



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## EB-ICSP Meeting March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 – Redacted 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 09.05 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), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), R.L. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). An apology was received from D.R. Arahal (Chair JC).

### **Minute 3. Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 meeting of the Executive Board**

The draft minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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 meeting of 9<sup>st</sup> January 2024 on the ICSP website. Ongoing.

- E.R.B. Moore has posted links of the published minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 closed meeting of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Leptospiraceae* and the minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 meeting of the Subcommittee on the taxonomy of aerobic *Bacteroidota* on the ICSP website.

- E.R.B. Moore has evaluated the data on the participation of all ICSP members for ballots and plenary meetings held since September 2022 and prepared recommendations. See Minute 5.

- Several members of the EB have forwarded to C. Manaia and E.R.B. Moore comments and issues to be discussed at the meeting of the Publications Committee held 9<sup>th</sup> February. See Minute 16.

- C. Manaia has presented the question whether minutes of committees and subcommittees can be accepted for publication in the IJSEM without peer review at the 9<sup>th</sup> February meeting of the Publications Committee.

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

- A. Oren has contacted 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. M. del C. Montero Calasanz thanked the ICSP for sponsoring the prize.

- M. Göker contacted M. Chuvochina about assuming the management of the Twitter/X account and requested her to make the necessary arrangements. See Minute 21.

- E.R.B. Moore has discussed with R.A. Samson the possibility of obtaining an email account of the EB-ICSP. See Minute 22.

- M. Göker has sent S.L.W. On material concerning the Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotes.

- E.R.B. Moore has alerted the greater membership of the ICSP to SPAM messages sent with his name. Several members confirmed having received such messages. A recommendation was included for ICSP members to check the e-mail addresses of senders on the e-mails they receive.

- E.R.B. Moore has consulted all members of the EB about the scheduling of the current meeting of the EB-ICSP.

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

E.R.B. Moore presented a summary of the participation of ICSP members in ballots and plenary meetings held since September 2022, based on information collected by A. Oren and C. Manaia. Of the full members and co-opted members, 55% and 80%, respectively, attended the last online plenary meeting. Generally, about two thirds of the 31 voting members participated in ballots to approve new JC commissioners, emendations of the ICNP, and ratification of JC opinions. Four full members missed all or all but one vote. E.R.B. Moore will contact these members to check their commitment to the ICSP.

## **Minute 6. Co-option of new ICSP members**

Three self-nominations were received from colleagues interested in becoming co-opted members of the ICSP, all from countries already represented in the ICSP. For one candidate, a letter of nomination and two letters of support were received from full members. For the other two candidates, A. Oren received letters of nomination, but only one letter of support. A. Oren will send out the ballot for co-option of those nominees for which the required documents will be received no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March. E.R.B. Moore will contact ICSP members to request volunteers to submit a second letter of support for each candidate. A recommendation was made to contact the representatives of the countries where the two candidates are from. M. Göker noted that co-option is means of representing under-represented countries in the ICSP and that he is aware of additional candidates for co-option.

## **Minute 7. Publication of the minutes of ICSP plenary on-line meetings**

The minutes of the open plenary meetings of the ICSP held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were published on 27<sup>th</sup> February (Oren, *IJSEM* 2024;74:006274, DOI 10.1099/ijsem.0.006274).

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## **Minute 8. Publication of the proposed revision of the ICSP Statutes**

The proposals to revise the Statutes of the ICSP were published on 5<sup>th</sup> March (D.R. Arahal *et al.*, *IJSEM* 2024;74:006291, DOI 10.1099/ijsem.0.006291). A. Oren has posted the final version on the Slack channel for a six-month discussion period before the ICSP members will be balloted.

## **Minute 9. The IUMS 2024 Conference**

E.R.B. Moore did not receive responses from the organizing committee of the IUMS 2024 Conference in Florence, October 23-25 following his request to schedule an ICSP session during the conference. His message to R. Rappuoli and other members of the committee remained unanswered, and the only contact he had was in February with IUMS secretary R. Samson. He presented his recent correspondence with Y. Gal-Yam of Kenes, the company in charge of the technical organization. The company proposed to charge us Euro 5,000 for the use of a lecture room for up to 50 persons. The session can be open only to registered participants.

The EB discussed the offer from Kenes, and found it unacceptable. As the ICSP is a COMCOF of IUMS, its activities should be represented in the programmed sessions, and the ICSP should not be charged. E.R.B. Moore will contact the organizing committee and the Kenes Company once more to explain what the ICSP is, and request inclusion of an ICSP session in the conference program. This session could include one or two van Niel Prize lectures (see Minute 10).

