



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

EB-ICSP Meeting January 9th 2024 – Minutes

Chair:

E.R.B. MOORE
University of Gothenburg
Sweden

Vice-Chair:

C.M. MANAIA
Universidade Católica Portuguesa
Portugal

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

M. SAKAMOTO
RIKEN BioResource
Research Center
Japan

Members of the Judicial Committee

Chair:

D.R. ARAHAL
University of Valencia
Spain

Vice-Chair:

H. CHRISTENSEN
University of Copenhagen
Denmark

Secretary:

M. GÖKER
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

Minute 1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 09.00 CET.

Minute 2. Record of attendance

The following members of the Executive Board (EB) participated: E.R.B. Moore (Chair), C. Manaia (Vice-Chair), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). An apology was received from S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 30th November 2023 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 30th November 2023 meeting were approved after a minor correction. A. Oren will distribute the redacted minutes to the members of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (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 26th October 2023 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 EB meetings of 31st August 2023, 28th September 2023 (redacted), and 26th October EB meetings on the ICSP website.

- A. Oren has sent the new version of the proposal to revise the statutes of the ICSP to all members of the Executive Board and to I.C. Sutcliffe and Y. Shouche in the first week of December.

- Several members of the Executive Board sent comments and suggested changes to the proposed revisions of the ICSP statutes to A. Oren.

- A. Oren has collated the received suggestions for emendation of the statutes and prepared a new version to be approved for publication during the next meeting of the EB. See Minute 10.

- M. Göker has forwarded the page proofs of the “Best of both worlds” paper in press in the IJSEM to A. Oren. See Minute 13.

- E.R.B. Moore notified A. Oren of the date and time to hold an online plenary meeting of the ICSP in mid-December. See Minute 8.

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- A. Oren has invited all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, and chairs of Subcommittees on Taxonomy to the online plenary meeting, and has requested the chairs of the subcommittees to forward the invitation to the subcommittee members. See Minute 8.
- E.R.B. Moore has prepared the agenda for the online plenary meeting of the ICSP in mid-December. See Minute 8.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post links of the published minutes of the November 14th 2022 closed meeting of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Leptospiraceae* and the minutes of the 23rd April 2023 meeting of the Subcommittee on the taxonomy of aerobic *Bacteroidota* on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore and C. Manaia sent reminders to the voting members of the ICSP who have not yet returned the ballot on the emendation of Appendix 9 of the ICNP, which closed on 10th December.
- A. Oren has announced the result of the ballot on the emendation of Appendix 9 of the ICNP in a manuscript submitted for publication in the IJSEM. See Minute 13.
- C. Manaia notified M.E. Trujillo that the Executive Board has approved R.R. de la Haba and D.N. Proença to join the editorial board of the IJSEM.
- M. Göker is still working with the management of the DSMZ to prepare a contract to be signed between the ICSP and the DSMZ to formalize the funding of LPSN by the ICSP. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore has enabled M. Göker to edit and update the ICSP website under his supervision. See Minute 18.
- D.R. Arahal has inquired with A. Ventosa about the convenience of a webmaster for ICSP.

Minute 5. Result of the ballot to emend Appendix 9 of the ICNP

In May 2023, Oren and Chuvochina published proposals to Appendix 9 of the ICNP to include guidelines for naming genera after geographical locations. The voting members of the ICSP voted on the proposals in November–December 2023. E.R.B. Moore and C. Manaia collated the results of the vote. Out of the 36 members of the ICSP with voting rights, 22 endorsed the emendations, there were no votes against, there was one abstention, and 13 members (36%) did not vote. A. Oren has submitted a manuscript for publication in the IJSEM to announce the outcome of the ballot.

Minute 6. Participation of the ICSP members in ballots and other ICSP activities

E.R.B. Moore commented that in the recent ballots, a significant part (approximately 1/3) of the ICSP members consistently do not vote. He proposes to take action by (1) reminding members who did not or rarely vote of their duty, and (2) in extreme cases, contact the national society that had appointed them and suggest replacement of their delegates. A. Oren will compile a summary of the participation of all ICSP members in ballots and plenary meetings held since September 2022.

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Minute 7. Co-option of new ICSP members

E.R.B. Moore will soon contact a number of candidates for co-option as ICSP members. Ongoing.

