



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

EB-ICSP Meeting January 25th 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), S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees), R.L. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from P. Nielsen (Treasurer), M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large), and D.R. Arahal (Chair JC).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 9th January 2024 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 9th January 2024 meeting were approved. A. Oren will distribute the 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 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 did not yet post the minutes of the EB meetings of 30st November 2023 on the ICSP website. Ongoing.

- 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.

- M. Göker has prepared a draft agreement to be signed between the ICSP and the DSMZ to formalize the funding of LPSN by the ICSP, i.e., an annual honorarium. He is currently waiting for the final comments from the DSMZ lawyer and management. E.R.B. Moore will sign on behalf of the ICSP.

- A. Oren and C. Manaia have compiled a summary of the participation of all ICSP members in ballots and plenary meetings held since September 2022 and forwarded the information to E.R.B. Moore. See Minute 5.

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- E.R.B. Moore has contacted two candidates for co-option as ICSP members. After receipt of the necessary documents, the nominations will be processed in accordance with the ICSP Statutes.
- A. Oren has forwarded the final version of the minutes of the 14th December 2023 Plenary Meeting of the ICSP to E.R.B. Moore.
- A. Oren has submitted 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. After publication, this document can be posted on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore has tried to contact the organizers of the IUMS conference in Florence to ensure appropriate representation of the ICSP in the scientific program. No reply was received. See Minute 9.
- A. Oren has submitted the proposed revision of the Statutes of the ICSP for publication in the IJSEM.
- A. Oren has posted the proposed revision of the Statutes of the ICSP on the Slack channel, together with a version that contains further comments and presents alternative versions proposed for a number of articles.
- A. Oren has posted 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, for open public discussion until 5th June.
- A. Oren has posted 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, for open public discussion until 4th July.
- C. Manaia has convened a meeting of the Publications Committee, to take place on 9th February.
- E.R.B. Moore has received information from Indian researchers, Y. Shouche and K. Jangid concerning new information received from the Indian Biodiversity Authority about movement on easing restrictions on the availability of type strains. See Minute 21.

Minute 5. Participation of the ICSP members in ballots and other ICSP activities

E.R.B. Moore has received the summary of the participation of ICSP members in ballots and plenary meetings held since September 2022. He will evaluate the data, to be further discussed at the next EB meeting.

Minute 6. Co-option of new ICSP members

E.R.B. Moore will nominate two candidates to join the ICSP as co-opted members, following the procedure outlined in the ICSP Statutes. The issue of nominating candidates for co-option to

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increase the representation in the ICSP of countries that lack an IUMS-affiliated microbiological society, will be considered.

Minute 7. Submission of the proposed revision of the ICSP Statutes for publication in the IJSEM

A. Oren submitted the proposed revision of the Statutes for publication in the IJSEM on 9th January. He also opened a Slack channel for public discussion of the document. A few comments were already posted.

Minute 8. Submission of IJSEM publication on Plenary on-line Meetings

On 19th January, A. Oren has submitted 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.

Minute 9. The IUMS 2024 Conference

E.R.B. Moore tried to contact the organizers of the IUMS conference to be held in Florence Italy, October 23-25, to ensure the inclusion of an ICSP session in the program that may include one or two van Niel award lectures. He will continue his efforts to establish contact with the meeting organizers.

Minute 10. Update from the Judicial Commission

A new request for an opinion was published on 24th January (M. Goodfellow *et al.*, Is the bacterial genus name *Rhodococcus* Zopf 1891 illegitimate? IJSEM 2024;74:006251).

M. Göker commented that the Judicial Commission should also comment on the different proposals for emendation of the ICNP that were published recently.

Minute 11. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On reported that the Subcommittee on *Campylobacter* and related Bacteria will soon convene in two separate meetings in different time zones.

A. Oren thanked M. Göker and LPSN for preparing lists of new taxa published in the last year that belong to the jurisdiction of the different subcommittees on taxonomy, and for sending those lists to the chairs and secretaries of the subcommittees.

Minute 12. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

A new proposal for emendation of Appendix 9 of the ICNP was published on 16th January (M. Pallen, Formation of prokaryote names from personal names: a review of current practice and a proposal to emend Appendix 9 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes, IJSEM 2024;74:006233). A. Oren has posted this proposal on the Slack channel for public discussion until 15th July.

A manuscript submitted by A. Oren 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 is in press in the IJSEM.

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Minute 13. Update from the Publications Committee

C. Manaia reported that the Publications Committee is scheduled to meet on 9th February, with an agenda focused on issues and comments that have been made for improving the Impact Factor of IJSEM. E.R.B. Moore received some comments from participants of the ICSP Plenary Meeting held in December. M.E. Trujillo requested to receive the relevant material before the meeting. C. Manaia and E.R.B. Moore will forward comments and discussion items to M.E. Trujillo.

Minute 14. Update from the IJSEM

C. Manaia informed the EB that A.P. Rooney resigned from the Editorial Board of the IJSEM. The EB thanks A.P. Rooney for his many years of service as an Editor. Editor-in-Chief, M.E. Trujillo is searching for a successor. Anyone on the ICSP may recommend someone for Editor of IJSEM; recommendations should be sent to M.E. Trujillo or to C. Manaia, who will forward them to M.E. Trujillo.

