



## ICTV Newsletter #7 2009

The "ICTV Newsletter" is designed to provide useful information to those involved or interested in the work of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV). In particular, the ICTV Executive Committee (EC) seeks to keep Study Group members informed, and to involve them more directly in taxonomic deliberations. The Newsletter also provides an effective way to disseminate important information and facilitate collective efforts such as the Ninth Report of the ICTV and the ICTV Virus Database. Please distribute this Newsletter freely to anyone who may be interested in increasing the awareness of virus taxonomy and nomenclature.

The Newsletter mailing list is generated from anyone who has joined the ICTV discussion site at [ICTVonline.org](http://talk.ictvonline.org). Readers are responsible for entering and keeping up-to-date their own personal and contact information, including new email addresses. To register, navigate to <http://talk.ictvonline.org/> and click on "Join" in the upper right-hand corner of the page, near the "Search" box. Registration is automatic. Once registered, sign in using the name and password you provided. You can update your contact information by clicking on "Edit Profile" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

### Executive committee activities:

#### News

The 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EC (EC40) was held August 6-9 2008 in Istanbul, Turkey in conjunction with the XIV International Congress of Virology. All but two of the EC members attended the 2 1/2 day meeting. With several members of the EC retiring, the composition of the EC was reviewed. New officers and members were nominated by the EC and elected by the ICTV membership at the ICV Plenary Session. Three officers were elected: Eric B. Carsten (President), John Mackenzie (Vice-President) and Andrew M. Q. King (Proposals Secretary). Three Sub-Committee (SC) chairs were re-elected: Mike Adams (Plant Virus SC), James Van Etten (Fungal Virus SC) and Elliot Lefkowitz (Virus Database SC). Three new SC Chairs were elected: Andrew Davison (Vertebrate Virus SC), Peter Krell (Invertebrate Virus SC) and Robert Lavigne (Prokaryote Virus SC). Eight additional members were elected or re-elected: Alexander Gorbalenya (second term), Curtis Suttle (second term), Keizo Nagasaki, David Prangishvili, Hélène Sanfaçon, Stuart Siddell, H. S. Savithri and Nick Knowles. Anne-Lise Haenni continues to serve as general Secretary for the ICTV EC. Two new life members were elected at the ICV Plenary Session: Mike A. Mayo (deceased on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008) and Claude M. Fauquet. A report of activities at the EC40 meeting was published [Carstens E. B. (2009) Report from the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Committee of Taxonomy of Viruses. *Arch Virol* 154; 1571-1574]. The 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the EC (EC41) was hosted by Alexander Gorbalenya in Leiden, The Netherlands in June 2009. A report of this meeting is in preparation for publication in *Archives of Virology*.

#### Taxonomic Proposals

Taxonomic proposals are the most important contributions of the ICTV membership. Proposals approved at the EC39 meeting, were sent to members of ICTV via e-mail for ratification and have become official taxonomy. The list of proposals approved at EC39 has been published [Carstens E. B., Ball, L. A. (2009) Ratification vote on taxonomic proposals to the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. *Arch Virol* 154: 1181-1188]. A new round of proposals approved at EC40 and EC41 was recently ratified by members of ICTV via e-mail. In total 215 taxonomic

proposals have been approved and ratified since the publication of the Eighth ICTV Report in 2005. The official taxonomy (including recently ratified proposals) is updated regularly online (check <http://ictvonline.org/virusTaxonomy.asp> for the latest update) and supersedes the taxonomy of the Eighth ICTV report. The text of recently ratified proposals can be found at <http://talk.ictvonline.org/media> by following the link to “ICTV Official Taxonomy: Updates since the Eighth Report”. This web page also provides links to ongoing taxonomic proposals, categorised by host. Anyone who has signed up for the ICTV discussion site (see above) can post comments. The templates for submitting new taxonomic proposals have recently been updated in an effort to streamline the process and can be found at <http://talk.ictvonline.org/media/g/templates/default.aspx>.

### **ICTV Reports**

An on-line version of the Eighth Report of the ICTV is planned. This version would include updates to the taxonomy of viruses ratified by the ICTV membership since the publication of the Eighth Report but chapters will not be rewritten for this on-line version. Plans for publication of the Ninth Report are well underway. The goal is to publish the Ninth Report on-line version with yearly update. Andrew Ball is the Editor-in-Chief for the Ninth Report. Authors for the different chapters have been confirmed and the deadline for submission of chapters has been fixed to December 2009. The Ninth Report will include all proposals recently ratified by the membership (including proposals approved at EC40 and EC41).

### **ICTV Database**

The ICTVdb is for many researchers, the primary mechanism whereby they obtain information on virus taxonomy and virus descriptions. A test version of the newly redesigned ICTVdb can be accessed directly (see <http://www.ictvdb.org>). Elliot Lefkowitz is responsible for the database. An effort to update virus descriptions in the database is being coordinated by Charles Calisher.

### **Study Group Chairs**

The Study Groups play a key role in the ICTV. They are responsible for keeping up-to-date with the emergence of new viruses and proposing new species or higher taxa by submitting taxonomic proposals to the appropriate Sub-Committee Chairs. A list of the Study Group membership is available on the ICTV website but will only remain current if members keep their information up-to-date. Please send any changes to your contact information (E-mail addresses) to your Study Group Chair and to Anne-Lise Haenni. Information on Study Groups can be accessed either under the respective subcommittee (<http://ictvonline.org/subcommittees.asp>) or as an alphabetical list (<http://ictvonline.org/studygroups.asp>).

### **Virology Division News (VDN)**

The VDN section of Archives of Virology is an important vehicle to communicate with the virology community. Study Group Chairs are encouraged to submit articles that discuss new taxonomic proposals, or any other taxonomic issues. Obituaries are also published in this section. See <http://ictvonline.org/virologyDivisionNews.asp> for a list of published VDN papers.

### **Important links:**

#### **Main Web site for ICTV**

<http://ictvonline.org/index.asp>

#### **Current ICTV virus taxonomy database**

<http://ictvonline.org/virusTaxonomy.asp>

#### **Templates for taxonomic proposals**

<http://talk.ictvonline.org/media/g/templates/default.aspx>.

#### **ICTV database**

<http://www.ictvdb.org>

#### **International Union of Microbiological Societies**

<http://www.iums.org/>

## American Society for Virology

<http://www.asv.org/>

## Society for General Microbiology

<http://www.sgm.ac.uk/>

## Meeting dates:

### ICTV EC Meeting: June 2010

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee meeting of the ICTV will be held in Paris in June 2010.

### XV International Congress of Virology: Sapporo, Japan, September 11-16 2011

### American Society for Virology (ASV) annual meeting dates:

**2010** Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, July 17-21

**2011** University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 16-20

**2012** University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin July 21-25

**2013** Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, July 20-24

**2014** University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada July 12-16

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## Funding

ICTV gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the American Society for Virology, the Society for General Microbiology and the Virology Division of the International Union of Microbiological Societies.

## Problems, comments and questions:

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome. To ensure efficient distribution of this and other information, we ask you to verify your personal information online and make necessary updates. If you are a National Representative, make sure all the appropriate information is included on the web site, and send a note to the ICTV Secretary, Anne-Lise Haenni

Editor: Hélène Sanfaçon, October 2009  
Elected Member, ICTV EC