

Constitution of the International Research Programme on Comparative Mycoplasmaology (IRPCM)

Amended on September 19, 2023

ARTICLE I. NAME

SECTION 1

The name of the Programme shall be "International Research Programme on Comparative Mycoplasmaology" (IRPCM) and the Programme shall be a permanent standing committee of the International Organization for Mycoplasmaology (IOM).

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVE

SECTION 1

The objective of the Programme is to advance and disseminate knowledge on all aspects of mycoplasmas, a term that refers to all members of the class Mollicutes. In furtherance of this objective, the Programme shall aim to promote individual and collaborative studies, facilitate effective exchange of scientific information, and collaborate with other relevant organizations.

SECTION 2

The objective shall be achieved by the scientific work of, and consultation among, the IRPCM Board Members and Team Members, as well as through consultation, advice, and recommendations from the IOM Board of Directors. The IOM Board of Directors shall also have the prerogative of requesting special scientific studies to the Programme.

SECTION 3

The Programme shall work entirely towards the above charitable objective. The IRPCM Board Members or Team Members shall not be entitled during membership or in the event of winding up of the Programme to any payment or transfer direct or indirect of any of the monies or properties of the Programme by way of dividend, gift, bonus, or otherwise howsoever by way of profit. All assets remaining after settlement of outstanding debts shall on dissolution be transferred to the IOM.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1

All members of the Programme shall be members of the IOM. Certain individuals may be exempt from this requirement on the recommendation of the IRPCM Board and subject to approval by the IOM Chairperson.

SECTION 2

- A. The Programme shall be run by a Board consist of:
 - (i) A Chairperson who is appointed for each session. A session is defined as the period between one series of Consultations of the Board and the next with the IOM Board of Directors, normally between two IOM Congresses (i.e., a period of two years). The Chairperson shall be appointed from among existing or former IRPCM Board Members by the IOM Board of Directors, taking into consideration the

recommendation of the IRPCM Board. The Chairperson of the Programme shall be an *ex officio* member of the IOM Board of Directors. A Chairperson may stand for re-election for a maximum of two consecutive sessions.

- (ii) A Vice-Chairperson shall be nominated by the Chairperson and approved by the IRPCM Board for each session. The same term limit for the Chairperson applies.
 - (iii) The immediate past Chairperson.
 - (iv) The Team Leaders, who normally serve for two consecutive sessions. Under special circumstances and subject to approval of the IRPCM Board, a Team Leader may extend his or her service beyond the aforementioned term limit.
 - (v) A maximum of six Advisory Members, who shall be selected by existing Board Members, taking into consideration the field of expertise and the geographical situation of their home country. Advisory Members are expected to serve for two consecutive sessions, with staggered rotation of appointments so that three new Advisory Members may be appointed at the beginning of each session.
 - (vi) The Information Officer, who shall be the same person appointed as the IOM Information Officer.
 - (vii) The Treasurer, who shall be the same person appointed as the IOM Treasurer.
 - (viii) A representative of the IOM selected by the IOM Chairperson.
 - (ix) The Chairperson of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP) Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Mollicutes, or a designated member of the Subcommittee, as an *ex officio* member.
 - (x) The Director of any existing IOM/IRPCM Mycoplasma Reference Centre, or a designated representative, as an *ex officio* member, by invitation, subject to majority vote of the Board.
 - (xi) Representatives of other official international agencies with an interest in mycoplasmology, as *ex officio* members, by invitation, subject to majority vote of the Board.
- B. The Board shall have the power to co-opt additional Board Members.
- C. The Board shall arrange Board Meetings in conjunction with IOM Congresses. Additional Board Meetings may be arranged at the discretion of the Chairperson or at the request of at least one-third of the Board Members.
- D. A quorum at a Board Meeting shall be half of the membership. No elections may be held or policy decisions made at a Board Meeting unless a quorum is present.
- E. Policy decisions may be made between Board Meetings provided the new policy is agreed by at least two-thirds of the Board and provided the new policy does not affect the Constitution of the Programme.
- F. The Board shall execute all the powers and perform all duties for which the Programme has been established and shall have full powers to do all things as may be incidental or conducive to the objects of the Programme.
- G. The Board shall have and may exercise and perform the following powers and duties:
- (i) Convene meetings of the Board and of Team Members.
 - (ii) Appoint special committees.
 - (iii) Issue a publication following each meeting of the Board and any other publications that have a bearing on the objective of the Programme. Each publication shall have the written approval of the Chairperson. For distribution of said publications beyond the Programme participants, approval by the IOM Board of Directors is required.