M. Göker asked whether minutes of committees and subcommittees can be accepted for publication in the IJSEM without peer review; currently, such meeting minutes are sent out for review. As the Microbiology Society, being the publisher of the journal, should be involved in such a decision, the question will be placed on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Publications Committee on 9th February.

Minute 15. Treasurer's update

The treasurer P. Nielsen did not participate in the meeting. E.R.B. Moore reported that the treasurer has refunded travel expenses of one of the IJSEM editors. P. Nielsen has been included in the correspondence about the preparation of the agreement with the DSMZ to formalize the payment of an annual honorarium for support of the LPSN by the ICSP.

Minute 16. Update from the Working Group on Education & Outreach

A. Oren read a message received from M. del C. Montero Calasanz who in 2023 organized a "Give me a Name" contest for Spanish high school students. A. Oren was a judge for the competition in 2023, and the Microbiology Society sponsored a £150 prize. This year she plans a new edition of the contest in February – March or April, probably to involve four high schools from the province of Seville. She requested the ICSP to directly support the contest with a £150 prize. The five voting members of the EB present voted unanimously in favor. A. Oren will contact M. del C. Montero Calasanz to notify her that the request was approved, and he will update the treasurer.

Minute 17. The ICSP website

M. Göker noted that the Zenodo account of the ICSP can be shared by a number of persons, so that more than one person can now upload documents, such as minutes of EB and Subcommittee meetings. As the documents receive a doi number, the Zenodo platform may

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replace, in part, the ICSP website where such documents are currently published, where delays may occur in posting updates.

Minute 18. Social Media – ICSP Twitter/X

Further discussions were held about the Twitter/X account, which is currently managed by M. Chuvochina. The account now has 90 followers. M. Göker argued that such an account should be managed by a member of the EB, and he volunteered to do this since he recently acquired experience with Twitter/X and other social media. The EB voted on the question whether we should delete the Twitter/X account. Three of the five voting members present were against deleting the account, and two abstained. The EB then voted whether to transfer the management of the account to M. Göker for a trial period of six months (see also Minute 19). Three members were in favour, one against, and one abstained. E.R.B. Moore will inform M. Chuvochina that M. Göker will take over the management of the account and request her to make the necessary arrangements for transferring the Twitter/X management.

Minute 19. EB-ICSP email account

M. Göker proposed that the EB needs an email account, in order to exploit the option of collaborative work on Twitter/X and other platforms. This may be possible with the ICSP domain, through the server of the IUMS. E.R.B. Moore will discuss this with R.A. Samson, Executive Secretary of IUMS.

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

E.R.B. Moore has been in contact with Y. Shouche and K. Jangid, and received information that shows a solution is being considered by the Biodiversity Authority of India to solve the problematic situation with the restricted availability of type strains originating from India. He received an outline of a proposal showing how the regulations of the Indian Biodiversity Authority could be modified in the future. However, no time-line has been determined.

Minute 21. Update on the Singleton Deposit Initiative

M. Göker sent new reminders to those culture collections that did not respond to the earlier correspondence on this topic.

Minute 22. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotic Nomenclature

M. Göker reported that the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will take place on 30th January. One of the agenda points is the election of a chair and a secretary of the ad hoc committee. S.L.W. On expressed interest in joining the committee. M. Göker will send him relevant material and inform him about the outcome of the upcoming meeting.

Minute 23. Other business

Several members of the EB have received SPAM messages targeting people associated with ICSP and allegedly sent by E.R.B. Moore. E.R.B. Moore will alert the greater membership of the ICSP to alert them of this phishing attempt.

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Minute 24. Scheduling the next meeting of the Executive Board

A. Oren will not be available on 29th February between 09.00 and 10.00 CET. If the next meeting of the EB will be held on 29th February, someone else should act as secretary during the first hour, or the meeting may be postponed to start at 10.00 or 10.15 CET. Alternatively, the meeting may be held on 22nd February or 7th March. E.R.B. Moore will ask the members of the EB for their preferences.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.00 CET.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 27th January 2024.

Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 9th January 2024 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 9th January 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.
- E.R.B. Moore, to evaluate the data on the participation of all ICSP members in ballots and plenary meetings held since September 2022 and prepare recommendations to be presented at the next EB meeting.
- All members of the EB to forward comments and issues to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Publications Committee before 9th February to C. Manaia and E.R.B. Moore, who will update M.E. Trujillo.
- C. Manaia, to add the question whether minutes of committees and subcommittees can be accepted for publication in the IJSEM without peer review to the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Publications Committee.
- A. Oren, to contact M. del C. Montero Calasanz, with a copy to P. Nielsen, to notify her that the ICSP is willing to sponsor a £150 prize for the "Give me a Name" contest for Spanish high school students.
- E.R.B. Moore, to inform M. Chuvochina that M. Göker will take over the management of the Twitter/X account and request her to make the necessary arrangements.
- E.R.B. Moore, to discuss with R.A. Samson the possibility of obtaining an email account of the EB-ICSP.

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- M. Göker, to send S.L.W. On material concerning the Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotes, and inform him about the outcome of the upcoming meeting of the committee.
- E.R.B. Moore, to alert the greater membership of the ICSP to SPAM messages sent with his name.
- E.R.B. Moore, to consult all members of the EB about the scheduling of the next meeting of the EB-ICSP.