



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## EB-ICSP Meeting May 23<sup>rd</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 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), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees) and R.L. Hahnke (Member-at-Large).

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

The draft minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> April 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 4<sup>th</sup> April 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 meetings of 4<sup>th</sup> April on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore has published the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> February meeting of the Publications Committee on the ICSP website.
- Several EB-ICSP members have been included in the ICSP group on Zenodo.
- R.L. Hahnke has discussed with E.R.B. Moore procedures to check and evaluate whether MTAs are attached to type strains that may restrict availability from culture collections. R.L. Hahnke will chair a working group on this topic. Ongoing.
- A. Oren has sent out the ballot for election of new co-opted members on May 1<sup>st</sup>. See Minute 5.
- P. Nielsen has transferred the honorarium received from MS for LPSN for 2023 to the DSMZ.
- A. Oren has notified the ICSP membership of the format of the ICSP session at the IUMS Congress in Florence in October. See Minute 6.

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- A. Oren has prepared an abstract for his presentations at the IUMS Congress in Florence in October. See Minute 6.
- E.R.B. Moore has notified the organizers of the IUMS Congress in Florence of the format and list of speakers for the ICSP session. See Minute 6.
- E.R.B. Moore has not yet contacted P. Nielsen on the reimbursement of travel expenses to T. Woyke. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore has prepared a draft agenda for the ICSP plenary meeting planned for 13<sup>th</sup> June. See Minute 7.
- E.R.B. Moore has sent the latest version of the letter informing the IJSEM editorial board about some important guidelines to the members of the EB for a final check.

## **Minute 5. Co-option of new ICSP members**

R.R. de la Haba (Spain), A. Sidarenka (Belarus) and J. Vazquez-Boland (UK) have been elected as co-opted members of the ICNP by a large majority of the votes. A. Oren and E.R.B. Moore have congratulated the new co-opted members on their election.

A ballot for co-option of M. Figge (The Netherlands) and A. Thamchaipenet (Thailand) started on 1<sup>st</sup> May and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Thus far, 15 out of the 34 voting members have returned the ballot form. A reminder was sent on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

A proposal was received to co-opt M.-S. Li (Taiwan). A. Oren and E.R.B. Moore have written letters supporting the nomination. A. Oren will ballot the voting members starting 1<sup>st</sup> June. C. Manaia and D.R. Arahal will serve as the tellers.

## **Minute 6. Update on IUMS 2024 Conference**

E.R.B. Moore has sent the following draft program of the ICSP symposium during the IUMS conference in Florence, Italy to the meeting organizers:

Session Title: International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP) Symposium.

Session chairs: E.R.B. Moore, I.C. Sutcliffe.

E.R.B. Moore: Opening and Welcome to the ICSP Symposium of the IUMS-2024 Congress.

I.C. Sutcliffe: Introduction to the van Niel International Prize and award of the 2020 prize to T. Woyke (DOE Joint Genome Institute, Berkeley, CA, USA).

T. Woyke: Genomics at the intersection of microbial communities and single cells.

A. Oren: A short history of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes.

M. Göker: Recent activities of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes.

E.R.B. Moore: Close the ICSP Symposium.

The session is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> October, 13.15-14.45.

The ICSP will hold a plenary meeting in Florence on October 22. Time to be determined.

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R.A. Samson, the executive secretary of IUMS, has requested a short report of the current and planned activities of the ICSP to be presented during the general assembly of the IUMS to take place in Florence. The ICSP already submitted its triennial report in October 2023 to IUMS. E.R.B. Moore will send an updated version to R.A. Samson, including activities from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

## **Minute 7. The 13<sup>th</sup> June plenary meeting of the ICSP**

The plenary meeting of the ICSP was scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> June, 17.00-19.00 CEST. Following a discussion, the following agenda was agreed upon:

1. Greeting, open meeting [E.R.B. Moore]
2. PowerPoint presentation: "Function of the ICSP and responsibilities of ICSP representatives" [M. Göker]
  - orientation for new ICSP members
  - comment on proposed revision of the ICSP Statutes
  - Comment on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotic Nomenclature
3. Update on voting issues [A. Oren]
  - Debate and ballot on revision of the ICSP Statutes
  - Debate and ballots on proposed amendments of ICNP
4. PowerPoint Presentation on "Best of both worlds" publication – overview of proposed emendation of ICNP [M. Göker]
5. Report from the Judicial Commission [D.R. Arahal]
6. Update on preparations for the ICSP Symposium at the IUMS-2024 in Florence, IT
7. Any other business
8. Close the meeting [E.R.B. Moore]

A. Oren will prepare a timetable for the discussion of the agenda items. After approval by the EB, he will send out the invitations. It was decided (five voting members in favour, one abstention) to hold the meeting as a closed meeting, to which only the Full Members, Co-opted Members, Life Members and members of the Judicial Commission will be invited.