## **Minute 10. The van Niel Prize lecture**

T. Woyke, the recipient of the 2020 van Niel Prize, still has not replied whether she would be willing to come to the IUMS Congress in Florence and give the award lecture.

No further news was received from the University of Queensland about the winner of the 2024 van Niel Prize.

## **Minute 11. Availability of type strains from culture collections**

S.L.W. On commented that some culture collection that provide 'certificates' of availability of type strains do not respond to requests to purchase such strains. One problematic collection is the GDMCC in Guangzhou, China (a collection not listed on the WFCC website), which has not responded to repeated e-mail requests for information about particular strains that they are holding. However, there are more collections that may be problematic. A suggestion was made to consider establishing a "blacklist" of problematic culture collections. E.R.B. Moore will contact W.-J. Li, who may be able to act as liaison between the ICSP and the GDMCC. M. Göker proposed that the Working Group on Type Strain Accessibility should deal with this problem; E.R.B. Moore will contact the members of the working group about the issue and about the possibility to convene a meeting of that working group.

## **Minute 12. Inclusion of names published by Russia-based authors in the Validation Lists (redacted)**

The EB discussed the letter received from the Interregional Russian Microbiological Society (IRMS) addressed to the Chair and Executive Secretary of the ICSP concerning the embargo on validation of names effectively published outside the *IJSEM* by authors based in Russia and/or in papers acknowledging funding from Russia. E.R.B. Moore will contact J. Kelly at the Microbiology Society to learn the basis of the "pause" on publishing of Russia-supported

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

research.

## **Minute 13. Update from the Judicial Commission**

Judicial Opinion no. 129 was published on 20<sup>th</sup> February (Arahal *et al.*, *IJSEM* 2024;74:006251). The JC is currently voting on the Request for an Opinion by Goodfellow *et al.* (Is the bacterial genus name *Rhodococcus* Zopf 1891 illegitimate? *IJSEM* 2024;74:006064).

## **Minute 14. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy**

The minutes of the closed annual meeting of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Rhizobia and Agrobacteria of 2 October 2023 followed by online discussion until 31 December 2023 have been published (Mousavi and Young, *IJSEM* 2024;74:006276). E.R.B. Moore will organize for posting the minutes on the ICSP website.

A. Oren reported that the page proofs of the Proposed minimal standards for description of new taxa of the class *Halobacteria* have been corrected, and that the document will soon be published online (Cui *et al.*, *IJSEM* 2024;74:006290).

## **Minute 15. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP**

A. Oren reminded the EB that the Slack platform is currently open for discussions on two emendations of Appendix 9 proposed by M. Pallen (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.006191> and <https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.006233>), and on the proposed emendations of the ICNP for further integration of Candidatus names (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.006188>). These discussions will be closed on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> July, and 4<sup>th</sup> July, respectively.

## **Minute 16. Update from the Publications Committee**

C. Manaia reported on the Publications Committee online meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February. The Committee discussed the impact and the impact factor of the *IJSEM*, the issue of whether the minutes of meetings of ICSP committees and subcommittees should be accepted for publication in the *IJSEM* without peer review, and the current problems with the validation of names effectively published by authors affiliated with Russian institutions. An additional issue on the Agenda, to discuss the preparation of a letter informing the *IJSEM* editorial board about some important guidelines, including regarding the SeqCode, was not included in the discussion of the meeting but was mentioned as an item to be addressed at a later date.

The minutes of this meeting have been circulated among the EB members, and will be made available on the ICSP website.

A draft letter informing the *IJSEM* editorial board about some important guidelines, including regarding the SeqCode, has been prepared by M. Göker. C. Manaia, M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore will discuss this draft with M.E. Trujillo; the document will be sent to all *IJSEM* editors, as decided in the January 9 EB-ICSP meeting.

A second meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> March with participation of members of the *IJSEM* Editorial Board. Issues discussed included strategies to increase the impact and citations of *IJSEM*; adherence to journal guidelines and policies; how to deal with minimal descriptions; distinguishing between the rules of nomenclature and the minimum level of scholarship required for publication in *IJSEM* and the importance of Associate Editors to critically evaluate

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

the manuscripts and the reviews. The minutes of this meeting will soon be prepared.

## **Minute 17. Update from the IJSEM**

A. Oren commented that the page proofs of the proposed minimal standards for description of new taxa of the class *Halobacteria* (see Minute 14) were another case of many unauthorized changes introduced by the typesetters, showing that severe typesetting problems still occur at least occasionally. He has alerted the Microbiology Society staff.

