



International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes

ICSP-Executive Board Meeting 26th August 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 9.00 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), S.L.W. On (Secretary Subcommittees), R. Hahnke (Member-at-Large), Y. Shouche (Member-at-Large), D.R. Arahall (Chair JC), and M. Göker (Secretary JC). Apologies were received from P. Nielsen (Treasurer) and R. Rosselló-Móra (Vice-Chair JC).

Minute 3. Minutes of the 29st July 2021 meeting of the Executive Board

The draft minutes of the 29st July 2021 meeting were approved. 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 redacted minutes of the 1st July 2021 Executive Board meeting to all members of the ICSP, the Judicial Commission and the chairs of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy.

- I.C. Sutcliffe has notified S.L.W. On of the decision of the Executive Board not to sponsor the upcoming meeting of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists, to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in November. S.L.W. On happily accepted the offer to pay his registration fee for the meeting, where he will present a poster explaining the work of the ICSP.

- E.R.B. Moore has notified M.E. Trujillo of the Executive Board approval of the nominations of Yu-Qin Zhang, Praveen Rahi and Henrik Christensen to join/re-join the editorial board of the IJSEM.

- A. Oren has summarized the outcome of his meeting with M. Göker aimed at establishing a consistent recommended style for presenting etymologies in taxa descriptions, and has circulated the recommendations among the editors, list editors, and nomenclature reviewers of the IJSEM (using the Basecamp platform), editors-in-chief of other relevant journals, and the ICSP Executive Board. A reply thanking for the helpful comments was received from Martin Klotz, Editor-in-Chief of Frontiers in Microbiology.

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- A. Oren has posted comments on the Slack channel to reply to comments posted on different parts of the draft ICSP revision by M. Göker and comments posted about Appendix 9 by M.J. Pallen.
- I.C. Sutcliffe has posted a clarification in Slack (“Please read me first”), specifying the limitations regarding which revisions to the ICNP are being currently considered, and has opened a general channel for discussions on proposals for future development of the ICNP that cannot be included in the upcoming revision.
- S.L.W. On has submitted a summary of the status of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy for publication in the IJSEM.
- P. Nielsen has obtained authorization to use the NatWest Bank online banking system. E.R.B. Moore did not yet succeed in obtaining access to the system.
- 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 September 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 asked S.L.W. On to contact the chairs and secretaries of the Subcommittees on Taxonomy, with a request to define their frame of reference (i.e., a summary of which taxa they have responsibility for, likely at the genus level and above) so that LPSN can be updated to flag the expertise of each subcommittee on the relevant taxon pages. LPSN has modified the text suggesting reviewers for taxonomic papers on certain groups of prokaryotes as follows: “Taxonomists who have recently focused on this group are the corresponding authors of ... Editors in search of reviewers are advised to consider additional criteria such as whether a taxon is covered by one of the ICSP subcommittees.”
- 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. See further Minute 14.
- E.R.B. Moore has prepared a first draft of a list of countries that have regulations and restrictions on sampling, handling and distribution of genetic resources, including information relevant to type material collected in Brazil, P.R. China, Costa Rica, India, and South Africa. See further Minute 14.

Minute 5.

[Redacted]

Minute 6. Sponsorship of LPSN by the ICSP

[M. Göker, curator of LPSN, left the meeting and did not participate in the discussions on this topic]

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The Executive Board discussed a request received from LPSN (List of Prokaryotic Names with Standing in the Nomenclature), to continue the financial support given as an 'honorarium' by the ICSP, now that after LPSN has been taken over by the DSMZ. ... [Redacted] ... The importance of LPSN for the community of scientists dealing with microbial systematics and for authors and editors of the IJSEM is self-evident. LPSN has improved its mode of operation and updating and has greatly expanded its scope in the past year, so that it became an even more valuable resource than previously. With one abstention, all Executive Board members present agreed in principle to continue financial support of LPSN as an honorarium or a donation. This will help LPSN to cover part of its operation costs and will ensure that LPSN will remain a free resource for the entire scientific community. In return, LPSN will duly acknowledge the support received from the ICSP. However, as the terms of the new publishing agreement of the ICSP with the Microbiology Society and IUMS are not finalized, it is not possible presently to make a specific commitment. This will be revisited once the terms of the publishing agreement are agreed.

[M. Göker rejoined the meeting and was informed of the above decisions.]

Minute 7. IJSEM and culture collection documents and MTAs with restrictions

- E.R.B. Moore had received a message from M.E. Trujillo on August 2nd, suggesting that the ICSP may appoint one or more experts to assist IJSEM editors to deal with problematic issues relating to culture collection documents and restrictive MTAs, as handling editors are not always sure whether type strains can be made available without restrictions. The Executive Board considered this a good idea and R. Hahnke agreed to contribute expertise to this new resource. E.R.B. Moore will draft a letter to be sent to the members of the ICSP, JC members, chairs of subcommittees, and potential candidates outside the ICSP membership, to identify additional experts who can assist IJSEM editors to deal with issues relating to culture collection documents and MTAs, and he will inform M.E. Trujillo of the discussions held.

