

THE MICROBIAL TAXONOMIST

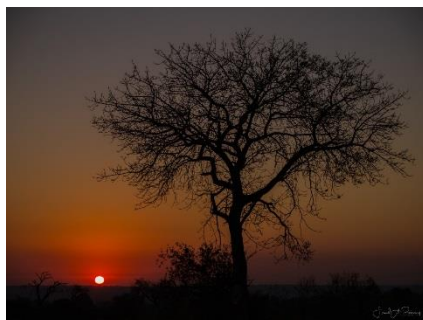
A Newsletter Published by the Bergey's Manual Trust

Welcome from the Chair of Bergey's Manual Trust

BMSAB continues to become a more complete and up to date reference publication with each quarterly release of new articles. The work of authors, handling editors, reviewers and the Wiley staff processing is a complex web involving knowledge, collaboration and communication. All contributing to making BMSAB the unique and gold standard publication on microbial systematics.

There are now ~2000 articles available online with around 150 new articles added in the past year. About one half of the new articles have been on taxa of the domain Archaea which has not been updated or added to in

nearly 20 years and so bringing the Archaea up to date.



The user base of BMSAB is extensive and diverse coming from universities, research institutes and industry in over 20 countries. As many as 12,000 users visit the site each month, of these 9,000 are unique visitors and these visits result in up to 26,000 abstract views.

Microbial systematics is a rapidly moving field and so the challenge for Bergey's Manual Trust is bringing BMSAB up to date and continuing to keep it

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current. At a recent meeting of the Trustees and the Wiley Team many ideas were discussed and moving forward we plan to increase the number of articles commissioned and target articles on recently described taxa that the original authors are still involved with. A new round of commissioning will be initiated in early 2018.

It has been encouraging to see that many of the BMSAB authors are now including genome sequence data in their articles. Such data greatly contributes to efforts to develop a new taxonomic outline that will

BISMis 2018 – Capturing species diversity: Progress and opportunities - FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

international conference
BISMis
8 - 11 April 2018
Valley Lodge
MAGALIESBURG
South Africa

Microbial Systematics Indaba

<https://www.bismis.co.za/>

include whole genome sequence comparisons.

Bergey's Manual Trust continues to support other activities in the microbial systematics community including supporting relevant sessions and symposia at international meetings and providing awards to students and researchers.

The Trustees are looking forward to seeing many of you at the BISMIS-2018 meeting in South



Africa. Having vacationed in South Africa many times I can

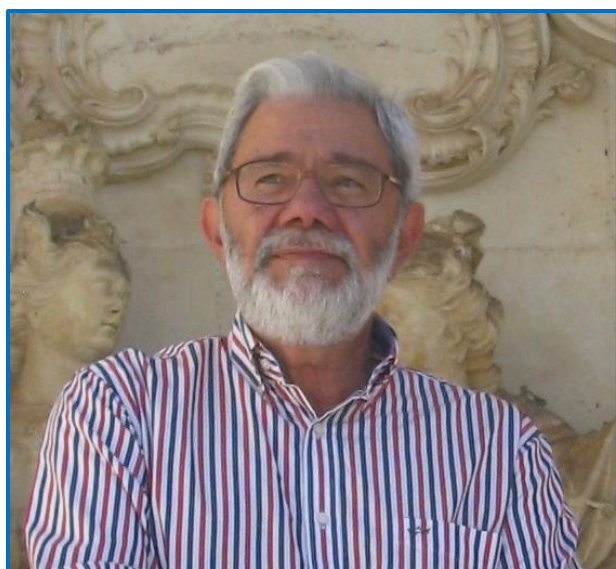
assure you it is a wonderful place to visit and I would encourage you to see some of its diverse culture as well as its wonderful fauna and flora before or after the meeting.

I am always interested in your feedback on BMSAB or other activities of the Trust, feel free to contact me.