## **Minute 18. Treasurer's update**

P. Nielsen has reimbursed P. Rahi for his travel expenses to the BISMIS conference in Guangzhou. The annual ICSP honorarium to be paid to LPSN is still pending, and the treasurer is still waiting for further information from the DSMZ.

## **Minute 19. Update from Working Group on Education & Outreach**

There was nothing new to report.

## **Minute 20. The ICSP website**

D. Cardew made a number of updates in the website, but a number of additions are still pending and a number of mistakes still need correction. Ongoing.

M. Göker has set up a Zenodo group for the material previously posted on Zenodo and asked all members of the EB-ICSP to create a Zenodo account and then request inclusion in the group. The minutes of the EB-ICSP meetings of this and the last terms have been posted on Zenodo and have a DOI.

## **Minute 21. Social Media – ICSP Twitter/X**

M. Chuvochina has transferred the management of the Twitter/X account to M. Göker.

## **Minute 22. EB-ICSP e-mail account**

E.R.B. Moore has organised for R. Samson of IUMS to arrange the establishment of a common email address for the EB. M. Göker will send a message to all EB members with a link to access the new email account, and he provided the password necessary for accessing the account.

## **Minute 23. Update from the Working Group on type strain accessibility**

A paper entitled 'Clarification on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in France for the access and sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of microbial genetic resources' (Ferrari *et al.*, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2024;74:006262, DOI 10.1099/ijsem.0.006262) was published on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

A. Oren mentioned that a validation request has been submitted for the name of a species (*Duganella violaceipulchra*), whose type strain was isolated from Point Reyes National Sea Shore, which belongs to the US National Park Service. The strain was deposited in the ATCC and the CCOS collections, and no special MTAs were mentioned in the culture collection documents and on the ATCC website. The List Editors will further discuss whether to include this name in

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

Validation List 218 to be published in July.

R.L. Hahnke stressed the need for a procedure to check and evaluate MTAs that may restrict availability of type strains from culture collections. Also, the need for Culture Collections receiving type strains to confirm whether MTAs are attached to the respective strains. He will further discuss this with E.R.B. Moore.

## **Minute 24. Update on the Singleton Deposit Initiative**

M. Göker has prepared a table showing which singleton strains were already shared between culture collections, which ones still need to be shared, and which ones may have been lost.

## **Minute 25. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotic Nomenclature**

M. Göker reported that an interim meeting was held by a working group of the committee on 5<sup>th</sup> March. The minutes of the last full meeting (on January 30) will be ratified at the next meeting of the full working group and then published.

## **Minute 26. Other business**

A. Oren mentioned that the Macedonian Association of Microbiologists is now a member in good standing of IUMS, and that we can soon expect the appointment of M. Kostovski as a full member of the ICSP to represent the Association.

R.L. Hahnke announced that the Vereinigung für Allgemeine und Angewandte Mikrobiologie (VAAM) has joined IUMS, and that VAAM may soon appoint a delegate to the ICSP.

The next meeting of the EB was scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00 CET.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.25 CET.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## **Action points:**

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 organize posting the minutes of the EB meetings of 9<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact the four ICSP members who voted in none or only one of the ballots held since September 2022, to check their commitment to the ICSP.
- A. Oren, to send out the ballot for co-option of up to three nominees to the ICSP no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March.

# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

- M. Göker, to determine whether additional candidates can be nominated as a potential co-opted member of the ICSP.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact the organizing committee of the IUMS conference and the Kenes Company once more to explain what the ICSP is and request inclusion of an ICSP session in the conference program without additional costs.
- E.R.B. Moore to confirm participation of T. Woyke and the winner of the Van Niel Prize for 2023 (yet to be announced) in the IUMS conference.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact W.-J. Li to act as liaison between the ICSP and the GDMCC culture collection.
- E.R.B. Moore, to convene a meeting of the Working Group on Type Strain Accessibility, to discuss ways to deal with culture collections that provide 'certificates' of availability of type strains but cannot be contacted.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact J. Kelly at the Microbiology Society to obtain an explanation as to the basis for the embargo on validation of names effectively published outside the IJSEM by authors based in Russia and/or in papers acknowledging funding from Russia.
- E.R.B. Moore, to publish the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> February meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.
- All EB-ICSP members who have not yet done so, to consider creating a Zenodo account and requesting inclusion in the ICSP group on Zenodo.
- C. Manaia, M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore, to discuss the draft letter informing the IJSEM editorial board about some important guidelines, including regarding the SeqCode, with M.E. Trujillo and finalize the document.
- M. Göker, to send a message to all EB members with a link to access the new common EB email account.
- R.L. Hahnke, to discuss with E.R.B. Moore procedures to check and evaluate MTAs that may restrict availability of type strains from culture collections.