



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

EB-ICSP Meeting 29th October 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 09.00 CET.

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), P. Nielsen (Treasurer), R.L. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahall (Chair, JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from M. Sakamoto (Member-at-Large), H. Christensen (Vice-Chair JC), and S.L.W. On (Secretary of Subcommittees).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 26th September 2024 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 26th September 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 29th August 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 25th July and the 29th August 2024 meetings on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet post a link to the ICSP Statutes more prominently on the ICSP website. Ongoing.
- E.R.B. Moore has invited the officials of IUMS to participate in the open plenary meeting of the ICSP in Florence, Italy on 22nd October. None of the IUMS officials attended; an apology was received from R.A. Samson, Executive Secretary of IUMS.
- E.R.B. Moore has prepared a new version of the agenda of the plenary meeting in Florence; A. Oren has circulated it among all ICSP members for comments.
- E.R.B. Moore, M. Göker and A. Oren prepared the draft ballot form for revision of the ICSP statutes and sent it to all authors of the proposal for revision of the statutes for comments. See Minute 5.

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- A. Oren and M. Göker discussed the way to formulate a Note to the proposed new version of Section D of Appendix 9 of the ICNP to add information on a starting point when the new regulation takes effect and stressing the non-retroactivity of the change. The following will be added in the announcement of the result of the ballot to be submitted for publication in the IJSEM after the ballot is closed on 29th October: “*Note: The changes proposed in this version of section D take effect on 1 January 2025 and are not retroactive. Names validly published before that date that do not comply with this version of Section D may not be considered to be misspelled for that reason.*” See Minute 10.
- A. Oren has sent a reminder in mid-October to the ICSP members who have not yet returned the ballot on the ‘Best of Both Worlds’ proposal.
- A. Oren has prepared a draft of the 2025 Revision of the ICNP and sent it to the Editorial Board of the ICNP for comments to be submitted no later than 30th November.
- A. Oren has notified J. Kelly at the Microbiology Society that the ICSP intend to publish a new revision of the ICNP in the second half of 2025.
- The EB members have sent their comments on the statement of accounts prepared by P. Nielsen to P. Nielsen, E.R.B. Moore and C.M. Manaia.
- C.M. Manaia has checked with N. Froude whether the documents presented during the 6th September IJSEM Editorial Board meeting and the minutes of that meeting (yet to be distributed) may be circulated among the EB-ICSP members. The documents may be circulated among the members of the Executive Board, but should not be distributed further.
- E.R.B. Moore did not yet respond to the complaint received from W.B. Whitman about the handling of the ballot for the Best of Both Worlds proposals. Ongoing.

Minute 5. The ballot for voting on the proposals for revising the ICSP Statutes

The EB discussed the draft ballot form for amending the Statutes, circulated by M. Göker. The version of the proposals presented in the draft differs in many places from the text that was originally proposed (Arahal *et al.*, IJSEM 2024;74:006291). Article 17 (c) of the current version of the ICSP statutes does not specify how to deal with modifications proposed during the six-month discussion period. The question was discussed whether the voting members should also be asked to vote on the original proposal for amendment of the statutes. The EB ratified the following proposal made by M. Göker:

“The term ‘proposal’ in Articles 13 and 17 of the 2019 revision of the ICSP Statutes (10.1099/ijsem.0.003117) may refer to the original version published in IJSEM, as well as any version subsequently updated by the authors based on comments received. If the authors provide an updated version, this will be put to a vote in place of the original. The reason for interpreting the 2019 Statutes in this way is that otherwise the authors would not be able to consider constructive criticism received in the comments. If they had to publish the updated version of their proposal in the IJSEM, this would start another emendation process and their original version would still have to be voted on as part of the ongoing emendation process”.

Four of the five voting EB members present were in favor, none against, and there was one abstention.

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Minute 6. The ICSP Plenary Meeting in conjunction with the FEMS MICRO 2025 Conference

E.R.B. Moore has received an invitation from A. Ventosa, president of FEMS, to hold the next ICSP Plenary Meeting in conjunction with the FEMS MICRO 2025 in Milan, Italy, in July 2025. Such a meeting can be held as a hybrid meeting, similar to the plenary meeting held in Florence earlier this month (see Minute 12). S. Ventura offered to help coordinate preparations of a meeting, with help of colleagues in Milan. This proposal will be further discussed during the November meeting of the EB.

Minute 7. [Redacted]

Minute 8. Invitation from the Bergey's Manual Trust to the to help organize and participate in a meeting to resolve issues arising from the use of the SeqCode and the ICNP

A. Oren has received a letter from M. Chuvochina, secretary of Bergey's Manual Trust, inviting the Executive Boards of the ICSP, SeqCode, and BISMIS to help organize and participate in a meeting to be held in Qingdao, Shandong Province, China, in conjunction with the BISMIS conference, 17-20 October 2025, to resolve potential conflicts that could affect the nomenclature of prokaryotes due to the dual use of the SeqCode and the ICNP. This initiative was taken by the Bergey's Manual Trust following discussions during the recent XX Taxon meeting of the Taxonomy, Phylogeny and Diversity group of the Spanish Society for Microbiology held in Salamanca. E.R.B. Moore will acknowledge receipt of the letter. D.R. Arahal, who had attended the XX Taxon meeting in Salamanca, will circulate the relevant abstracts presented at that meeting. The topic will be further discussed during the November meeting of the EB.

