Retirement of Professor Jean Paul Euzéby as List Editor

This issue contains the last ‘Validation List’ (no. 152) and the last ‘List of Changes in Taxonomic Opinion’ (no. 18) prepared by Jean-Paul Euzéby. Professor Euzéby’s last ‘Notification List’, to include names cited in the June issue, will be published in the September issue of our journal. We, the undersigned, will jointly take over the job of List Editors, responsible for the continuation of the monthly ‘Notification Lists’, the bimonthly ‘Validation Lists’ and the periodically published ‘Lists of Changes in Taxonomic Opinion’.

When Jean Euzéby notified us a year ago that he wished to retire after a long service to the journal and to the international community of microbiologists, we realized that this concludes a ten-year period, starting in May 2003, in which the reporting of the different lists, as based on the rules of the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes, was advanced to the highest possible level. There are very few scholars who possess both a profound knowledge of Latin and Greek and an in-depth understanding of the microbial world. Being a professor at the Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse, France, as well as a linguist, Jean is eminently qualified to establish order in nomenclature matters and orthography. Jointly with Hans Trüper he prepared ‘Appendix 9: orthography’ to the Code [Int J Syst Evol Microbiol 59 (2009) 2107–2113].

Jean also served as a nomenclature reviewer for our journal, checking all proposed names of new taxa, suggesting corrections where necessary, and interacting with authors and editors to find the orthographically correct and most elegant solutions to all nomenclature problems. Authors also often consulted him prior to the submission of their manuscripts. When asked for nomenclature advice, he generally replied within a few hours, often even within minutes. Jean has also contributed many articles to our journal: papers on etymology, requests for taxonomic opinions to the Judicial Commission of the ICSP, issues relating to the Code, and others.

In March 1997, Jean launched the internet site now known as LPSN – List of Prokaryotic Names with Standing in Nomenclature [Euzéby, List of bacterial names with standing in nomenclature: a folder available on the internet, Int J Syst Bacteriol 47 (1997) 590–592]. This internet site (http://www.bacterio.cict.fr/) contains a wealth of information on prokaryote nomenclature, and it is updated monthly with the publication of the latest issue of the IJSEM. Fortunately, the updating of this site, the most complete and reliable resource of nomenclature information existing, will be continued by others after Jean’s retirement.

Jean did all this work on a voluntary basis. For his contribution and service to the community of microbiologists, he received in 2005 the Bergey’s Award of the Bergey’s Manual Trust.

We now take the opportunity to thank Jean for all his work. Dear Jean, it was a pleasure and a privilege working with you. Thanks to your ambition and efforts, prokaryote nomenclature is in excellent shape now. We can only hope that we will be able to maintain the same high standards and professionalism that our journal has achieved in the past decade on nomenclature-related issues thanks to your work.

Aharon Oren
Editor-in-Chief, IJSEM

George Garrity
Chairman of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes and Chairman of the IJSEM Editorial Board (ex officio)