



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

EB-ICSP Meeting April 4th 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 10.00 CEST.

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), 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 P. Nielsen (Treasurer).

In memoriam Michael Goodfellow

E.R.B. Moore started the meeting with a pause to remember Professor Dr. Michael Goodfellow (MBE), who passed away on 8th March 2024. Mike Goodfellow was a strong proponent of the importance of microbial taxonomy and systematics and served the ICSB/ICSP as Executive Secretary/Treasurer (1986-1994), as Secretary for Subcommittees (1996-2002), and as a member of the Judicial Commission (1978-1986 and 1994-2002). He was co-author on more than 500 publications listed in PubMed, with his first paper on numerical taxonomy published in 1967. I.C. Sutcliffe, a colleague and friend, and M.E. Trujillo, a former student and friend, will publish an obituary for M. Goodfellow in the IJSEM, that will be posted also on the ICSP website.

Minute 3. Minutes of the 7th March 2024 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 7th March 2024 meeting were approved. 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 25th January 2024 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 meeting of 9st January and 25th January 2024 on the ICSP website.

- E.R.B. Moore had contact with three of 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, and has received responses.

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- A. Oren has sent out the ballot for co-option of three nominees to the ICSP on 1st April. The ballot will remain open until 30th April. C. Manaia and D.R. Arahal serve as the tellers. See Minute 6.
- M. Göker had proposed another candidate to be nominated as a co-opted member of the ICSP. See Minute 6.
- E.R.B. Moore has contacted the organizing committee of the IUMS-2024 conference and the Kenes Company to explain what the ICSP is and the importance of the ICSP for the IUMS. He requested inclusion of an ICSP session in the conference program without additional costs. See Minute 7.
- E.R.B. Moore has contacted T. Woyke about whether she would be willing to receive the 2020 van Niel Prize during the IUMS-2024 conference in Florence in October. See Minute 7.
- E.R.B. Moore has contacted W.-J. Li to act as liaison between the ICSP and the GDMCC culture collection in Guangzhou, China. Contact with the GDMCC collection has been established. See Minute 8.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet 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. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore has contacted J. Kelly at the Microbiology Society for an explanation as to the basis for the pause on publishing manuscripts by authors supported by the Russian state and/or papers acknowledging funding from Russia. Responses were received from J. Kelly and also from P. Cotgreave, Chief Executive of the Microbiology Society. E.R.B. Moore will forward the relevant information to the EB members by email.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet publish the minutes of the 9th February meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- C. Manaia, M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore did not yet discuss the draft letter informing the IJSEM editorial board about some important guidelines, including regarding Requests for an Opinion and the SeqCode, with M.E. Trujillo to finalize the document. A meeting has been scheduled. Ongoing. See Minute 13.
- M. Göker has sent a message to all EB members with a link to access the new common EB email account on 7th March.
- R.L. Hahnke did not yet discuss with E.R.B. Moore procedures to check and evaluate MTAs that may restrict availability of type strains from culture collections. Ongoing.

Minute 5. Welcoming three new full ICSP members

A. Oren announced the appointment of three new full members: M. Kostovski, representing the Macedonian Microbiology Society, K. Jangid, representing the Microbiologists Society, India, and Irina Tsitko, representing the Finnish Biochemical, Biophysics and Microbiology Society. An inquiry was received from the Malaysian Society for Microbiology about the possibility to

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appoint a delegate to the ICSP. R.L. Hahnke reminded that the VAAM may soon appoint a delegate.

Minute 6. Co-option of new ICSP members

Nomination letters and letters of support from full ICSP members have been received for the appointment of R.R. de la Haba (Spain), A. Sidarenka (Belarus), and J. Vazquez-Boland (UK). A. Oren sent the ballot to the full members of the ICSP on 1st April, to end on 30th April. C. Manaia and D.R. Arahal serve as the tellers. A. Oren has received partial material for proposals to appoint two more co-opted members. He will prepare a ballot when all required documents are received, but not earlier than 1st May.

Minute 7. Update on IUMS 2024 Conference

ICSP Symposium. E.R.B. Moore received a message from Y. Gal-Yam of Kenes, the company in charge of the technical organization of the IUMS 2024 Conference in Florence in October. IUMS confirmed a session organized by the ICSP, and has approved a 90-minute ICSP Symposium, at no cost to ICSP. In this session, Tanja Woyke can give the 2020 van Niel Prize lecture and receive her award.

M. Göker suggested a programme for the ICSP Symposium of a 45 – 60 minute van Niel Award lecture of T. Woyke and one or two additional presentations focusing on the activities or interests of the ICSP.

All members of the EB are requested to send E.R.B. Moore no later than 11th April their suggestions for the format of the session and nominations for one or more additional speakers for the ICSP Symposium.

The *van Niel International Prize* lectures. T. Woyke has accepted the invitation from the ICSP to give her prize lecture during the ICSP Symposium of the IUMS Conference in Florence in October. We did not yet receive information from the University of Queensland about the award of the 2024 *van Niel International Prize* for Studies in Bacterial Systematics.

Minute 8. Availability of type strains from culture collections

After previous attempts to make contact with the GDMCC collection were unsuccessful, E.R.B. Moore wrote to W.-J. Li to request help contacting the GDMCC collection in Guangzhou. He was then contacted by the collection and received the requested documentation of deposition and availability of relevant strains. S.L.W. On also received a reply to his query to the GDMCC. So, the communication problem appears to be solved.

