



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-Executive Board Meeting 29th July 2021 Redacted minutes

Chair:
I. C. SUTCLIFFE
Northumbria University
U.K.

Vice-Chair:
E. R. B. MOORE
University of Gothenburg
Sweden

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

Y. SHOUCHE
National Centre for Microbial
Resource
India

**Members of the Judicial
Committee**

Chair:
D.R. ARAHAL
University of Valencia
Spain

Vice-Chair:
R. ROSSELLÓ-MÓRA
Mediterranean Institute for
Advanced Studies
Illes Balears Spain

Secretary:
M. GÖKER
Leibniz Institute DSMZ
Germany

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 Executive Board participated: I.C. Sutcliffe (Chair), E.R.B. Moore (Vice-Chair), A. Oren (Executive Secretary), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahall (Chair JC), R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). An apology was received from S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 1st July 2021 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 1st July 2021 meeting were approved with minor changes. A. Oren will distribute a redacted version of the minutes to the members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission, 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 May 2021 Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy. E.R.B. Moore has posted these minutes on the ICSP website.

- All members of the Executive Board have reviewed the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOMB) meeting Sponsorship Prospectus pdf sent by email by S.L.W. On. See Minute 5 for further information.

- S.L.W. On has prepared a draft editorial for publication in the IJSEM to present the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy and circulated it among the members of the Executive Board.

- Y. Shouche, S.L.W. On, and R. Hahnke have sent a message to colleagues involved in prokaryotic taxonomy, encouraging them to get involved in ICSP-related activities. See Minute 16 for further information.

- Y. Shouche has contacted representatives of the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC) as to whether the current system of deposition of type strains causes problems due to the cost involved in processing of cultures and

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authentication. The response was that the cost of authentication of cultures is not very high and does not currently pose a problem.

- No authorization code to obtain access to the ICSP bank account was yet received. I.C. Sutcliffe will further check with NatWest Bank.
- E.R.B. Moore reported that he had not yet started preparation of a response of the ICSP to the 'SeqCode' initiative. He will work on this in August together with M. Göker, S.L.W. On and A. Oren. After discussion by the Executive Board, the document will be circulated to the ICSP members for comments.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has sent a message to Birgitta Duim to summarize ideas for an ICSP-sponsored session at IUMS 2022. She was happy with the idea of a plenary speaker, as well as a scientific session and round table discussion. She will further discuss the options at the upcoming meeting of the organizing committee at the end of August or beginning of September.
- I.C. Sutcliffe couldn't recall whether he had contacted S.L.W. On to ask him to liaise with the chairs of the taxonomic subcommittees and ask each to define their frame of reference (i.e., a summary of which taxa they have responsibility for) so that LPSN can be updated to flag the expertise of the taxonomic subcommittee on the relevant taxon pages. Action ongoing as later confirmed I.C. Sutcliffe hadn't done this.
- A. Oren and M. Göker have discussed features of the LPSN website relevant to editors and production staff of the IJSEM and other journals that publish taxonomic proposals. See Minute 11 for further information.
- E.R.B. Moore has written a letter to M.E. Trujillo, Editor-in-Chief of the IJSEM, and Dr. Hilary Logan of Microbiology Society to congratulate them on behalf of the ICSP Executive Board for the improved impact factor of the IJSEM.
- E.R.B. Moore has informed M.E. Trujillo, Editor-in-Chief of the IJSEM, that it is the duty of the authors of manuscripts submitted to the IJSEM to prove, as necessary, that the type material described is available without restrictions. See Minute 15 for further information.
- R. Hahnke has not yet been advised by the legal advisors of the DSMZ as to what extent the list of countries that impose restrictions to the availability of type material, compiled by the DSMZ, can be shared. He will follow this up after the holiday season. See Minute 15 for further information.
- E.R.B. Moore reported that the working group on type strain accessibility started the preparation of a list of countries and their legal restrictions on the distribution of type material, to provide clear instructions for the IJSEM editorial office and editors who handle taxonomic description papers for the IJSEM and other journals and for the list editors of the IJSEM. See Minute 15 for further information.