Fred A. Rainey, Chair BMT
farainey@gmail.com

[Photos courtesy of F.A. Rainey]

Milton Costa appreciation



Milton da Costa from the University of Coimbra and the delegate of the Portuguese Society of Microbiology recently completed his term as the Chair of the International Committee on the Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP). He served as the Chair in the 3 years between the ICSP plenary

in Montreal in 2014 and the plenary in Valencia in 2017. During his term, he proposed and facilitated many important initiatives to advance microbial systematics through the ICSP. These included the negotiation of a new contract between ICPS and the Microbiology Society for the publication of the International Journal of Systematics and Evolutionary Microbiology, the revision of the ICSP statutes, the selection and approval of a new Editor and several Associate Editors for IJSEM, the organization of an ICSP sponsored symposium at the FEMS meeting in Valencia as well as the ICSP plenary in July 2017. During Milton's term as Chair, the ICSP-Executive Board held online meetings every month which allowed for the ICSP to be active between the triennial plenary sessions. His innovations and his hard work were a valuable asset to ICSP, greatly furthering the cause of microbial systematics.

Fred A. Rainey, Chair BMT
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INTERVIEWS

Martha Trujillo recently appointed as Editor in Chief of IJSEM by ICSP



Martha E. Trujillo is a Professor of Microbiology at the University of Salamanca (Spain) and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. She obtained her PhD in Microbial Systematics at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK). Following this time, she held a postdoctoral research post at Novartis, A.G. in the Microbiology Department, in Basel, Switzerland. Upon her return to Spain, she joined *Instituto Biomar*, S.A. as research group leader for the Marine Fungi Screening Programme Laboratory. In 2002, she joined the University of Salamanca in the Department of Microbiology and Genetics where she leads the research group *Microbial Ecology and Biotechnology*. Her main research areas are actinobacterial systematics and microbial ecology with special interest in plant-actinobacteria interactions, bacterial communities that inhabit deteriorated stone monuments, and arid environments. She has contributed to the areas of ecology and systematics with 120 publications and has supervised 6 PhD students.

Professor Trujillo has served as associate editor for several scientific journals including *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology* which she joined in 2009. She is the current President of the Bergey's International

Society for Microbial Systematics and a member of the Bergey's Manual Trust, where she also serves as editor for *Bergey's Manual of Archaea and Bacteria*. In 2017, she was elected a co-opted member to serve on the *International Committee on the Systematics of Prokaryotes*.

Dear Prof. Trujillo,

Congratulations on your appointment as Editor in Chief of IJSEM by the ICSP.

In your view, what is the role of the IJSEM in the microbial systematics research community?

The journal is an important communication tool for scientists all over the world. It is the main site where the description of new taxa are reported and registered, especially Bacteria and Archaea. It is also the official journal for the validation of new species names. This means a wealth of information in a single journal for those interested or working in microbial systematics.

Should readers and authors expect any changes in the IJSEM in the near future?

The large number of taxa being described in combination with the new technologies used for microbial diversity studies call for changes. The Editorial Board recently held a discussion regarding the current situation and in which direction should the journal evolve to accommodate these changes.

At the recent FEMS meeting held in Valencia, the role of genome sequences in the current state of prokaryotic systematics was discussed. During this session, several comments were made about "how boring" and "uninformative" taxonomic descriptions are, especially since most of these studies follow the formula "single strain description". Therefore, it is clear that the time to revisit the discipline is necessary, and this includes the IJSEM journal.

Are there specific challenges facing the journal?

In my view, one of the main challenges that the journal face is the number of manuscripts submitted and accepted for publication. During the last 5-6 years, the average number of manuscripts submitted is around 1200-1300. The journal moved from a quarterly, to a bimonthly, to a monthly publication in order to cope with the large number of manuscripts accepted for publication. This change greatly affected the impact factor of the journal.

These figures show that although the scientific community working in this area is relatively small compared to the immense microbial diversity that await to be discovered and described, the journal may be reaching its full capacity for accommodating such a large number of new descriptions. While we are not the only journal publishing these types of papers, we are the journal publishing the highest number of taxonomic descriptions.

We also need to consider whether the current format is sustainable. At present the journal can be accessed on-line but it is still produced on printed format.

Editors often complain that it is difficult to find reviewers for manuscripts. Why is reviewing important for a journal?

We have 17 editors on the board for an average of approximately 1200-1300 manuscripts per year. This means that the workload is very heavy and that an important number of hours must be dedicated to handle and revise a paper before its publication. One must remember that this work is voluntary, editors do not receive any remuneration, as many colleagues believe. Editors must compatibilize their editorial responsibilities with the own work (e.g. teaching, research, etc.). Therefore, the participation of the scientific community is crucial to help review the information submitted. In addition, peer review as an exercise also assures transparency and integrity in the publication of a manuscript.