## **Minute 8. Update from the Judicial Commission**

D.R. Arahal had nothing new to report.

## **Minute 9. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP**

The six-month discussion period for M. Pallen's proposal to emend Appendix 9 of the ICNP on the use of connecting vowels after stems ending in the same vowel will end on June 6<sup>th</sup>. A number of comments were posted on the Slack channel, including an alternative proposal formulated by A. Oren. As the author of the proposal notified us that he would not exercise his right to respond to the comments within two months, a ballot will be sent to the voting members. C. Manaia and H. Christensen will serve as the tellers.

## **Minute 10. Update Subcommittees on Taxonomy**

S.L.W. On had notified A. Oren that there was nothing new to report.

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## **Minute 11. Update from the Publications Committee**

C. Manaia had nothing new to report.

## **Minute 12. Update from the IJSEM**

E.R.B. Moore reported that the annual meeting of the IJSEM editorial board will take place (in person) in London on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Minute 13. Update from Treasurer**

P. Nielsen reported that the annual payment from the Microbiology Society was received, and honorarium was paid to the DSMZ to support LPSN.

## **Minute 14. Update from the Working Group on Education & Outreach**

Reports on the “Sparkling Science” project (<https://sparklingbacteria.com/2-sparkling-science-project/>) on biodiversity and ecology of freshwater bacteria with high school students from Seekirchen near Salzburg, Austria, were published in the Salzburger Nachrichten and on the website of the school. Links to these reports were posted on X.

A. Oren reported that this year’s ‘Give me a name’ contest, organized by M. del C. Montero-Calasanz for Spanish high school students, has been canceled.

As the Slack platform is little used, E.R.B. Moore suggested the EB to consider whether we should start to think about changing the platform used for public discussions. E.R.B. Moore and C. Manaia agreed to look into possible alternative discussion platforms that may be more ‘friendly’.

## **Minute 15. The ICSP website**

E.R.B. Moore reported that a number of updates have been made on the ICSP website.

## **Minute 16. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility**

Names of species and subspecies isolated from US National Parks sites and deposited in the ATCC and the CCOS culture collections can now be approved for validation. Accordingly, the name *Duganella violaceipulchra* will be listed in Validation List no. 218, to be published in the July issue of the IJSEM.

Recently a problem emerged when the CGMCC collection in Beijing, China, refused to sell a bacterial strain (not a type strain) to a researcher in Spain. E.R.B. Moore has contacted J. Ma, Director of the World Data Center for Microorganisms, to inquire. No reply was yet received.

## **Minute 17. Update on the Singleton Initiative**

M. Göker reported that the ATCC has sent a list of singleton strains that they are willing to share with other culture collections under certain conditions. Only a small number of strains are not exchangeable. The ATCC indicated that it expects reciprocal exchange with recipient

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collections.

## **Minute 18. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotes**

M. Göker reported that an interim meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> May, where a work plan was presented for the preparation of lists of problematic names of medical importance.

### **Any Other Business**

M. Göker is in contact with K. Jangid to search for a suitable framework for the ICSP to present the ideas expressed in the 'Best of Both Worlds' paper (Arahal et al., IJSEM 2024,74:6188) on BISMIS Live. No date was yet set for such a presentation.

The next meeting of the EB was scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00 CEST.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.05 CEST.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **Action points:**

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> April 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 meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> April on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren, to send out the ballot for election of a new co-opted member on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact P. Nielsen on the reimbursement of travel expenses to T. Woyke.
- E.R.B. Moore, to send to R.A. Samson an updated version of the triennial report submitted in October 2023 to IUMS.
- A. Oren, to propose a timetable for the discussion of the agenda points of the plenary meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June.
- A. Oren, to send invitations for the 13<sup>th</sup> June plenary meeting to the Full Members, Co-opted Members, Life Members and members of the Judicial Commission.