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Minute 5. Sponsorship of the FAOMB meeting

The request from S.L.W. On for the ICSP to sponsor the upcoming meeting of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists was discussed. Dr. On will present a poster explaining the functions of the ICSP. The members of the Executive Board felt that the fees for sponsoring different activities such as the young scientists' program to be rather high whilst options such as displaying the name of the ICSP on the digital signage board would have limited impact. The general opinion was, that it is better to spend ICSP money on conferences that center on taxonomy; a meeting on general microbiology topics should not have priority for funding. If necessary the ICSP can cover Dr. On's registration fee for the event, if applicable. I.C. Sutcliffe will contact S.L.W. On to notify him of the decision of the Executive Board.

Minute 6. Appointment of new IJSEM Editors

M.E. Trujillo has nominated Yu-Qin Zhang (Beijing, P.R. China) and Praveen Rahi (Pune, India) as new editors of the IJSEM. She also invited Henrik Christensen (Copenhagen, Denmark) to return to the editorial board for a second, non-consecutive term. The Executive Board discussed the qualifications of the candidates. The appointments were approved. E.R.B. Moore will notify M.E. Trujillo of the approval by the Executive Board.

Minute 7.

[Redacted]

Minute 8. Welcoming Martina Šeruga Musić as a new member of the ICSP

The executive board of the Croatian Microbiological Society has nominated Prof. Martina Šeruga Musić (University of Zagreb) as its delegate to the ICSP. This nomination needs to be endorsed by the general assembly of the society, probably to be held in February 2022. A. Oren has welcomed Prof. Šeruga Musić to the ICSP and she will be included in ICSP correspondence. However, she will become a voting member only after the Croatian Microbiological Society has notified us that its general assembly has endorsed the nomination. Until then her name will not be added to the list of ICSP members on our website.

Minute 9. Update from the Judicial Commission

M. Göker reported that in the coming week an online meeting of the Judicial Commission will be held to debate at least five opinions and possibly even up to nine, starting with Opinion 103, and to finalize and vote on these opinions in the next weeks.

Minute 10. Update from Publications Committee

E.R.B. Moore reported about the current correspondence between Gaynor Redvers-Mutton of the Microbiology Society and Rob Samson of the IUMS to finalize the involvement of the IUMS in the publication agreement for the IJSEM that is in preparation.

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Minute 11. Update from IJSEM

A. Oren and M. Göker reported on their meeting held on 13th July to discuss minor differences in the way etymologies are presented in the IJSEM, in other journals, and on the LPSN website. A. Oren will summarize the outcome of that meeting aimed at recommending a single consistent style. After approval by M. Göker he will send the recommendations to the editors, list editors and nomenclature reviewers of the IJSEM, to editors-in-chief of other journals in which many new names are effectively published, and to the ICSP Executive Board.

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

A. Oren reported about the comments posted in the Slack channel by R. Boden, M.J. Pallen, and P. Rahi. He will post replies to those comments where necessary.

Following a query by M. Göker, A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe clarified that the upcoming revision of the ICNP will be based only on the text of the 2008 revision (if necessary, with minor modifications proposed by the Editorial Board), the 45 emendation proposals listed by Oren *et al.*, *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2021;71:004598, and the outcome of the ballots on the inclusion of phyla and the status of the cyanobacteria. Proposals for more drastic future changes of the ICNP can be discussed on the Slack channel, but such proposals cannot be voted on in the beginning of 2022 to become part of the text of the 2022 revision of the Code. I.C. Sutcliffe will post a clarification in Slack specifying the limitations to which revisions are being currently considered and will check whether a separate Slack channel can be opened for discussions on proposals for future development of the ICNP that cannot be included in the upcoming revision. If necessary, I.C. Sutcliffe will moderate the content of the different channels in Slack.

Minute 13. Update on Subcommittees

The draft editorial for publication in the IJSEM to present the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, prepared by S.L.W. On is well advanced. Suggestions for improvement of the document were sent by A. Oren and I.C. Sutcliffe. The document will soon be ready to be submitted for publication in the IJSEM.