Minute 8. Report on the open online Plenary Meeting of 14th December

The online Plenary Meeting, held via Zoom, was attended by 39 delegates. A. Oren has prepared a summary of the reports presented and the discussions that followed and circulated the draft minutes among all participants. After minor changes, the draft minutes were approved. E.R.B. Moore will post these on the ICSP website. A. Oren commented that the ICSP Statutes call for publication of the minutes of Plenary Meetings in the IJSEM, and he noted that also the minutes of the Plenary Meeting of 11th October 2022, which were posted on the ICSP website, were not yet submitted for publication in the IJSEM. It was decided by vote of the voting members of the EB that the minutes of both meetings should be published in the IJSEM (five voting members in favour, one abstained), and that they should be presented in a single paper in the journal (four voting members in favour, one member preferred two separate papers, one abstained). A. Oren will prepare the minutes of the two Plenary Meetings for publication in a single paper in the IJSEM.

Minute 9. The IUMS 2024 Conference

E.R.B. Moore reminded of the IUMS conference, to be held in Florence IT, October 23-25, 2024. As the program of sessions is already being planned, he will contact the organizers to ensure appropriate representation of the ICSP in the scientific program.

Minute 10. Revision of the ICSP Statutes

A. Oren presented and explained the latest draft version of the proposed revision of the Statutes that was circulated a few days before the meeting. This version was approved by the EB for publication. It was decided to present a single version of Article 2(b)(3) (“Co-opted Members have the right to vote in all matters except the election of officers, Co-opted Members, and Life Members”) and of Article 5 (“No member of the EB-ICSP may serve on the Executive Board for more than two consecutive terms; after an absence of one term, former members of the EB-ICSP who have served two terms on the Executive Board shall be eligible again for election as an Officer”). A. Oren will prepare the proposed revision of the Statutes for publication in the IJSEM. He will also post this version on the Slack channel, together with a version that includes further comments and also presents the alternative versions proposed for Article 2(b)(3) and Article 5. The Slack channel will remain open for discussions for six months from the publication of the proposed revision in the IJSEM.

Minute 11. Update from the Judicial Commission

D.R. Arahal reported that the JC will hold an online meeting in the coming days. The revised version of a Request for an Opinion is currently under review, and will be dealt with after its publication in the IJSEM.

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Minute 12. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On was absent and no report was received. A. Oren mentioned that an updated version of the proposed minimal standards for description of new taxa of the class *Halobacteria* was submitted for publication. This version should replace the older document published in 1997.

Minute 13. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

A Oren has submitted a manuscript for publication in the IJSEM to announce the outcome of the ballot on the proposals to emend Appendix 9 of the ICNP to include guidelines for naming genera after geographical locations (see Minute 5).

A paper with proposals to further emend Appendix 9 was published in the IJSEM by M.J. Pallen on 6th December 2023 ('Use of connecting vowels after stems ending in the same vowel: a proposal to emend Appendix 9 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes'; <https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.006191>). A. Oren will post the paper on the Slack channel and open a public discussion until 5th June, to be followed by a ballot.

A paper with extensive proposals to emend the rules of the ICNP to accommodate the nomenclature of *Candidatus* taxa was published by D.R. Arahal *et al.* on 5th January ('The best of both worlds: a proposal for further integration of *Candidatus* names into the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes'; <https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.006188>). A. Oren will post the paper on the Slack channel and open the public discussion until 4th July, to be followed by a ballot.

Minute 14. Update from Publications Committee

C. Manaia reported that there were no updates. E.R.B. Moore suggested that a date and time should be found sometime in February for a meeting of the Publications Committee to address improving the Impact Factor of IJSEM. E.R.B. Moore will compile the suggestions for improving the Impact Factor received after the Plenary Meeting.

Minute 15. Update from IJSEM

M. Göker suggested that the chair of the Publications Committee send as soon as possible a letter to the editors of IJSEM addressing issues including the Impact Factor of the IJSEM, positive developments regarding access to strain deposits in some countries, and reiterate some issues concerning the role of the IJSEM, especially in relation to the ICSP and the ICNP. The letter may include the first three sections on the SeqCode from the letter sent to the ICSP Subcommittees on Taxonomy, followed by a paragraph making the connection to the IJSEM. The issue of statements made by reviewers or others that are contrary to the ICNP and anti-ICSP behaviour should be addressed. C. Manaia will convene the Publications Committee to prepare the letter.

