



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

EB-ICSP Meeting 25th July 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), M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). An apology was received from D.R. Arahall (Chair JC).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 27th June 2024 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft redacted minutes of the 27th June 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 (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 23th May 2024 meeting to all members of the ICSP, the JC and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post the minutes of the 23th May 2024 meetings on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- 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 and A. Oren did not yet complete a letter of recommendation to send to the University of Queensland to nominate the chosen candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize. Ongoing, see Minute 15.
- A. Oren has circulated the draft minutes of the 13th June plenary meeting among all its attendees and has submitted the finalized document for publication in the IJSEM.
- E.R.B. Moore has contacted S. Ventura to explore the possibility of holding the 22nd October plenary meeting, prior to the IUMS 2024 Congress, at the CNR Research Institute on Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sesto Fiorentino. See Minute 8.
- A. Oren has closed the Slack channel discussion on the “Best of Both Worlds” proposal on 5th July and invited the authors of the proposal to respond to the comments raised.

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- E.R.B. Moore has contacted G.M. Garrity to inquire about any prize money and reimbursement of expenses he received for travelling to the IUMS 2011 Congress in Sapporo, Japan, to be awarded the van Niel International Prize in 2011. See Minute 15.

- E.R.B. Moore has contacted B.J. Tindall to request information on how the van Niel International Prize was administered in the past. See Minute 15.

- R.L. Hahnke, who did not attend the meeting, did not provide an update whether he has contacted M. del C. Montero-Calasanz to invite her to join the working group on education and outreach. Ongoing.

Minute 5. Welcoming Meng-Syun Li as a co-opted member of the ICSP

A. Oren announced that M-S. Li (Taiwan) was appointed as a co-opted member of the ICSP. He thanked D.R. Arahal and C.M. Manaia who served as the tellers.

Minute 6. Co-option of new ICSP members

M. Göker gave an update about his efforts to increase the number of ICSP members by co-option. Letters of self-nomination were received from T. Eisenberg (Germany), P. Kuhnert (Switzerland), I. Kurtboke (Australia), and J.T. Tambong (Canada). He mentioned that he had received self-nomination letters for two more colleagues from Japan and one from South Korea.

A discussion was held about the need and desirability to increase the membership of the ICSP by co-option. Some EB members felt that co-option is important to increase the representation of countries and disciplines not currently represented in the ICSP. Others argued that co-option should be restricted to cases where a candidate is expected to contribute significantly to the activities of the ICSP, and questioned the need for a large number of inactive members whose only contribution will be to occasionally return ballot forms and participate in plenary meetings. E.R.B. Moore pointed out that the ICSP has been criticised in the past for being 'elitist'. Co-option may be one way to try to address this criticism, i.e., through greater representation than can be attained through the representatives appointed only from societies that are members of the IUMS/BAM.

M. Göker will collate the nomination letters, CVs and letters of support for each of the nominees, which will be sent to A. Oren, who will organize the ballot in accordance with Article 2 (b) (1) of the ICSP statutes.

Minute 7. Update on IUMS 2024 Conference

E.R.B. Moore reported no new updates on the preparations for the Conference.

Minute 8. The plenary meeting of the ICSP at the IUMS 2024 conference, Florence, Italy

E.R.B. Moore has sent an inquiry to the Kenes Company about the possibility to use the conference venue facilities for a plenary meeting to be held on 22nd October. No further reply was received, after an initial response to check on the costs that would be involved. He also contacted S. Ventura who earlier had offered to host the plenary meeting in his institute, the CNR Research Institute on Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sesto Fiorentino. It was agreed to hold the

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meeting at the CNR Institute from 2-5 p.m. It will also be possible to access the meeting online. Lunch will be available before the start of the meeting.

Minute 9. Nomination of a candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize

E.R.B. Moore had no further updates, and he mentioned that information received from G.M. Garrity and from B.J. Tindall indicated that there are some open questions about the protocol for nominating candidates, as well as questions about the responsibilities of the ICSP for the nomination process and for awarding the Prize. Further information from the University of Queensland is required; E.R.B. Moore will try to obtain information from officials at the UoQ and at the IUMS. See Minute 15.

Minute 10. Update from the Judicial Commission

H. Christensen reported that the JC did not yet start discussing the request for conservation of the illegitimate prokaryotic generic name *Proteus* Hauser 1885 (M.-S. Li, IJSEM 2024;74:006434).

Minute 11. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

The ballot on 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) was closed on 8th July. C.M. Manaia and H. Christensen served as the tellers. Out of the 46 members eligible to vote, only 21 returned the ballot. Two members favored the text, "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." The alternative version, "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", was preferred by 12 members. Five members voted to keep the current version, "The connecting vowel is dropped when the following word element starts with a vowel". There were two abstentions. A. Oren has submitted the announcement of the outcome of the ballot for publication in the IJSEM.