Minute 8. Update from the Judicial Commission

M. Göker reported that the JC has nearly finalized voting on nine opinions based on twelve requests, some of which overlap. These opinions will be written up in a single document to be sent by the Executive Secretary, for communication to the voting members of the ICSP for approval in accordance with Article 8 (d) of the Statutes of the ICSP, and then to be published in the IJSEM.

Minute 9. Update from Publications Committee

E.R.B. Moore reported that Gaynor Redvers-Mutton of the Microbiology Society has sent a reminder to Rob Samson of the IUMS of the need to obtain a response from IUMS regarding the draft publication agreement for the IJSEM that is in preparation. No reply was yet received.

Minute 10. Update from IJSEM

On 10th September, the annual editorial board meeting of the IJSEM will be held (online). The

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ICSP will be represented by E.R.B. Moore and by ICSP members who serve on the editorial board.

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

A. Oren reported that M. Göker has posted numerous comments on the Slack platform to the proposed revision of the General Considerations, Principles and Rules of the ICNP. M. Göker drew attention to the new version of Rule 30 (4) proposed by the editorial board, so that organisms deposited in a manner [that] restricts access such as safe deposits, strains with attached MTAs, strains deposited for current patent purposes, or those governed by contractual agreements may not serve as type strains. Specifically, the wording about MTAs may prove problematic as some form of MTA is used by most culture collections. He invited all members of the Executive Board to study the proposed new version of Rule 30 (4) and other parts of Rule 30, and post their comments on the Slack platform.

A. Oren has posted replies to the comments on Appendix 9 received from M.J. Pallen and has uploaded a new version of the proposed update of the orthography appendix.

Minute 12. Update on Subcommittees

The ICSP Subcommittee on the taxonomy of *Leptospiraceae* has published the Minutes of the closed meeting, 10 July 2019, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (<https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.005002>).

An online meeting of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Phototrophic Bacteria started on 9 August and is in progress. A. Oren, who participated as a member of this subcommittee, reported that J. Overmann will replace J.F. Imhoff as chair, and that A. Wilmotte was re-elected as secretary.

Minute 13. Treasurer's update

P. Nielsen reported by email that he now got access to the NatWest accounts via Bankline, so that any outstanding payments can now be made. E.R.B. Moore needs to finalise his access with assistance from P. Nielsen and I. Sutcliffe.

Minute 14. Update from the working group on type strain accessibility

The working group consists of Y. Shouche, E.R.B. Moore, R. Hahnke, F. Venter, and M. da Silva. E.R.B. Moore has invited G.M. Garrity to join, but no clear response was yet received.

E.R.B. Moore has prepared a first draft of a list of countries that have regulations and restrictions on sampling, handling and distribution of genetic resources, including information relevant to type material collected in Brazil, P.R. China, Costa Rica, India, and South Africa. This list was sent to I.C. Sutcliffe, A. Oren and M.E. Trujillo. E.R.B. Moore will further work on this list and send it to all members of the Executive Board for comments.

E.R.B. Moore will give a talk at the online meeting of ECCO (European Culture Collections'

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Organization) in July 2022 on culture collection documents and MTAs for type strains. This will provide an opportunity to gain feedback on whether restrictive MTAs are widely used.

Minute 15. Working group on Education & Outreach

S.L.W. On reported that he had submitted the abstract entitled “The ICSP – past, present and future” to the meeting of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in November.

R. Hahnke reported that thus far, eight replies were received to the message sent by Y. Shouche, S.L.W. On, and R. Hahnke to colleagues involved in prokaryotic taxonomy, encouraging them to get involved in ICSP-related activities. He plans to distribute the message to a broader list of addressees.

Closing matters

Minute 16. Other business

I.C. Sutcliffe announced that he had provisionally accepted an invitation from the organizers of the 2022 conference of the Microbiology Society to give a lecture in a session on phylogenomics, presenting an overview of the importance of the ICNP for non-taxonomists.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday September 30th, 9 am UK time**

Minute 17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11.05.

Minutes prepared by A. Oren – 28 August 2021

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Action points:

- A. Oren, to forward the redacted minutes of the 29st 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.
- E.R.B. Moore, to post the redacted minutes of the 1st July 2021 Executive Board meeting on the ICSP website.
- E.R.B. Moore, to finalize the process to obtain access to the NatWest Bank online banking system.
- 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 September.

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- S.L.W. On, to contact the chairs and secretaries 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.
- E.R.B. Moore, to forward to A. Oren the message he had received from M.E. Trujillo on August 2nd, suggesting the appointment of one or more experts to assist IJSEM editors to deal with issues relating to culture collection documents and MTAs.
- E.R.B. Moore, to inform M.E. Trujillo of the discussions held following her suggestion to appoint one or more experts to assist IJSEM editors to deal with issues relating to culture collection documents and MTAs.
- E.R.B. Moore, to draft a letter to be sent to the members of the ICSP, JC, chairs of subcommittees, and potential candidates outside the ICSP membership, to identify experts who can assist IJSEM editors to deal with issues relating to culture collection documents and MTAs.
- 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.
- All members of the Executive Board, to study the proposed revision of Rule 30 of the ICNP and post their comments on the Slack platform.