



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

EB-ICSP Meeting 29th August 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), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from D.R. Arahall (Chair, JC), C.M. Manaia (Vice-Chair), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), and M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 25th July 2024 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 25th July 2024 meeting were approved after a minor correction. A. Oren will distribute a redacted version of the 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 27th June 2024 EB 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 23rd May and 27th June 2024 EB meetings on the ICSP website.

- E.R.B. Moore has contacted R.A. Samson, asking for further information about the desired format of the update of the triennial report submitted in October 2023 to IUMS. No response was received, to date. Ongoing.

- M. Göker has forwarded nomination letters, CVs and letters of support for the nominees for co-option to A. Oren.

- S.L.W. On has notified P. Rahi that Article 6 of the ICSP Statutes contains the requested information about the procedure to re-establish a subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Neisseria*. See Minute 12

- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post a link to ICSP Statutes so that it would be displayed more prominently on the ICSP website. Ongoing.

- E.R.B. Moore has received further information from I.C. Sutcliffe about the financial arrangements for the van Niel International Prize. See Minute 8.

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- E.R.B. Moore did not yet finalize the letter to the University of Queensland to nominate the chosen candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize. Ongoing. See Minute 8.

- S.L.W. On has contacted M. del C. Montero-Calasanz to invite her to join the working group on education and outreach. See Minute 16.

Minute 5. Co-option of new ICSP members

The ballot for the election of seven new co-opted members will end on 1st September. The tellers C.M. Manaia and D.R. Arahal did not attend the meeting, and no update was received about the turnout. A reminder was sent to the voting members.

Minute 6. Update on the IUMS 2024 conference, Florence, Italy

E.R.B. Moore reported that IUMS has agreed that ICSP members who are not members of IUMS-affiliated societies are eligible for a discounted, members societies registration rate for the conference. A. Oren will forward this information to the ICSP members. There were no further updates about the ICSP symposium to be held on 24th October.

Minute 7. The plenary meeting of the ICSP at the IUMS 2024 conference, Florence, Italy

S. Ventura has sent further information about the venue of the plenary meeting on 22nd October in Sesto Fiorentino, Florence, and transportation to the venue. The meeting will be open to all, and will probably be accessible online. A. Oren will forward the information to the ICSP membership. E.R.B. Moore will invite the IUMS officials to participate in the meeting.

Minute 8. Nomination of a candidate for the 2024 van Niel International Prize

E.R.B. Moore has received additional information about the way the van Niel Prize was administered in the past from D.P. Labeda. The information received from B.J. Tindall and D.P. Labeda needs to be studied further to assess the responsibilities of the ICSP, the IUMS and the University of Queensland concerning the awarding the prize and the financial arrangements for the recipient. See Minute 15. Nomination of a candidate for the 2024 prize will be on hold until the matter is clarified.

Minute 9. Ballot for voting on the revision of the ICSP Statutes

The six-month public discussion on the proposed revision of the Statutes of the ICSP, held on the Slack channel, will end on 5th September. A. Oren had circulated a draft ballot form to be sent to the voting members after that date. M. Göker indicated that he spotted a number of inconsistencies and logical contradictions in the current draft revision. More time is therefore needed to improve the document. M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore will discuss the document in the first half of September, and A. Oren will convene all authors of the proposed revision of the Statutes in the second half of September to finalize the proposals and prepare the ballot.

Minute 10. Update from the Judicial Commission

H. Christensen and M. Göker reported that the JC is currently discussing the request for conservation of the illegitimate prokaryotic generic name *Proteus* Hauser 1885 (M.-S. Li, IJSEM 2024;74:006434).

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

A. Oren reported that the notification of the ICSP vote on Emendation of Appendix 9 of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes to regulate the use of connecting vowels in compound names after stems ending in the same vowel was submitted for publication in the IJSEM on 15th July. He hopes that the handling editor will soon send the editorial decision so that the decision can be published.

The ballot on M.J. Pallen's proposal to emend the section on formation of prokaryote names from personal names in Appendix 9 of the ICNP (IJSEM 74: 006233; 2024) was opened on 29th July and will last until 28th October. A. Oren and E.R.B. Moore are the tellers. Thus far, 15 out of the 46 ICSP members have voted. A. Oren will send a reminder in mid-September.

