

## ICSP-Publications Committee Meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Minute 1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9.05 a.m. UK time.

### Minute 2. Record of attendance

The following members of the Publications Committee participated: E.R.B. Moore (Chair Publications Committee, Vice-Chair ICSP), I.C. Sutcliffe (Chair ICSP), A. Oren (Executive Secretary ICSP and EiC ICNP), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), M.E. Trujillo (EiC IJSEM).

Apologies were received from D.R. Arahal (Chair JC) and R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC).

### Minute 3. Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 meeting of the Publications Committee

The draft minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> March meeting were approved by E.R.B. Moore (21<sup>st</sup> March) and I.C. Sutcliffe (17<sup>th</sup> March) with minor changes. A corrected document was sent to all members of the Publications Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and to all members of the ICSP-EB on 26<sup>th</sup> March. A redacted version was sent to Gaynor Redvers-Mutton of the Microbiology Society on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

On March 23, E.R.B. Moore sent to all members of the Publications Committee a version of the minutes with numerous additional comments to be considered.

It was agreed that E.R.B. Moore will prepare a new draft version of the 15<sup>th</sup> March minutes, to be further discussed and approved at the next meeting of the Publications Committee.

### Minute 4. Renewal of the publishing agreement with the Microbiology Society

The letter received from Gaynor Redvers-Mutton of 16<sup>th</sup> March and the outline drafted by I.C. Sutcliffe to the Framework for Memo of Understanding (MoU) were discussed.

- It is clear that the Microbiology Society is interested in changing IJSEM to a full open-access journal, but it is not sure whether authors are interested in paying the publication fees.

- It is not clear whether the Microbiology Society is interested in a large journal with many papers, even if not all are high-quality, or a smaller journal with high-quality papers.

- It may be good idea to introduce the option of special issues in the publication agreement. An alternative is grouping 'topics' papers published within the continuous publication schedule.

- The ICSP is interested in exploring how it can remain involved with LPSN, subsequent to LPSN being taken over by the DSMZ. One approach might be recognition of ICSP support on the LPSN pages. Whether LPSN is reliant on continued financial support by the ICSP is not known. I.C. Sutcliffe will add the issue on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the ICSP-EB on 29<sup>th</sup> March, to be discussed with Markus Göker and others. If necessary, it can be further discussed with Jörg Overmann of the DSMZ.
- Financial support of the ICSP by the journal is very welcome. This money was used in recent years to partially cover travel expenses of editors to attend meetings. As the number of editors needs to be increased to at least 25, additional funding will be helpful.
- The Publications Committee is in favour of extending the period of the publication agreement to five years, possibly even longer.

I.C. Sutcliffe will prepare an updated version of the MoU document, based on the discussions and to be finalized within two weeks. A meeting of E.R.B. Moore, I.C. Sutcliffe and M.E. Trujillo with Gaynor Redvers-Mutton and colleagues of the Microbiology Society can then be held in May. At this stage the Publications Committee can make the necessary decisions. At a later stage, the draft publication agreement must be discussed and approved by the ICSP-EB. Informing the ICSP members would be dependent upon whether the contact details would be maintained in confidence.

#### **Minute 5. Recommendations how to improve the impact factor and relevance of the IJSEM.**

On 26<sup>th</sup> February, A. Oren sent a letter prepared by E.R.B. Moore to all ICSP members, inviting recommendations on how to improve the impact factor and relevance of the IJSEM. Four replies were received, from Paul De Vos and colleagues, Giovanna Felis, Celia Manaia and an additional ICSP member who preferred to remain anonymous.

Different aspects were discussed, including:

- The possibility of publishing special issues. It is not sure that authors will be interested in contributing to special issues. Publication of special issues may also delay publication of regular papers, and this may affect priority dates of publication of names.
- The option of moving single-strain species descriptions to Access Microbiology. This may not be a good option: the papers still need expert reviewing, it will increase the work load of the List Editors, and authors may claim that rejection of single-strain papers by IJSEM may contravene Principle 1(4) of the ICNP.
- The need for more rigid quality control of species descriptions, including introduction of standards to be implemented by authors and reviewers. This proposal of 'recommended' standards was suggested to be an issue for the Taxonomic Subcommittees to address. This may be counterproductive as it may encourage authors to submit their papers to other journals. Moreover, it may contravene Principle 1(4) of the ICNP. This issue was discussed as an issue of author's taxonomic opinion vs. rejection on basis of editorial decision on single-strain species proposals.

- If ISI could include the IJSEM also in the category 'Evolution', and not only in the category 'Microbiology', this may upgrade its status to a Q2 journal. M.E. Trujillo may discuss this further with Alexander Mulhern of the Microbiology Society.

**Minute 6. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 17 May 2021. At the upcoming meeting of the ICSP-EB on 29<sup>th</sup> April, A. Oren will coordinate the time with the members of the Publications Committee present.

**Minute 7. AOB**

There was no other business.

**Minute 8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11.40.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 18 April 2021