Minute 9. Participation of the ICSP in the BISMIS Live discussion on 18th May

For 18th May, the BISMIS website published a “Discussion of the pro-nomenclature amendments to the ICNP to replace the SeqCode”, with yet-to-be announced representatives of the SeqCode and of the ICSP, the moderator to be determined. This discussion is scheduled to take place twice, for different time zones. K. Jangid first invited A. Oren, then E.R.B. Moore to participate in the discussion. A. Oren declined as he is not a co-author of the ‘Best of Both Worlds’ paper. The EB discussed the question of whether one or more representatives should participate in the BISMIS discussion. There was a consensus that, before a “Discussion” occurs about the issues of the ICNP and the SeqCode, the ICSP should present to the BISMIS audience the recently published ‘Best of Both Worlds’ paper and its implications. The ICSP should be provided a regular BISMIS Live session with a full one-hour presentation, rather than present

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the material briefly in a discussion session. E.R.B. Moore will notify K. Jangid of this decision. E.R.B. Moore will coordinate the content of the letter to K. Jangid with M. Göker.

Minute 10. Update from the Judicial Commission

The ballot on ratification of Opinion 130 will end on 17th April. E.R.B. Moore and C. Manaia serve as the tellers. D.R. Arahal noted that a new Request for an Opinion was submitted for publication in IJSEM.

Minute 11. Update on Subcommittees on Taxonomy

A. Oren reported that the proposed minimal standards for description of new taxa of the class *Halobacteria* have been published on 8th March (Cui *et al.*, *IJSEM* 2024;74:006290). These have been posted on the ICSP website.

S.L.W. On noted that certain issues in the recently published minutes of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Rhizobia and Agrobacteria; Mousavi and Young, *IJSEM* 2024;74:006276) need to be discussed by the EB. This will be on the agenda for the next EB meeting.

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

A. Oren reported on his correspondence with P. van Rijckevorsel (the Netherlands) on different issues related to the revision of the ICNP, notably on the question whether a name has a nomenclatural type (as suggested in Rule 29) or a taxon has a nomenclatural type (as stated in many other Rules). A. Oren has placed the correspondence on the Slack channel with the consent of Mr. van Rijckevorsel. The topic can be further discussed on the Slack channel.

Minute 13. Update from the Publications Committee

C. Manaia reported on the online meeting of the ICSP Publications Committee with members of the IJSEM Editorial Board, held on 6th March. A. Oren distributed the draft minutes of the meeting first to the participants, then to the EB members. These minutes can now be posted on the ICSP website.

A draft letter informing the IJSEM editorial board about some important guidelines, including regarding Requests for an Opinion and the SeqCode, has been prepared by M. Göker. C. Manaia, M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore will discuss the topic with M.E. Trujillo before it will be sent to all IJSEM editors, as suggested during the 9th January EB-ICSP meeting.

Minute 14. Update from the IJSEM

Updated proposed minimal standards for the use of genome data for the taxonomy of prokaryotes were published on 21st March ([Riesco](#) and [Trujillo](#), *IJSEM* 2024;74:006300).

Minute 15. Treasurer's update

The honorarium for LPSN for the years 2019-2022 was transferred from the ICSP bank account to the DSMZ. The issue of payment for 2018 is still open, to be checked further, as are the payments for 2023 and 2024. This will be discussed at the next EB meeting.

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Minute 16. Update from Working Group on Education & Outreach

There was nothing new to report.

The ICSP website

E.R.B. Moore reported that some updates were made on the website, and other updates are ongoing.

M. Göker and A. Oren have created a Zenodo account; the other EB-ICSP members are recommended to create such an account.

Social Media – ICSP Twitter/X

M. Göker reported that he had posted information about the late M. Goodfellow on Twitter/X, among other postings.

Minute 17. Update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Type strain accessibility

A. Oren reported that the 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 was published on 6th March (Ferrari *et al.*, *IJSEM* 2024;74:006262).

Minute 18. Update on the Singleton Initiative

M. Göker reported that the KCTC is willing to receive all singleton strains held by the DSMZ for deposition unless requiring difficult cultivation conditions (“exceptional cases” as in Rule 30 of the ICNP).

Minute 19. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotic Nomenclature

M. Göker reported that the ad hoc committee met on 2nd April and decided on the procedure for appointment of new members and discussed a draft letter to be sent to the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Clinical Microbiology. The minutes of the first meeting of the ad hoc committee held on 30th January, have been posted on Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/records/10909265>).

E.R.B. Moore will work with D. Cardew to prepare a folder on the ICSP website where reports of the ad hoc committee can be posted.

Minute 20. Other business

A. Oren reminded the EB that the minutes of the plenary meeting held on 14th December 2023 state that the next online plenary meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 2024, and should be held at a time that is more convenient to members residing in the western hemisphere. E.R.B. Moore will contact A. Oren on this matter in the coming days.

The next meeting of the Executive Board was scheduled for 25th April, 10.00 CEST.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.00 CEST.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren, 5th April 2024.

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Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 7th March 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 7th March on the ICSP website.
- 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 forward by email relevant material received from J. Kelly and P. Cotgreave concerning the pause on publishing manuscripts in the IJSEM by authors supported by the Russian state and/or in papers acknowledging funding from Russia to all EB members.
- E.R.B. Moore, to publish the minutes of the 9th 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.
- 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.
- All members of the EB, to send E.R.B. Moore no later than 11th April their suggestions for the format of the session as well as any nominations for one or more additional speakers for the ICSP session during the IUMS Conference in Florence in October.
- E.R.B. Moore, to notify K. Jangid that the ICSP is willing to present the 'Best of Both Worlds' paper and its implications at a regular BISMIS Live session, instead of presenting the material in a discussion session. E.R.B. Moore will coordinate the content of the letter with M. Göker.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post the minutes of the meeting of the ICSP Publications Committee with members of the IJSEM Editorial Board held on 6th March on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact A. Oren on the planning of an online plenary ICSP meeting.