Unfortunately, many colleagues when asked to review papers are sometimes too busy to accept our invitations and finding reviewers can sometimes turn out to be a real challenge. During a conversation, a colleague commented some weeks ago that an editor held the record of inviting 30 reviewers before he could finally receive a positive reply (fortunately this was not a story involving IJSEM!)

While it is true that we are all very busy with our day to day work, I would also like to remind colleagues that when they submit a paper, other researchers commit their time to review their work. Therefore, I see this as mutual service between authors and reviewers. We have all been authors and reviewers at some point in our professional careers.

While authors and editors find reviews helpful, is there any benefit for the reviewers?

Reviewers receive privileged information when they agree to review a manuscript, this means they have the opportunity to see some else's work before the rest of the scientific community. They also have the opportunity to express their opinion and make recommendations to the authors. I also believe that reviewing manuscripts is also a service to the rest of the scientific community that, if all participate, benefits everyone.

Do editors take into consideration an author's contribution as a reviewer when deciding whether or not to accept a paper?

I do not think so, at least this is not the way I make decisions on manuscripts. Papers are accepted based on scientific grounds regardless of whom the authors are. While each editor has their own working "method", there are some aspects followed by all members of the board. I have been an associated editor since 2009, and as far as I can remember, I cannot recall a case where a paper had been accepted because the author was an active reviewer.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers?

I would simply like to add that I take on this responsibility with great motivation and hoping that, with the support of the Editorial Board and taxonomists in general, we will be able to provide a journal worth reading.

Iain Sutcliffe recently elected Chair of the International Committee for Systematics of Prokaryotes



Biography

I received my undergraduate degree and PhD from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. The latter awarded in 1985 was supervised by Dr Norman Shaw, a pioneer in the use of bacterial lipids for chemotaxonomy. Subsequent post-doctoral research in Newcastle included a Wellcome Trust Fellowship in Taxonomy, studying actinomycete lipoglycans as chemotaxonomic markers. After a Senior Lectureship at the University of Sunderland (1996-2004), I moved to Northumbria University, becoming Chair of Microbiology in 2007. My research investigates the nature, biosynthesis and roles of membrane-anchored macromolecules within the cell envelopes of bacteria. Defining the nature and distribution of these macromolecules is of importance for understanding microbial

During the various presentations of well-known taxonomists a comment caught my attention and this was related as to how “boring” descriptions of taxa are. We seem to be applying the same “recipe” for the description of new microorganism (especially prokaryotes) for a long time, and I think both the scientific community and the new discoveries are calling for changes.

systematics, evolution and bacterium-environment interactions. Currently I am the Editor-in-Chief of *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek* and President Elect of the Bergey's International Society for Systematics of Prokaryotes (BISMIS).

Congratulations on your election as Chair of the ICSP.

Thank you, I look forward to the challenge of the next three years!

What is the ICSP and who are its members?

The International Committee for Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP) is a committee of the Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology Division of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS). The officers of the ICSP Executive Board are elected at the plenary meeting of the ICSP, held every three years – I have just been elected Chair at the plenary meeting in Valencia. The ICSP is also the parent organization for the Judicial Commission, which has 12 elected members. More details are on our website <http://www.the-icsp.org/>

What is the role of the ICSP in the microbial systematics research community?

The primary function of ICSP is to ensure that the rules of nomenclature, as defined in the [International Code for Nomenclature of the Prokaryotes](#) (“the Code”), are followed by microbial taxonomists and systematists.

Therefore, a significant part of this role is to ensure that the Code itself is readily available and fit for purpose. The current “[2008 revision](#)” is available online via the IJSEM. The [International Journal of](#)

[Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology \(IJSEM\)](#) is published on behalf of the ICSP by the Microbiology Society: another important role of the ICSP is to ensure that the [Validation Lists](#) are published in IJSEM in accordance with the requirements of the Code.

The Judicial Commission evaluates Requests for an Opinion on taxonomic matters, along with proposed revisions to the text of the Code. ICSP receives all Opinions issued by the Judicial Commission and authorizes their publication in IJSEM. Also, the recommendations of the Judicial Commission regarding changes to the wording of the Code are voted on the members of the ICSP.

In addition, the ICSP has [subcommittees](#) which discuss matters related to the nomenclature of specific microbial taxa, including defining minimal standards for description of specific taxa.

Being Chair of this important committee seems like a lot of work. Why do you want to do it?

