



ICTV Newsletter #12 (2014, 2015)

This newsletter is designed to inform all who are interested in the work of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) about recent developments and to involve them more directly in taxonomic deliberations. The editor prepares and sends the newsletter to all those who have joined the ICTV discussion site at [ICTVonline.org](http://talk.ictvonline.org); they and others are encouraged to distribute it freely. 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. If you are already registered, **please make sure your contact information is up-to-date.** You can do this by clicking on “edit profile” in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Comments and suggestions regarding the newsletter are welcome. Previous editions can be found [here](#). This edition (#12) covers the period from February 2014.

Executive Committee activities:

The 46th annual Executive Committee (EC) meeting (EC46) was held on 25-27 July 2014 in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and was hosted by the President, Eric Carstens. This was the third and final meeting of the EC elected at the ICTV plenary meeting in Sapporo, Japan in September 2011. Eleven out of the eighteen EC members attended the two-and-a-half day meeting. The agenda included processing of taxonomic proposals, EC management, continuing development of the ICTV website, discussion of issues related to the use of PASC in taxonomy of viruses (kindly presented by Yiming Bao from NCBI), ICTV presence at the XVlth International Congress of Virology ([ICV-XVI](#)) in Montreal, Canada in the days following, and preparation for the election of the new EC during the ICV, including nomination of members (see below). The EC thanked Eric Carstens for his 25 years’ service to ICTV in various capacities, including the last six years as President, when the processing time for a large number of proposals was considerably shortened and the [ICTV Ninth Report](#) was published. The next EC meeting (EC47) will be hosted by Stuart Siddell and Andrew Davison in London, England, UK on 20-22 July 2015.

EC membership and elections, 2014:

[The triennial ICTV plenary meeting](#) was held during [ICV-XVI](#). It approved reports for the period 2011-2014 by the President and six subcommittee chairs and co-chairs, and the appointment of a third secretary (Data Secretary) to be responsible specifically for the web site and related data handling. Two ICTV officers (President and Vice-President) and eight members were elected for a three-year term (2014-2017), and two secretaries (Data Secretary and Proposals Secretary) for a six-year term (2014-2020) (see table below). Some EC members presented posters about ICTV activities that were displayed throughout the Congress and gave talks about taxonomy development. Members of the new EC who were in attendance at the Congress held a short meeting, at which current matters were discussed.

ICTV Executive Committee Members (August 2014-July 2017)

| Name | Position | Country | Email |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Davison, Andrew J. | President# | UK | andrew.davison@glasgow.ac.uk |
| Gorbalenya, Alexander E. | Vice-President* | Netherlands | a.e.gorbalenya@lumc.nl |
| Adams, Michael J. | Business Secretary# | UK | mike.adams.ictv@gmail.com |
| King, Andrew M. Q. | Proposals Secretary* | UK | amqking@gmail.com |
| Lefkowitz, Elliot J. | Data Secretary# | USA | elliottl@uab.edu |
| Harrach, Balázs | Chair - Animal DNA Viruses and Retroviruses Subcommittee# | Hungary | harrach@vmri.hu |
| Siddell, Stuart | Chair - Animal dsRNA and ssRNA-Viruses Subcommittee# | UK | stuart.siddell@bristol.ac.uk |
| Knowles, Nick J. | Chair - Animal ssRNA+ Viruses Subcommittee# | UK | nick.knowles@pirbright.ac.uk |
| Kropinski, Andrew | Chair - Bacterial and Archaeal Viruses Subcommittee# | Canada | Phage.Canada@gmail.com |
| Nibert, Max L. | Chair - Fungal and Protist Viruses Subcommittee# | USA | mnibert@hms.harvard.edu |
| Sanfaçon, Hélène | Chair - Plant Viruses Subcommittee* | Canada | Helene.Sanfacon@agr.gc.ca |
| Harrison, Robert | Elected member# | USA | Robert.L.Harrison@ars.usda.gov |
| Krupovic, Mart | Elected member# | France | mart.krupovic@gmail.com |
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| Sabanadzovic, Sead | Elected member# | USA | SSabanadzovic@entomology.msstate.edu |
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| Varsani, Arvind | Elected member# | New Zealand | arvind.varsani@canterbury.ac.nz |
| Zerbini, F. Murilo | Elected member# | Brazil | zerbini@ufv.br |

and * - first and second term, respectively

Recent progress with taxonomic proposals:

Ratification of previous proposals

All proposals approved by the EC need to be ratified by the entire voting membership of ICTV for final acceptance. This includes [National Representatives](#), members of the subcommittees (mostly [Study Group \(SG\) chairs](#)) and [Life Members](#). A large number of taxonomic proposals were ratified in e-votes by the ICTV membership in February 2014 and February 2015. The EC is pleased to note that the recently introduced changes to the processing of taxonomic proposals (a fast-track approval of good quality proposals; for details see [ICTV Newsletter #10](#)) have achieved their goals: there has been a considerable shortening of the processing time for a large number of proposals and a larger volume of proposals has been processed. Two articles reporting the taxonomic changes ratified in [2014](#) and [2015](#) have been published in the Virology Division News (VDN) section of Archives of Virology. The format of VDN articles on ratification votes was modified in 2015 to acknowledge more fully the efforts of all who contribute to changes and to improve dissemination of news about the current state of virus taxonomy. This format remains open to further changes based on feedback from colleagues and as result of discussions due at EC47.

Major taxonomic changes introduced recently

Taxonomic proposals that were ratified in February 2014 and February 2015, created several new families including *Amalgaviridae*, *Nyamiviridae*, *Spiraviridae*, *Sphaerolipoviridae* and *Turriviridae*, and introduced extensive changes to order *Caudovirales* and several families including *Adenoviridae*, *Arenaviridae*, *Bornaviridae*, *Bunyaviridae*, *Caulimoviridae*, *Geminiviridae*, *Hepeviridae*, *Papillomaviridae*, *Parvoviridae*, *Partitiviridae*, *Picornaviridae*, *Potyviridae*, *Poxviridae*, *Reoviridae*, *Tombusviridae* and *Virgaviridae*.

New taxonomic proposals

Any virologist can make taxonomic proposals to the ICTV via the appropriate [Subcommittee Chair](#), preferably in consultation with the relevant [SG](#). The new proposals that have been recently submitted or revised, and that will be discussed (or re-considered) at EC47, can be examined online [here](#). The deadline for submitting new proposals to the appropriate Subcommittee Chair (see Table above) is **15 June 2015**. Recently updated templates for proposals are available [here](#).

Study Groups:

The SGs have a particular responsibility for keeping up-to-date with the emergence of new viruses and proposing new species or higher taxa in their families or orders. They also often initiate creation of new families. The SG Chairs have recently been appointed for a three-year term. They have assembled new teams whose membership can be accessed [here](#). If you are an SG member, please send any changes to your contact information (e.g. e-mail address) to your SG Chair and [Mike Adams](#).

ICTV publications:

ICTV Ninth Report and updates

Since the release of the [ICTV Ninth Report](#), virus taxonomy has been updated several times (see above). The latest ICTV-authorized taxonomy can be found at <http://ictvonline.org/virusTaxonomy.asp>, where it can be consulted online or downloaded as the [ICTV Master Species List 2014 spreadsheet](#).

Virology Division News

The VDN section of Archives of Virology is an important open-access vehicle for communicating ICTV news to the virology community and beyond. Please submit reports and articles that deal with the development of virus taxonomy to that section of the journal, specifying [Jens Kuhn](#) as Editor. You should indicate clearly whether the article presents (i) changes officially recognized by the ICTV, (ii) the substance of taxonomic proposals currently being considered by the ICTV, or (iii) informal suggestions for discussion.

History of taxonomic changes

The reconstructed history of all changes to ICTV-approved taxa (species, genera, subfamilies, families and orders) from publication of the first report in 1971 onwards is now [available](#). For the more recent changes, this information is linked to the proposal document(s) that resulted in those changes. For the first time, this information provides a comprehensive record of the development of virus taxonomy by the ICTV, and was summarized recently in a VDN [publication](#).

Funding:

ICTV is very grateful to the Virology Division of [the International Union of Microbiological Societies](#), [the Society of General Microbiology](#) and [the American Society of Virology](#) for their recent support.

Important links:

[Main Web site for ICTV](#)

[ICTV virus taxonomy database: current classification and history of each taxon since 2005](#)

[Templates for taxonomic proposals](#)

[How to write virus names](#)

Problems, comments and questions

As always, comments and suggestions are very welcome. To ensure efficient distribution of this and other information, we again ask you to keep your personal information up-to-date at the ICTV web site. In particular, **if you are a National Representative**, please make sure that all the appropriate information is on [the web site](#), and also send a note to the ICTV Business Secretary [Mike Adams](#).

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Vice-President