Minute 14. Treasurer's update

Attempts to obtain authorization codes to get access to the ICSP bank account from NatWest Bank are ongoing. I.C. Sutcliffe will once more inquire with the bank.

Minute 15. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility

R. Hahnke did not yet obtain an opinion from the legal advisors of the DSMZ whether the list of countries and their regulations that is maintained by the DSMZ can be shared. Therefore, E.R.B. Moore has started preparing a list as the basis for information relevant to the availability of type strains. A. Oren stressed that guidelines from the working group, to be endorsed by the ICSP voting members, are urgently needed. Without such guidelines, the editorial office and editors of the IJSEM do not know what papers can or cannot be considered for publication in the journal, and the list editors cannot justify why certain newly proposed names can be

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validated while others cannot. There are already inconsistencies in the validation lists and the notification lists. Hence, the list editors urgently need unambiguous instructions.

R. Hahnke stated that the 'geographical' issues that determine possible restrictions in type material availability are much more complicated than what can be given in a list of countries; restrictions may even apply to type material sampled from international waters of the open ocean.

I. Sutcliffe stressed that these are matters that the working group needs to address and to bring recommendations to the Executive Board as soon as possible.

Minute 16. Working group on Education & Outreach

R. Hahnke reported that eight replies were received to the message to colleagues involved in prokaryotic taxonomy, encouraging them to get involved in ICSP-related activities.

Closing matters

Minute 17. Other business

As the request submitted by M. Göker for the ICSP to sponsor LPSN was not discussed because of lack of time, it will be dealt with at our next meeting. All members of the Executive Board are requested to study the "Application for funding by the ICSP for LPSN" document circulated by M. Göker.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday August 26th, 9 am UK time**

Minute 18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11.20.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 31 July 2021

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Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the minutes of the 1st July 2021 meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, and send a copy to E.R.B. Moore to be posted on the ICSP website.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to notify S.L.W. On of the decision of the Executive Board on the request to sponsor the upcoming meeting of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists.

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- E.R.B. Moore, to notify M.E. Trujillo of the Executive Board approval of the nominations of Yu-Qin Zhang, Praveen Rahi and Henrik Christensen to join/rejoin the editorial board of the IJSEM.
- A. Oren, to summarize the outcome of his meeting with M. Göker aimed at establishing a consistent recommended style for presenting etymologies in taxa descriptions, and to circulate the recommendations among the editors, list editors, and nomenclature reviewers of the IJSEM, editors-in-chief of other relevant journals, and the ICSP Executive Board.
- A. Oren, to prepare replies to the comments posted thus far about the proposed revision of the ICNP, and to post those on the Slack channel.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to post a clarification in Slack specifying the limitations regarding which revisions to the ICNP are being currently considered; to moderate the content of the channels in Slack; and to check whether a separate Slack channel can be opened for discussions on proposals for future development of the ICNP that cannot be included in the upcoming revision.
- S.L.W. On, to finalize and submit the editorial for publication in the IJSEM presenting the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to contact NatWest Bank again to obtain authorization codes to get access to the ICSP bank account.
- E.R.B. Moore, to prepare a draft for a response of the ICSP to the 'SeqCode' initiative, to be completed by M. Göker, S.L.W. On and A. Oren no later than the end of August.
- I.C. Sutcliffe, to ask S.L.W. On to contact the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy and ask each to define their frame of reference (i.e., a summary of which taxa they have responsibility for) so that LPSN can be updated to flag the expertise of each subcommittee on the relevant taxon pages.
- R. Hahnke, to consult the legal advisors of the DSMZ to inquire to what extent the list of countries that impose restrictions to the availability of type material, compiled by the DSMZ, can be shared.
- Working group on type strain accessibility, to provide as soon as possible clear instructions for those who handle taxonomic description papers for the IJSEM and other journals, and the list editors of the IJSEM, detailing how to deal with newly proposed names of species from India, Brazil, and other countries with restrictions.
- All members of the Executive Board, to study the "Application for funding by the ICSP for LPSN" document circulated by M. Göker.