It will indeed be a lot of work, but I want to do it as I think it is vitally important that the ICSP is an active and visible organization, promoting the relevance and value of the Code and maintaining the Code as a ‘living document’.

More broadly, I have a strong commitment to promoting systematics as a fundamentally important discipline, not just to taxonomists and systematists, but as an underpinning for the whole community of microbiological researchers.

Are there any specific opportunities or challenges facing the ICSP in the near future?

I think there are currently two overlapping areas of immediate challenge which can be broadly described as *procedural* and *scientific*.

The procedural challenges include ensuring that the Code is kept ‘fit for purpose’ and that a backlog of proposed textual revisions and Requests for an Opinion are addressed promptly. It is notable that ‘latest’ version of the Code is nearly a decade old now.

The scientific challenge is ensuring that the nomenclatural framework enshrined in the Code is able to cope with our expanded view of the diversity of the microbial world: we have, in the past 150 years, validly named less than 20,000 prokaryote species and yet a conservative estimate of microbial diversity indicates that there are likely more than 10 million prokaryote species in nature, the vast majority of which are as yet uncultivated! The ICSP has to ensure that the nomenclatural framework is flexible enough to be able to cope with the future description and naming of this massive diversity.

How are delegates to the ICSP chosen? If I want to become a delegate, what should I do?

The members of the ICSP are delegates nominated by the IUMS Member Societies (for example, I am the Microbiology Society delegate).

We are keen to ensure that the membership of the ICSP is as broad and active as possible, so, if you are a member of an IUMS member society, you can contact the Council/Executive of that society and ask them to nominate you – we can receive nominations at any time.

This process is outlined in the [ICSP Statutes](#) (I am happy to advise interested microbiologists on how to go about this).

Is there any way for a student or other scientist who is not a delegate help or work with the ICSP?

If your society has already delegated a member of the ICSP, it should be noted that we have the ability to co-opt additional members to assist with our work. If you wish to make a case for co-option onto the ICSP, please contact me iain.sutcliffe@unn.ac.uk to discuss this.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers?

I think it important to correct the common misconception that there are fixed rules for how taxonomy and systematics are conducted. This is simply not true: there are only rules for nomenclature i.e. those specified in the Code.



Dr. Aharon Oren Retirement as Editor-in- Chief of IJSEM

Xue-Wei Xu

Dr. Aharon Oren has been serving as Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology* (IJSEM) for the last five years. Prior to his assignment as Editor-in-Chief on August 21, 2012, he has functioned as Executive Secretary/Treasurer and as a past Chairman of *International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes*. During his tenure in the IJSEM, Dr. Oren served the science community with dedication, commitment and diligence while bringing a wealth of knowledge that has tremendously improved the perspectives and worldwide impact of the journal. He has guided the journal to be one of the leading journals in the microbiology and taxonomy research fields with high reputation and consolidated impact.

Dr. Oren has enhanced the editorial board of the IJSEM to be more international, professional and younger in outlook by supporting the editors, especially the young editors from around the world, and obtaining high quality reviews. I still remember the training that he provided to new editors by sincerely introducing his experiences that would accelerate adjustment to the editorial work. To my perspectives, he will be known as one of the most productive Editor-in-Chiefs as well as Nomenclature Reviewer and List Editors for the days to come. He has also organized a variety of scientific conferences and workshops, and published a large number of books and papers, promoting the communication between microbial taxonomists.

Dr. Oren has been devoted to serving the journal to ensure it carved out a niche globally for itself in the minds of microbiologists. The prokaryote taxonomy research has been influenced and enhanced, particularly in East Asia, including China, South Korea and Japan, as the international repute of the journal is rising. The annual IJSEM editorial board meeting for the year 2015 was held in Hangzhou, China. The said meeting benefited many young Chinese scholars through communication with professionals from the western countries, where microbiology research began. We will very

much miss Dr. Oren's significant contributions to the journal and his intensity and joy for taxonomy research.

As one of the associate editors of the IJSEM, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Oren for the time, effort and enthusiasm that he has put into the development of the journal. It was a pleasure and a privilege working with him. We are very pleased that Dr. Oren will continue to be involved with the journal in the capacity of Nomenclature Reviewer and List Editor of the editorial board. We will certainly maintain the same high standards and professionalism that our journal has achieved.

I am pleased to welcome Professor Martha E. Trujillo from the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, who has been appointed to take over as Editor-in-Chief commencing with this issue.