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) ended 4th July. The authors of the proposal have up to two months to respond to the comments raised. 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) ended on 15th July. The author of the proposal have up to two months to respond to the comments raised. M.J. Pallen will notify A. Oren when to send out the ballot. A. Oren and E.R.B. Moore will serve as the tellers.

Minute 12. Update from Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On has received in inquiry from P. Rahi about the possibility of reviving the defunct subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Neisseria*. Article 6 of the ICSP Statutes contains an outline of the procedure.

S.L.W. On requested to E.R.B. Moore that the ICSP Statutes be made more prominent on the

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ICSP website.

Minute 13. Update from the Publications Committee

C.M. Manaia reported about a meeting she had on 23rd July with M.E. Trujillo, E.R.B. Moore and A. Monica and N. Froude of the Microbiology Society, to explore transition of the IJSEM to become a fully open-access journal.

The new impact factor of the IJSEM will be discussed after the IJSEM editorial board meeting on 6th September.

Minute 14. Update from the IJSEM

A. Oren reported that C. Hugo stepped down as associate editor, after almost 10 years of service. The journal is looking for new editors, especially with expertise in the *Bacteroidota* and the *Bacillota*.

H. Cook, our liaison at the Microbiology Society, is leaving the Society. D. Georgescu will be our new contact.

Minute 15. Update from the Treasurer

P. Nielsen and E.R.B. Moore reported about their efforts to understand the financial arrangements for the van Niel International Prize. Nobody at the University of Queensland appears to remember if or how a monetary prize is administered.

G.M. Garrity, an earlier recipient of the prize, notified E.R.B. Moore about the sum of the prize money he had received from the University of Queensland. His travel to the Sapporo IUMS conference was not paid by the University of Queensland or by the IUMS, and was reimbursed much later from the funds of the ICSP. The previous treasurer W.B. Whitman notified P. Nielsen that he had no further information. B.J. Tindall sent E.R.B. Moore a detailed description of how the van Niel International Prize should be administered. It appears that the ICSP should only have an advisory role, and all expenses (cash prize, travel and accommodation to the prize lecture ceremony) should be paid from the trust fund established for that purpose at the University of Queensland. The ICSP account in US \$ (the so-called 'Skerman funds') are not intended to cover the van Niel Prize expenses.

E.R.B. Moore will contact P. Hugenholtz and J. De Voss, Head of the School of Chemistry & Molecular Biosciences (SCMB) at University of Queensland, as well as I.C. Sutcliffe, former Chair of the EB-ICSP, to request information about the financial arrangements for the van Niel International Prize.

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

S.L.W. On apologized that, to his knowledge, M. del C. Montero-Calasanz was not yet contacted to invite her to join the working group.

E.R.B. Moore reported that the ICSP Website was not updated in the past weeks.

M. Göker had nothing new to report about the ICSP Twitter/X site.

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A. Oren reported about the use of the Slack platform for discussions about the proposed emendations of the ICNP.

Minute 17. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility

E.R.B. Moore reported about some progress made with the accessibility of cultures from Chinese culture collections. He was contacted by J. Liu of the China Center for Type Culture Collection (CCTCC), Wuhan, PR China, about exchanging cultures with the CCUG.

Minute 18. Update on the Singleton Initiative

M. Göker had nothing new to report.

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

M. Göker reported that an interim meeting was held on 2nd July to prepare the August meeting. An attempt is being made to recruit more members to the committee. The first draft of a list of recommended names of prokaryotes of medical importance is in preparation.

Closing matters: Other business

There was no other business.

The next meeting of the EB was scheduled for 29th August, 10.00 CEST.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.00 CEST.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren, 26th July 2024.

Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 27th June 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 23rd May and 27th June 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.
- M. Göker, to forward the nomination letters, CVs and letters of support for the nominees for co-option to A. Oren.
- S.L.W. On, to notify P. Rahi that Article 6 of the ICSP Statutes contains information about the establishment or re-establishment of a subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Neisseria*.

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- E.R.B. Moore to make the ICSP Statutes more prominent in the ICSP website, i.e., to provide more links to the publication site, throughout the website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to contact P. Hugenholtz and J. De Voss, the Head of Department at the University of Queensland, as well as I.C. Sutcliffe, former Chair of the EB-ICSP, to request information about the financial arrangements for the van Niel International Prize.
- E.R.B. Moore, to finalize and send a letter to A. Oren for confirmation, before sending to the University of Queensland to nominate the chosen candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize.
- R.L. Hahnke and S.L.W. On, to contact M. del C. Montero-Calasanz to invite her to join the working group on education and outreach.