Minute 16. Treasurer's update

P. Nielsen had nothing new to report. The payment of the honorarium to LPSN is still pending.

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Minute 17. Update from the Working Group on Education & Outreach

R. Hahnke had nothing new to report.

Minute 18. The ICSP Website

M. Göker now has access to some of the pages of the ICSP website. E.R.B. Moore and M. Göker have edited many pages.

Minute 19. Social Media – ICSP Twitter/X

M. Göker explained that it might be desirable to get an email account for the EB to better use the options of Twitter/X and Zenodo. Mastodon may be a good social media platform for scientists and may be a good alternative in case we decide to discontinue use of Twitter/X. M. Chuvochina sent E.R.B. Moore instructions on how to post information on the Twitter/X account, but authorization by M. Chuvochina still appears to be necessary, since the account is linked to a single e-mail address. This is a reason that an EB e-mail account could be an option.

Minute 20. Update from the Working Group on type strain accessibility

E.R.B. Moore reported that Y. Shouche sent new material concerning the negotiations with the Indian Biodiversity Authority. E.R.B. Moore did not yet get back to Y. Shouche. E.R.B. Moore will compile the developments and circulate them among the Working Group and the EB. Ongoing. E.R.B. Moore had no further updates about other issues connecting with the Nagoya protocol.

Minute 21. Update on the Singleton Deposit Initiative

M. Göker had nothing new to report.

Minute 22. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotes

M. Göker reported that the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee has been scheduled for 30th January. A. Oren reported that he had submitted a manuscript entitled 'On validly published names, correct names, and changes in the nomenclature of phyla and genera of prokaryotes: a guide for the perplexed' to be published in NP Biofilms Microbiomes. This manuscript was submitted at the invitation of the editors of the journal, and many members of the Ad Hoc Committee contributed comments on a draft version of the manuscript.

Minute 23. Other business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.00 CET.

Date of next meeting: **25 January 2024, 09.00 CET.**

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Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 30th November 2023 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 EB meetings of 30st November 2023 on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post links of the published minutes of the November 14th 2022 closed meeting of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Leptospiraceae* and the minutes of the 23rd April 2023 meeting of the Subcommittee on the taxonomy of aerobic *Bacteroidota* on the ICSP website.
- M. Göker, to work with the management of the DSMZ to prepare a contract to be signed between the ICSP and the DSMZ to formalize the funding of LPSN by the ICSP.
- A. Oren and C. Manaia, to compile a summary of the participation of all ICSP members in ballots and plenary meetings held since September 2022.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact potential candidates for co-option as ICSP members.
- A. Oren, to forward the final version of the minutes of the 14th December 2023 Plenary Meeting of the ICSP to E.R.B. Moore to be added on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren, to prepare the minutes of the 11th October 2022 and the 14th December 2023 Plenary Meetings of the ICSP for publication in a single paper in the IJSEM.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact the organizers of the IUMS conference in Florence to ensure appropriate representation of the ICSP in the scientific program.
- A. Oren, to prepare the proposed revision of the Statutes of the ICSP for publication in the IJSEM.
- A. Oren, to post the proposed revision of the Statutes of the ICSP on the Slack channel, together with a version with further comments that also presents alternative versions proposed for Article 2(b)(3) and Article 5.
- A. Oren, to post the paper 'Use of connecting vowels after stems ending in the same vowel: a proposal to emend Appendix 9 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes' by M.J. Pallen on the Slack channel and open the public discussion until 5th June.
- A. Oren, to post the paper 'The best of both worlds: a proposal for further integration of *Candidatus* names into the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes' by D.R. Arahal *et al.* on the Slack channel and open the public discussion until 4th July.
- C. Manaia, to convene the Publications Committee to prepare a letter to the editors of IJSEM addressing issues including the Impact factor of the IJSEM, positive developments regarding

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access to strain deposits in some countries, and reiterate some issues concerning the role of the IJSEM, especially in relation to the ICSP and the ICNP.

- E.R.B. Moore, to correspond with Y. Shouche concerning new information received from the Indian Biodiversity Authority about restrictions on the availability of type strains.