Lastly, we would also like to extend our warmest appreciation to Dr. Oren for his great contributions to the journal both as editor and author.

Acknowledgement:

I would like to thank two professors, who have been working with Dr. Aharon Oren as reviewers of the IJSEM, Dr. Wen-Jun Li from Sun Yat-Sen University and Dr. Heng-Lin Cui from Jiangsu University for giving their invaluable suggestions to this letter.

Nominations sought for The Bergey Medal

The Bergey Medal is awarded in recognition of outstanding and life-long contributions to the field of systematics of Bacteria and Archaea. Nominations may be submitted at any time to the Bergey's editorial office at bergeys@uga.edu. Nominations should include a cover letter summarizing the candidate's qualifications, the significance of their contributions to the systematics of prokaryotes, and their curriculum vitae.



Report on the meeting of Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics in Pune, India, 12 – 15 September 2016

BISMIS 2016 was held in the city of Pune, the cultural capital of the state of Maharashtra, India, at the Microbial Culture Collection (MCC) during the region's most revered festival, the 10-day *Ganeshotsav*. With the theme of 'Microbial Systematics and Metagenomics', the meeting was focused on the use of genomic/enviro-genomic data for the description of novel taxa. It was attended by 86 registered participants from 15 different countries. Since this was the first ever meeting of the BISMIS in India, the meeting generated a huge interest among Indian researchers, who formed the largest contingent of participants. The three and half daylong meeting comprised key events and scientific sessions.

Opening Ceremony

The meeting began with a traditional *Hindu* welcome of all the participants to MCC (now

known as the National Centre for Microbial Resource, NCMR). This was followed by a formal welcome of all participants by the BISMIS president, Brian Austin, followed by an overview of things to follow by the Convener of the meeting, Kamlesh Jangid. A brief presentation on the status of microbial systematics in India was then delivered by Yogesh Shouche, the Co-Chair of the Organizing committee.



With the objective of reaching out to young researchers in this field, a collection of chapters was put forth leading to the genesis of "BISMIS 2016 - a *souvenir*". These were written by the

expert speakers specifically for the students and faculty in academia on topics that they would benefit most from and those that would generate the curiosity in these young minds and motivate them to learn more about the subject. The *Souvenir* was released by Brian Austin, Peter Kämpfer and Yogesh Shouche. The *Souvenir* will act as a ready reference of the status of this field for students and faculty alike who could not attend the meeting.

This was followed by the Opening Address on “Taxonomy of Prokaryotes - New Challenges in a Global World” by Peter Kämpfer. The discussion following the opening address set the stage for a very successful meeting over the next three days. The opening address was followed by the Welcome mixer for all participants, sponsors and volunteers at the Melange, a rooftop lounge at the Hotel where nearly all BISMIS participants were staying. At the mixer, all delegates were greeted with drinks, bollywood music and a live cricket telecast on the big screen in the background along with a sampling of delicious Indian cuisine.

Scientific Sessions

A total of six scientific sessions were held during the meeting. With two sessions held on each day, a total of eight invited keynote talks and 22 oral presentations were delivered.

Session 1 - Genomic/Metagenomic Description of Novel Taxa

- Keynote 1 - Use of Genome Sequence Data in Bacterial Taxonomy: Perspectives from Large Scale Analysis by Jongsik Chun
- Keynote 2 - Cultivation-Independent Genomics Approaches and Their Relevance to Microbial Taxonomy by Brian Hedlund

In addition to the two keynotes, there were seven oral presentations by David Arahall, Marike Palmer, Martha Trujillo, Maria Figueras, Jeffrey Newman, Boris Vinatzer and Kamlesh Jangid. These talks focused on genomic approaches to resolve the taxonomy of difficult taxa, proposal of a single

phylogenomic metric for species identification, development of a prototype for genome-based description of taxa and the development of new algorithms for the comparison of microbial communities.

Session 2 - Cultures and Culturing of As-Yet-Uncultivated Microbes

- Keynote 3 - Community Wide Insights into Stressed Niches Using Metagenomic Approach by Rup Lal

The keynote talk was followed by two oral presentations by Monali Rahalkar and Om Prakash, who discussed the isolation of methanotrophs from rice fields and the preservation of ‘uncultured’ in the omics era, respectively.