Minute 9. Update from the Judicial Commission

D.R. Arahal reported that the JC has finished voting on Opinion 131.

Minute 10. Update from the Editor-in-Chief of the ICNP

A. Oren reported that a draft version of the 2025 revision of the ICNP has been sent to the members of the ICNP Editorial Board for comments to be submitted until 30th November. The ballot on the use of personal names, based on a proposal by M.J. Pallen, will be closed on 29th October, and the ballot on the 'Best of Both Worlds' proposal will be closed on 4th November. A. Oren called upon those EB members who had not yet submitted their votes to return the ballot forms before the deadlines.

Minute 11. Update from the IJSEM

C. Manaia reported that J. Kelly has notified the IJSEM editorial board that the Microbiology Society has agreed to undertake a 4-month pilot of *Finding Reviewers Using Scopus (FRUS)*; a peer reviewer finding tool integrated within Editorial Manager. This pilot will run between 4th November 2024 to 11th March 2025 across all the Society's journals. As part of the pilot, editors will be provided with access to Scopus's database of authors when searching for and inviting reviewers through the Editorial Manager interface. The aim of the pilot is to assess whether an integrated reviewer finding tool will help editors identify and recruit reliable experts who will ensure our authors benefit from timely, rigorous, and constructive peer review. The Editorial Office will use this pilot to assess the impact of reviewer finding tool on invitation acceptance

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rate, peer review turnaround times, and user experience for editors. Editorial Manager will be providing training sessions on using *FRUS*. H. Christensen, who has experience with *FRUS* from another journal and found the tool very useful, has offered to prepare a power-point presentation of his experiences and present it to interested editors.

A problem has arisen in a case a manuscript (Oyuntsetseg and Kim 2024, DOI 10.1099/ijsem.0.006511) was updated after publication (see the erratum - DOI 10.1099/ijsem.0.006541), so that two different versions exist, contravening Rule 25a of the ICNP. E.R.B. Moore and M. Göker have discussed the problem with A. Monica of the Microbiology Society in Florence. E.R.B. Moore will update the members of the EB on the options presented, to be further discussed during the November meeting of the EB.

Minute 12. Update from the Treasurer

Reporting on financial issues regarding the van Niel Prize was scheduled for the next EB-ICSP meeting, in November.

Minute 13. Update on the IUMS 2024 conference, Florence, Italy and the plenary ICSP held in conjunction with the conference

E.R.B. Moore reported that approximately 63 persons attended the ICSP-sponsored session held in Florence on 24th October. P.R. Young introduced T. Woyke, the awardee of the van Niel International Prize for 2022, who gave her prize lecture. This was followed by a presentation on the history of the ICSP by S. Ventura and A. Oren, and a presentation of the current activities of the ICSP by M. Göker.

E.R.B. Moore attended the general assembly of IUMS. Executive Secretary R.A. Samson invited E.R.B. Moore to explain about the ICNP. He had discussions with colleagues involved in the IUMS Committees for fungal (International Committee for Taxonomy of Fungi) and viral (International Committee for Taxonomy of Viruses) taxonomy and nomenclature.

A hybrid open plenary meeting of the ICSP was held on 22 October 2024 at the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Sesto Fiorentino, Florence, Italy, and via Teams. Twelve persons participated in person, and 31 online. A. Oren has prepared the draft minutes. After approval by E.R.B. Moore, A. Oren will circulate the document among all participants of the meeting and the members of the EB to be checked for accuracy. Then A. Oren will submit the minutes for publication in the IJSEM to comply with Articles 4 (d) and 5 (d) (1) of the ICSP statutes.

The ICSP thanks S. Ventura for his excellent local organization of the ICSP events in Florence.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.25 CET.

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

The next meeting of the EB was scheduled for 26th November 2024, 09.00 CET.

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Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 26th September meeting of the Executive Board to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post the redacted minutes of the 26th September meeting of the Executive Board on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post a link to the ICSP Statutes more prominently on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to respond to the complaint received from W.B. Whitman about the handling of the ballot for the Best of Both Worlds proposals.
- A. Oren, to convene the authors of the proposal for amendment of the ICSP statutes to finalize the ballot form to be presented to the voting members of the ICSP.
- E.R.B. Moore, to acknowledge receipt of the letter received from M. Chuvochina on behalf of Bergey's Manual Trust.
- D.R. Arahal, to circulate the relevant abstracts presented at the XX Taxon meeting in Salamanca among the EB members.
- E.R.B. Moore, to update the members of the EB on the options presented to solve the problem of the Oyuntsetseg and Kim 2024 paper DOI 10.1099/ijsem.0.006511) that was updated after publication (see the erratum - DOI 10.1099/ijsem.0.006541), as presented by A. Monica.
- E.R.B. Moore, to check and edit the draft minutes of the 22nd October plenary meeting in Florence, as prepared by A. Oren.
- A. Oren, to circulate the draft minutes of the 22nd October plenary meeting in Florence among all participants and the members of the EB to be checked for accuracy, prior to submitting the document for publication in the IJSEM.