- (iv) Make policy decisions on the way the monies of the Programme are to be expended.
 - (v) Co-opt when there is a vacancy on the Board.
- H. The Programme shall consist of Working Teams involved with the study of particular groups of mollicutes or related topics. The number of Teams and their subject matter shall be determined by the Board, reviewed at each Consultation, and modified as needed to meet the goals of the Programme and interests of its members. Membership in any Team is open to all IOM members by application to the Team Leader. Team Leaders may also solicit membership on their Teams for identified persons as appropriate. All announced Team Meetings that are held during IOM Congresses may be attended by any congress attendee, regardless of specific Team membership status.

SECTION 3

- A. The Chairperson is responsible for:
- (i) Compiling, editing and producing the biennial report.
 - (ii) Preparing the agenda for Board Meetings.
 - (iii) Representing the Programme on the IOM Board and the ICSP Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Mollicutes.
 - (iv) Presiding at the Board Meeting and Open Meeting held in association with IOM Congresses.
 - (v) Overseeing the other responsibilities of the Board with respect to appointing new members, committees, and making financial decisions.
- B. The Vice-Chairperson is responsible for:
- (i) Recording the minutes of Board meetings and summaries of them for publication in the IOM Newsletter.
 - (ii) Collecting and maintaining the lists of Board and Team memberships for the IRPCM website and publication in the IOM Newsletter.
 - (iii) Arranging all IRPCM-related Board and Team Meeting schedules during the IOM Congresses in cooperation with the local organizing committee.
 - (iv) Handling matters pertaining to the IRPCM constitution.
 - (v) Working with the Information Officer to maintain and update the IRPCM website as needed.
- C. The IOM Treasurer also serves as Treasurer for the IRPCM. The Treasurer is responsible for:
- (i) Administering and maintaining accounts of the Programme's funds, including paying of any expenses incurred.
 - (ii) Providing a financial report at each Board Meeting.
- D. Advisory Members are responsible for:
- (i) Attending and actively participating in regularly scheduled Board Meetings.
 - (ii) Advising the Board on policy matters as needed.
 - (iii) Accepting appointments to chair special committees or oversee projects as needed when requested by the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson.
- E. The Information Officer is responsible for maintaining the website and coordinating the flow of information for the organization, including posting announcements, updates to the constitution, and other activities as directed by the IRPCM Board.
- F. Team Leaders are responsible for:
- (i) Maintaining communication with Team Members.

- (ii) Compiling a Team Report and submit to the Chairperson for each IOM Congress or on special request of the Chairperson.
- (iii) Identifying and recruiting new Team Members as needed.
- (iv) Maintaining an up-to-date listing of active Team Members who attend regularly scheduled Team Meeting and/or provide regular contributions to Team Reports.
- (v) Presiding at regularly scheduled Team Meetings.
- (vi) Formulating Team Goals for each session with input from Team Members.
- (vii) Identifying individuals for consideration of appointment to Board positions, including the successor once an individual's term expires or he/she resigns.

ARTICLE IV. FINANCE

SECTION 1

Funds for the work of the Programme shall be sought by joint application of the Chairperson of IOM and the Chairperson of the Programme. Any funds so obtained shall be received initially by the IOM Treasurer and shall be earmarked specifically for the Programme. The Programme's funds shall be administered by the IOM Treasurer, who shall keep accounts of all monies received and expended on the work of the Programme. These Programme funds should be given a separate accounting from IOM monies. The Chairperson of the Programme has the power to request expenditure of designated Programme funds from the IOM treasurer.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1

- A. The Constitution may be amended at a Board Meeting or by a ballot, providing proposed changes receive approval of two-thirds of those Board Members present at the meeting or two thirds of the Board Membership voting by mail. Any such proposed amendment(s) shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Programme at least two months before a scheduled Board Meeting or mail ballot deadline, and must be supported by at least three Board Members. It shall be incumbent on the Chairperson to ensure that any proposed amendments are sent out to Board Members at least one month before the Board Meeting or one month before a deadline established for receipt of mail ballots.
- B. No amendment shall be made to the constitution which will cause the Programme to cease to be a charity of law.