Session 3 - The Role of Cultures in the Twenty First Century

- Keynote 4 - The Value of Cultures to Modern Microbiology by Brian Austin
- Keynote 5 - Megaculturomics of Microbial Biodiversity from Diverse Ecological Niches in India by Yogesh Shouche

The session also included four oral presentations by Svetlana Dedysh, Syed Dastager, S Krishnamurthy and Kumari Richa that were focussed on the taxonomic and biotechnological implications of the characterized diversity of various taxa.

Session 4 - Modern Approaches to Identification/Diagnosis

- Keynote 6 - Novel Insights into Microbial Systematics Based on Molecular Ecology and Comparative Genomics Approaches by Joerg Overman

Following the keynote, five oral presentations by Paul Lawson, Iain Sutcliffe, Pelin Yilmaz, Wen-Jun Li and Ch. Sasikala were delivered in this session. The topics included a focus on chemotaxonomy, attempts to unite the classification of *Bacteria* and *Archaea*, environmental adaptability of *Nocardia* and metabolomics for taxonomy.

Session 5 - Minimum Standards for the Description of New Taxa

- Keynote 7 - Modest Proposals for Unification of the Nomenclature of Cultured and Uncultured Prokaryotes by William Whitman

Two oral presentations by Stephanus Venter on 'Genealogical Concordance and Other Lines of Evidence for the Recognition and Description of Bacterial Species' and Paras Yadav on 'SMRT sequencing in bacterial genomics' followed the keynote address in this session.

Session 6 - Cyanobacterial Taxonomy

- Keynote 8 - The Current Status of Cyanobacterial Nomenclature Under the "Prokaryotic" and the "Botanical" Code by Aharon Oren

This session also included talks by Stefano Ventura and Prashant Singh, who keenly discussed a unified approach for the taxonomy of Cyanobacteria.

Poster Sessions

A total of 31 posters were displayed throughout the meeting. A team of experts, chaired by Aharon Oren evaluated the posters for the IJSEM 'Best Taxonomic Student Poster Prize' that was sponsored by the Microbiology Society.

Cultural Evening

A cultural program showcasing the mesmerizing classical music and diverse dance forms of India was held on the evening of the first full day at the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) campus. The event was followed by dinner and interactions between participants and NCCS faculty. The following evening was marked by an adventurous industry sponsored visit on the outskirts of Pune.

BISMiS Business Meeting

The BISMiS members meeting was held on 15 September 2016 in Raman Hall, at MCC, Pune. The meeting was open to all registered participants as well as BISMiS members. The proceedings began

with the BISMiS president, Brian Austin, thanking the organizers and all volunteers at MCC for hosting the meeting. This was followed by a discussion on increasing the member participation and to have regional contacts for increasing the memberships of the Society. The Treasurer, William 'Barny' Whitman presented the annual report on the financial status of BISMiS and expenditures incurred during various events throughout the year. Barny updated the members on the elections for the two officer positions in BISMiS. A proposal to hold the next meeting in 2018 in South Africa was put forward by Stephanus Venter that was welcomed by the attendees. The members meeting was adjourned after a thank you vote by the new President of BISMiS, Martha Trujillo.

Closing Ceremony

The proceedings of the closing ceremony were initiated by the Convener of the meeting, Kamlesh Jangid who presented a summary of the events of the previous three days. He began by thanking all who attended the meeting, Bergey's Manual Trust and other industrial sponsors, and a special thanks to all the volunteers for a very successful BISMiS 2016. Kamlesh also briefed the participants about the different proposals that were presented by various speakers to advance and improve microbial systematics. At the end, he reported that many of these ideas and the work presented at BISMiS 2016 would be released as a Special Issue of *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek*.

Aharon Oren awarded the IJSEM 'Best Taxonomic Student Poster Prize' to Jacob R Miller for his poster on "Two novel *Flavobacteriaceae* related to *Flavobacterium hydatis* and *Flavobacterium hibernum* isolated from a freshwater creek".

Barny Whitman then announced the names of the travel award recipients. The two International Travel Awards were given to Nisha Patel and Marike Palmer, while the Local Travel Award was

given to Anukool Vaishnav. These awards covered the travel, registration and hotel for the meeting days for each of the recipients.

The election of officers was held online prior to the meeting. Barny Whitman reported the results of the vote: Iain Sutcliffe, new President-Elect, and Kamlesh Jangid, Secretary.