For the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals to emend the ICNP (D.R. Arahal *et al.*, IJSEM 2024;74:006188), the two-month period for the authors to respond to the comments raised will end on 5th September. M. Göker will prepare the response and additional material to be forwarded to the voting members. A. Oren will send out the ballot form. A. Oren will be one of the tellers, and he will invite one more EB member who is not a co-author of the proposal to assist him.

Minute 12. Update from Subcommittees on Taxonomy

S.L.W. On has sent information on the formalities involved in the revival of a subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Neisseria*, as outlined in the ICSP Statutes, to P. Rahi.

Minute 13. Update from the Publications Committee

There were no updates.

Minute 14. Update from the IJSEM

The annual IJSEM editorial board meeting will be held in London on 6th September.

A. Oren reported that a validation request was received for the name *Variovorax terrae*, published in the Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology. This journal was excluded by the EB at its meeting of 15th December 2022 (see Minute 9 of that meeting) as a journal in which names can be effectively published, as it does not comply with Rule 25a of the ICNP and does not provide a permanent record as required. A. Oren will notify the authors of the validation request that their request must be denied and explain the reasons.

Minute 15. Update from the Treasurer

P. Nielsen was absent. E.R.B. Moore stated that the financial issues for the van Niel Prize to T. Woyke still have not been finalized. It was agreed that T. Woyke's travel, accommodation and conference registration expenses will be covered by the ICSP as long as the financial responsibilities of the ICSP, IUMS and the University of Queensland have not been clarified. This arrangement may not serve as a precedent in the future.

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

S.L.W. On has contacted M. del C. Montero-Calasanz and he will set up a meeting with her.

- ICSP Website

E.R.B. Moore reported that different updates were made on the ICSP website.

- Social Media

There was nothing new to report.

- Slack Platform

A. Oren reported renewed discussions on the Slack platform on the proposed revision of the ICSP Statutes.

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

There were no updates.

Minute 18. Update on the Singleton Initiative

The culture collections now need to take action and exchange strains as agreed. M. Göker may send reminders soon.

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

M. Göker reported that a full meeting was held on 6th August. A new member was appointed to the committee, and decisions were made about the workflow. He is trying to recruit more members.

Closing matters: Other business

M. Göker presented two proposed additions to the FAQ section of the ICSP website. These were discussed and approved after minor editing, and will be added on the website.

The next meeting of the EB was scheduled for 26th September, 10.00 CEST.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.00 CEST.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren, 30th August 2024.

Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 25th July 2024 meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

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- E.R.B. Moore, to post the minutes of the 25th July 2024 meeting on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post a link to the ICSP Statutes more prominently on the ICSP website.
- A. Oren, to notify the ICSP members not affiliated with IUMS affiliated societies that they are eligible for a discounted registration fee for the IUMS 2024 conference in October.
- A. Oren, to send information about the open plenary meeting in Florence, Italy on 22nd October to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore, to invite the officials of IUMS to participate in the open plenary meeting of the ICSP in Florence, Italy on 22nd October.
- M. Göker and E.R.B. Moore, to further discuss the draft revision of the ICSP Statutes in the first half of September.
- A. Oren, to convene all authors of the proposed revision of the ICSP Statutes document in the second half of September to finalize the proposals and prepare the ballot.
- A. Oren, to send a reminder in mid-September to the ICSP members who have not yet returned the ballot form for M.J. Pallen's proposal to emend the section on formation of prokaryote names from personal names in Appendix 9 of the ICNP.
- M. Göker, to send to A. Oren no later than 4th September the authors' response and additional material to be forwarded to the voting members with the ballot on the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals to emend the ICNP.
- A. Oren, to send out the ballot on the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals to emend the ICNP, if feasible on 6th September.
- A. Oren, to invite one more EB member who is not a co-author of the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposals to serve as a teller for the ballot.
- M. Göker, to add the two approved new sections to the FAQ section of the ICSP website.