internet Meeting 25th July 2019

Action points

1. Send approved minutes of the 27th of June to the Members of the ICSP and JC and place them on the ICSP website (LD, FV).
2. Prepare summary of RfaO (no. 97-99 and 100-102) for vote by the ICSP (IS/DA)
3. Ask IJSEM to classify matters related to ICSP as specific categories (IS/FR).
4. Prepare Minutes of Miniplenary Glasgow (LD).
5. *Contact Ventura to ask whether he wants to remain on the ICSP / JC member list (LD).(to be redacted)*
6. Contact Jongsik Chun for advice and contact details re the Korean IUMS meeting (WW/IS).

Minute 1. Call to order. The Chair Iain Sutcliffe called the meeting to order at 14:00 BST (London time)

Minute 2. Record of attendance. The Members that participated were I. Sutcliffe (Chair), F. Rainey (Vice-Chair), L. Dijkshoorn (Executive Secretary), W.B. Whitman (Treasurer), F. Venter (Member-at-Large), W.-J. Li (Member-at-Large), R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC) and C. T. Bull (Secretary JC). D. Brown (Secretary Subcommittees) and D. Arahal (Chair JC) could not participate and had sent apologies. .

Minute 3. Minutes of the 27th June 2019 meeting. These concept minutes were approved and will be forwarded to the EB and JC members.

Minute 4. Matters arising/Action points from previous (27th June 2019) meeting:

1. Send approved Minutes 27th June to ICSP and JC members and place on the website (done).
 2. Report voting on revised statutes to ICSP and JC members and add a link to the statutes on the website (done).
 3. The tag papers for IJSEM (see minute 6): ongoing, Sutcliffe will send suggestions to Rainey.
- Other actions are addressed below.

Minute 5. Report back from plenary/FEMS 2019.

The conference was attended by EB-members Brown, Dijkshoorn, Sutcliffe and Whitman. On Wednesday morning 10 July, the subcommittee of the Aerobic Bacteroidetes had a productive meeting (see also Minute 8); Jean-François Bernadet is standing down as Chair and John Bowman taking this position. The ICSP-EB thanks Jean-François for his service to the subcommittee. The miniplenary (Wednesday afternoon) was attended by 18 people including ICSP delegates, JC members and interested guests. Alternates attending this ICSP miniplenary were Anne Willems replacing De Vos and Marike Palmer replacing Venter. There was a lively and thoughtful discussion, in particular about Whitman's proposal to permit gene sequences as type material (Whitman, IJSEM 66, 2108-2112) with divergent opinions. These will be addressed in the Minutes of the miniplenary (LD). *It was noted that one ICSP member, Stefano Ventura, who is also on the JC, is no longer working in microbiology. Dijkshoorn will contact him to ask whether he wishes to remain on the ICSP and JC during his respective terms (to be redacted).* .

On Thursday morning 11 July, a symposium organised by the ICSP and sponsored by IJSEM was held, with ca. 75-100 attendants. Title: 'What's in a name? Current approaches and future challenges in systematics'. Speakers: I. Sutcliffe (UK), J. Chun (S-Korea), M. Palmer (S-Africa) and A. Willems (Belgium).

Minute 6. Update on JC. Sutcliffe and Arahal are involved in handling RfaOs no. 97-99, which have been voted on by the JC, to send these to the ICSP for an Opinion. RfaO 100-101 will be summarised by Arahal, while RfaO 102 is more complex and will be dealt with by Arahal and Sutcliffe. A total of 8 RfaO is recommended to have been handled by September 2019. It was agreed to handle the requests in batches of 3.

It was noted that 7 of the 12 JC members are also on the ICSP member list, which may need future consideration as there are implications for the voting process.

Minute 7. Update from IJSEM. Rainey reported that 3 new editors are now functional.

Minute 8. Update on subcommittees. Sutcliffe and Brown attended the meeting of the Aerobic Bacteroidetes subcommittee during FEMS 2019 (see Minute 5). Sutcliffe has also spoken with Chris Dunlap from the Bacillales subcommittee, which appears to be well-motivated.

Minute 9. Update from the working group on Education & Outreach. C. Bull has received suggestions on the video contest outline from Dijkshoorn and Whitman. She proposes to make the final outline, deadline 1 September 2019. ICSP members will need to help promote this competition. Dijkshoorn has investigated what would be required to develop a MOOC on prokaryotic taxonomy, but this appeared quite expensive if developed by professionals. Nevertheless, some material has been received and is now on the ICSP website. The attendants of the meeting were asked to provide material which they might have developed already.

Nielsen (Denmark) has provided an overview of an impressive Danish school outreach project he has been involved with recently:

The aim of the project was to study the distribution of lactic acid bacteria in Denmark. In short, 32000 children signed up to the experiment. Upon completion we registered that 25,000 had actively contributed to the project via 600 teachers from the whole country. They sent us 11,000 samples from which we identified 12,000 bacterial strains by MALDI biotype. About 700 strains could not be identified to the species level. These, together with 3700 independent isolates of biotechnologically relevant strains were preserved in a culture collection and sequenced (Illumina Shotgun sequencing). Based on Genome Taxonomy Database analysis (GTDBTK analysis) and further phylogenetic analyses, we identified 10 new species of 4 different genera of lactic acid bacteria (*Lactobacillus*, *Leuconostoc*, *Pediococcus* and *Weissella*), which we want to formally describe. Results were communicated back to the children in a FASTANI tree based on the genome sequences. The tree links up to metadata and a geographical map of Denmark showing locations from where the individual strains were isolated. The experiment was quoted in numerous Danish media and also in two English media (Royal Chemistry Society and Nature):

Article from Chemistry World:

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/opinion/how-danish-children-discovered-10-new-species-of-bacteria/3010395.article>

Correspondence from Nature:

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00765-y?WT.ec_id=NATURE-20190307&utm_source=nature_etoc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190307&sap-outbound-id=B116E0C9F1389EF4942E6991888738DA52DAB43A

Minute 10. Date of next meeting. This will be August 29th 2:00 UK time.

Minute 11. AOB.

1. The date of the next formal plenary was discussed. Options: IUMS in S. Korea (Spring 2020), BISMIS China (2021), and possibly ISME (S. Africa, 2020). In April 2020, delegates will be renominated or replaced as per the revised statutes. Election of members of the EB will be held in September 2020. It will be important to get as many delegates as possible to attend the plenary meeting. Travel bursaries may need to be considered. The formal plenary should be held in 2020, whereas another ‘mini-plenary’ could be held in China. The Korean organisers of IUMS may be able to help support an ICSP meeting. Whitman and Sutcliffe will contact Jongsik Chun for advice and contact details.
2. Nomination of the Editor-in-Chief of the Editorial Board of the ICNP. There has been one candidate proposed, who will be invited (IS).
3. Whitman also indicated his willingness to act as a coopted member of the ICNP Editorial Board.

Minute 12. Adjournment. The meeting was closed at 15:05 UK time.



International Committee on
Systematics of Prokaryotes

Lenie Dijkshoorn, Executive Secretary, July 31th 2019 with edits from Iain Sutcliffe.