On behalf of the Bergey's Manual Trust, Barny Whitman praised the hard work and effort taken by the organizers of BISMiS-2016 and presented the Bergey's T-shirt to Yogesh Shouche and Kamlesh Jangid.

Brian Austin was awarded the Bergey Medal for his outstanding and life-long contributions to the field of systematics of Bacteria and Archaea. The medal was presented by Svetlana Dedysh.

On behalf of the entire Society, the new President of BISMiS Martha Trujillo thanked the outgoing President Brian Austin for his services to the

Society and presented him with an engraved plaque in recognition of his hard work over the past two years.

The Microbial Taxonomist is a copyrighted publication of Bergey's Manual Trust. Current members of the Board of Trustees are:

Fred Rainey, Chair
Peter Kämpfer, Vice Chair
William Whitman, Treasurer
Martha Trujillo, Secretary
Svetlana Dedysh
Paul De Vos
Brian Hedlund

.....
William Whitman, Editor

Taiwo Akinyemi, Managing Editor

The award ceremony was followed by closing remarks from the Co-chairs of BISMiS 2016, Yogesh Shouche and Brian Austin, followed by a formal vote of thanks by Kamlesh Jangid. Everyone was then invited to attend BISMiS 2018 in South Africa.

Kamlesh Jangid
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Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics (BISMiS)

Full Membership Application Form

The Society invites applications for full membership from any person who is interested in the subject of microbial systematics and holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology or a related subject.

The annual dues are US\$ 50.00. Members are entitled to receive the online *Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics Bulletin*, which is published twice a year, and the online Bergey's Manual Trust Newsletter *The Microbial Taxonomist*. Full members will also receive a reduced registration fee for attendance of meetings. Memberships will be renewed on 1 January of each year. Unless indicated

otherwise, applications received before 1 November will be credited to the current year. Applications received after 1 November will become effective the following year. Return the form with payment to: **BISMiS, Bergey's Manual Trust, 527 Biological Sciences Building, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2605, USA**

Alternatively, please join BISMiS online using our secure credit card facility at www.bismis.net.

First name: _____ Initial(s): _____ Last name: _____

Title: _____ Email address: _____

Mailing address

Street: _____

City: _____

State and Zip/Post Code: _____

Country: _____

Phone no. incl. Country/Area Code: _____

Highest degree: _____ Year received: _____ Subject: _____

Degree-granting institution: _____

Current position: _____

Applicant's signature: _____

Membership dues

	US\$	Amount paid
Full member	50.00	_____
Full member two years	100.00	_____
Full member five years	200.00	_____
Lifetime	500.00	_____
Institutional	1000.00	_____

This is a renewal: Yes or No

Credit card no.: _____ Name on card: _____

Card type: _____ Expiry date (mm/yy): _____ Card ID (CVV2/CID) No.: _____

Checks in US\$ should be payable to: Treasurer, Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics.

Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics (BISMIS)

Student Membership Application Form

The Society invites applications for student membership from any person who is interested in the subject of microbial systematics and is enrolled in undergraduate or graduate studies in microbiology or a related subject.

The annual dues are US\$ 30.00. Student members are entitled to receive the online *Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics Bulletin*, which is published twice a year, and the online Bergey's Manual Trust Newsletter. *The Microbial Taxonomist*. Full members will also receive a reduced registration fee for attendance of meetings. Memberships will be renewed on 1 January

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Alternatively, please join BISMIS online using our secure credit card facility at www.bismis.net.

First name: _____ Initial(s): _____ Last name: _____

Title: _____ Email address: _____

Mailing address

Street: _____

City: _____

State and Zip/Post Code: _____

Country: _____

Phone no. incl. Country/Area Code: _____

Degree in progress (BS, BA, MS or PhD, etc): _____ Subject: _____

Degree-granting institution: _____

Head of Department*: _____

**Head must write a brief supporting letter verifying that the student is in their department, and it must accompany the application. For online applications, please send letter to the address above or by email to bergeys@uga.edu.*

Applicant's signature: _____

Membership dues

Student member US\$ 30.00

Student member two years US\$ 60.00

This is a renewal: Yes or No

Amount paid

Credit card no.: _____ Name on card: _____

Card type: _____ Expiry date (mm/yy): _____ Card ID (CVV2/CID) No.: _____

Checks in US\$ should be payable to: Treasurer, Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics.