



# International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

## EB-ICSP Meeting June 27<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 10.00 CEST.

### **Minute 2. Record of attendance**

The following members of the Executive Board (EB) participated: E.R.B. Moore (Chair), C.M. 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), D.R. Arahal (Chair JC), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC).

### **Minute 3. Minutes of the 23<sup>th</sup> May 2024 meeting of the Executive Board**

The draft minutes of the 23<sup>th</sup> May 2024 meeting were approved with 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 (JC), 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 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 meeting to all members of the ICSP, the JC and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore has posted the minutes of the EB meetings of 25<sup>th</sup> April on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren has sent out the ballot for election of a new co-opted member on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- E.R.B. Moore has contacted P. Nielsen about arranging for the reimbursement of expenses to T. Woyke for travel to the IUMS 2024. See Minute 16.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet send to R.A. Samson an updated version of the triennial report submitted in October 2023 to IUMS. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet send a formal letter to the University of Queensland to nominate the envisaged candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize. Ongoing.
- A. Oren has proposed a timetable for the discussion of the agenda points of the plenary meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June.
- A. Oren has sent invitations for the 13<sup>th</sup> June plenary meeting to the Full Members, Co-opted Members, Life Members and members of the JC.

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## **Minute 5. Welcoming Prof. Geok Yuan Annie Tan as a full member of the ICSP**

A. Oren reported that the Malaysian Society for Microbiology is now a member in good standing of the IUMS, and **has appointed** G.Y.A. Tan as a full member of the ICSP. He has welcomed Prof. Tan to the ICSP.

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

A. Oren reported that M. Figge (the Netherlands) and A. Thamchaipenet (Thailand) were elected co-opted members of the ICSP. Of the 34 members eligible to vote, 23 returned the ballot form. A. Oren and C.M. Manaia served as the tellers. The nominations of M. Figge and A. Thamchaipenet were supported by a large majority.

A ballot on the nomination of M-S. Li (Taiwan) started on 1<sup>st</sup> June and will close on 30<sup>th</sup> June. D.R. Arahal and C.M. Manaia serve as the tellers.

## **Minute 7. Report on the online plenary meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June**

An online plenary meeting of the ICSP was held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 17.00-19.00 CEST. The meeting was open to all full members, co-opted members and life members of the ICSP and to the members of the JC, and was attended by a total of 27 participants. M. Göker gave a presentation on the function of the ICSP and the responsibilities of ICSP representatives, intended as an orientation for new ICSP members, and he explained the proposed revision of the ICSP Statutes and the function of the recently established ad hoc committee on mitigating changes in prokaryotic nomenclature. A. Oren gave an update on the current and future ballots in which the members must vote on the revision of the ICSP statutes and different amendments of the ICNP. M. Göker explained the “Best of both worlds” proposals on how to regulate the status of *Candidatus* names under the rules of the ICNP. D.R. Arahal provided a report from the JC, and E.R.B. Moore gave an update on the preparations for the ICSP Symposium at the IUMS-2024 in Florence, Italy in October. A. Oren has prepared the draft minutes, which will be circulated among all attendees of the meeting and then submitted for publication in the IJSEM to comply with Articles 4(d) and 5(d)(1) of the ICSP statutes.

## **Minute 8. Update on the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS), Florence, Italy**

The details of the ICSP Symposium at the IUMS 2024 Conference have been finalized.

## **Minute 9. ICSP Plenary Meeting attached with IUMS 2024 Conference**

E.R.B. Moore has sent an inquiry to the Kenes Company, which is in charge of the technical organization of the conference, about the possibility to use the conference venue facilities for a plenary meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. It may be held as an open meeting; in any case, the members of the subcommittees on taxonomy should be invited. E.R.B. Moore proposed that officers of the IUMS should also be invited. During the 13<sup>th</sup> June plenary meeting, S. Ventura had generously offered to host the plenary meeting in his institute, the CNR Research Institute on Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sesto Fiorentino, not far from the conference venue. E.R.B. Moore will contact S. Ventura to obtain further information.

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## **Minute 10. Nomination of a candidate for the 2024 van Niel Prize**

E.R.B. Moore and A. Oren will finalize and send the letter, earlier drafted by I.C. Sutcliffe, to the University of Queensland to nominate the chosen candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize.

## **Minute 11. Update from the Judicial Commission**

Judicial Opinion 130 has been published (D.A. Arahal *et al.*, IJSEM 2024;74:006414). It conserves the name *Rhodococcus* Zopf 1891, making it legitimate. A new Request for an Opinion was published, requesting conservation of the illegitimate prokaryotic generic name *Proteus* Hauser 1885 (M.-S. Li, IJSEM 2024;74:006434).

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

The six-month discussion period for M.J. Pallen's proposal to emend Appendix 9 of the ICNP on the use of connecting vowels after stems ending in the same vowel (IJSEM 2023;73:006191) ended on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The author did not to exert his right of using two months to respond to the comments raised. The ballot was started on 8<sup>th</sup> June. The voting members were requested to choose between the old version ("The connecting vowel is dropped when the following word element starts with a vowel"), M.J. Pallen's proposed emendation ("The connecting vowel is dropped when the preceding word element ends in the same vowel or when the following word element starts with a vowel"), as was described in the IJSEM publication, and a third version proposed by A. Oren and approved by M.J. Pallen ("The connecting vowel is dropped when the following word element starts with a vowel. The connecting vowel may be dropped when the preceding word element ends in the same vowel"). C.M. Manaia and H. Christensen serve as the tellers.

The six-month discussion period for the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals to emend the ICNP (D.R. Arahal *et al.*, IJSEM 2024;74:006188) will end on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Many comments on these proposals were posted on the Slack channel in the past weeks. On 5<sup>th</sup> July, A. Oren will close the discussion on the Slack channel and enable the authors of the proposal to respond to the comments raised during a period of up to two months. M. Göker, the corresponding author of the paper, will notify A. Oren when to send out the ballot. A. Oren and C.M. Manaia will serve as the tellers.

The six-month discussion period for M.J. Pallen's proposal to emend Appendix 9 of the ICNP on the formation of prokaryotic names from personal names (IJSEM 2024;74:006233) will end on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Thus far, few comments on this proposal were posted on the Slack channel. A. Oren will contact M.J. Pallen after 15<sup>th</sup> July to check whether a period to respond to comments (if any) will be needed; if not, he will start the ballot. A. Oren and E.R.B. Moore will serve as the tellers.

## **Minute 13. Update from Subcommittees on Taxonomy**

S.L.W. On had nothing new to report.

## **Minute 14. Update from the Publications Committee**

C.M. Manaia had nothing new to report.

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## **Minute 15. Update from the IJSEM**

A. Oren reported that Validation List no. 219, to be published in the September issue of the IJSEM, is one of the longest ever. The list editors are currently working on the finalization of this list.

A. Oren reported on a problematic validation request for the name effectively published in *Marine Drugs* (C.R. Back *et al.*, *Marine Drugs* 2021;19:105). Publication of a corrigendum was needed (*Marine Drugs* 2023;21:2014). At the same time, the publisher corrected the Version of Record of the original paper, contravening Rule 25a of the ICNP, but the original version of the paper, with the same DOI number, is still available online. The question of how to deal with the validation request was discussed. At this stage, *Marine Drugs* will not be blacklisted for validation requests as was decided in December 2022 by the ICSP EB for the *Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology*.

A. Oren inquired how many members of the IJSEM editorial board would attend the 6<sup>th</sup> September board meeting, announced to be held only in person in London. He had received information that the Microbiology Society will not approve certain expenses such as visa costs for editors planning to attend the meeting. No information about attendance is yet available as editors were requested to provide such information to the Microbiology Society no later than 15<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Minute 16. Update from the Treasurer**

P. Nielsen requested more information about the van Niel International Prize to be paid to T. Woyke in October. E.R.B. Moore will contact G.M. Garrity to inquire about the prize money he received, and he will try to contact B.J. Tindall to request further information how in the past the van Niel International Prize was administered. The EB unanimously approved to cover T. Woyke's travel expense, conference registration, up to four nights of hotel accommodation and any other essential expenses from ICSP funds.

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

R.L. Hahnke and S.L.W. On had nothing new to report. A. Oren recommended R.L. Hahnke to contact M. del C. Montero-Calasanz and invite her to join the working group.

Concerning the ICSP website, E.R.B. Moore reported that the website had been recently updated.

M. Göker reported that recently there was not much activity on the ICSP Twitter/X account but that users were notified of a couple of recent initiatives related to nomenclature.

A. Oren reported active discussions on the Slack channel about the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals. See Minute 12.

## **Minute 18. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility**

R.L. Hahnke stated that the KACC and a number of Chinese culture collections provide 'certificates' of availability that do not state any restrictions, but do not ship cultures due to

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restrictive material transfer agreements

E.R.B. Moore presented a recent problem when the CGMCC collection refused to sell a bacterial strain (not a type strain) to a researcher in Spain. With the assistance of J. Ma, contact was established with Y. Yu of the CGMCC, who had requested M. Cai to contact E.R.B. Moore with further information; E.R.B. Moore was waiting to receive contact from M. Cai.

## **Minute 19. Update on the Singleton Initiative**

M. Göker has a list of singleton strains in the ATCC that can be exchanged; he expects that the exchange of these strains will be a slow process.

R.L. Hahnke reported that, based on information received from J.P. Bowman, strains deposited in the now defunct ACM and ACAM collections are no longer available.

## **Minute 20. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Mitigating Changes in Prokaryotes**

M. Göker reported that the ad hoc committee met on 4<sup>th</sup> June and decided on a workflow to compile a list of recommended names of bacteria of medical importance. On 21<sup>st</sup> June, M. Göker and A. Oren met with C. Schoch and S. Turner of NCBI. They will have a second meeting soon.

## **Closing matters**

E.R.B. Moore reported on the BISMIS Live session of 22<sup>nd</sup> June in which he, H. Christensen and M. Göker explained the 'Best of Both Worlds' paper (D.R. Arahal *et al.*, IJSEM 2024,74:6188).

The next meeting of the EB was scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00 CEST.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.10 CEST.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## **Action points:**

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 23<sup>th</sup> May 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 23<sup>th</sup> May 2024 on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to send to R.A. Samson an updated version of the triennial report submitted in October 2023 to IUMS.
- E.R.B. Moore and A. Oren, to finalize and send a letter to the University of Queensland to nominate the chosen candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize.

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- A. Oren, to circulate the draft minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> June plenary meeting among all its attendees and submit the finalized document for publication in the IJSEM.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact S. Ventura to explore the possibility of holding the 22<sup>nd</sup> October plenary meeting at the CNR Research Institute on Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sesto Fiorentino.
- A. Oren, to close the Slack channel discussion on the “Best of Both Worlds” proposal on 5<sup>th</sup> July and invite the authors of the proposal to respond to the comments raised.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact G.M. Garrity to inquire about the prize money he received for the van Niel Prize.
- E.R.B. Moore, to try to contact B.J. Tindall to request information how in the past the van Niel International Prize was administered.
- R.L. Hahnke, to contact M. del C. Montero-Calasanz to invite her to join the working group on education and outreach.