

**Part 1:** **TITLE, AUTHORS, APPROVALS, etc**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Code assigned:** | ***2023.009D*** |  |
| **Short title:** Rename *Retroviridae* species | | |

**Authors and email addresses**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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| Jens Mayer and Theodora Hatziioannou |

**List the ICTV Study Group(s) that have seen this proposal**

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| Retroviridae |

**ICTV Study Group comments and response of proposer**

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| The authors are the Retroviridae Study Group |

**ICTV Study Group votes on proposal**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Study Group** | **Number of members** | | |
| **Votes in support** | **Votes against** | **No vote** |
| *Retroviridae* | 10 | 0 | 0 |

**Authority to use the name of a living person**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Is any taxon name used here derived from that of a living person (Y/N)** | N |

**Submission dates**

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| --- | --- |
| Date first submitted to SC Chair | 15 June 2023 |
| Date of this revision (if different from above) | 20 Oct 2023 |

**ICTV-EC comments and response of the proposer**

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**Part 3:** **TAXONOMIC PROPOSAL**

**Name of accompanying Excel module**

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| 2023.009D.N.v2.Retroviridae\_68rensp.xlsx |

**Abstract**

This proposal addresses the changes of Retroviridae species names.

**Text of proposal**

We propose changing the names of 65 species of the *Retroviridae* in accordance with the binomial format mandated by ICTV. In the binomial format proposed for *Retroviridae*, the first word is the name of the genus to which a virus species belongs and the second is derived from the virus species name. Prior species names of *Retroviridae* consisted of multiple words and were diverse, for instance, derived either from the disease caused by the virus in the host species, or the discoverer of the virus. Many of those *Retroviridae* species names have been in use for decades, or they are widely popular retrovirus names, for instance, *Human immunodeficiency virus*. For the sake of consistency and brevity, we decided to maintain reference to the previous name and indicate the host species in the second word. Therefore, for the majority of Retroviruses, names begin with the first 3 letters of the host species followed by three letter acronyms of cell type, location or disease associated with the virus based on the previous species names. The exception is when names of investigators were included in prior names in which case the new name begins with the first 2 or 3 letters of the name of the investigator(s), depending on what appears easier to pronounce. In the case of foamy viruses, second words take into account the special host-virus co-speciation and cross-species transmission and incorporate the respective host's scientific (sub)species names in an abbreviated form. In the case of *Spider monkey simian foamy virus*, the second word of the proposed virus name includes the designation "spp" to indicate that the actual host species within genus *Ateles* was not identified. Finally, all foamy virus species names end in ‘fo’ in reference to their popular name ‘foamy’. At this time, we have removed three prior species, specifically Guinea pig type-C oncovirus, Viper retrovirus, and Gardner-Arnstein feline sarcoma virus, in accordance with the ICTV decision to remove virus species lacking sufficient evidence on the sequence level (Genebank entries). We believe that by maintaining established information in prior names the proposed binomial species names for *Retroviridae* will facilitate their adoption by peers. Furthermore, by establishing ‘rules’ naming new retroviruses will be greatly facilitated.