
RE: Ratification vote

Oksanen, Hanna M <hanna.oksanen@helsinki.fi>

Fri, Apr 26, 2024 at 3:31 AM

To: Donald Smith <dona1d.smith.ictv@gmail.com>

Cc: Murilo Zerbini <zerbini@ufv.br>, "Evelien Adriaenssens (QIB)" <Evelien.Adriaenssens@quadram.ac.uk>, Peter Simmonds <peter.simmonds@ndm.ox.ac.uk>, "Lefkowitz, Elliot J" <elliott@uab.edu>

Dear Donald,

I will also pass this on to the other officers. This is something that could be discussed in Italy.

Best regards,

Hanna

From: Donald Smith <dona1d.smith.ictv@gmail.com>**Sent:** tiistai 16. huhtikuuta 2024 13.00**To:** Oksanen, Hanna M <hanna.oksanen@helsinki.fi>**Subject:** Ratification vote

Dear Hanna,

I have just returned my votes for the ratification process (as Chair of the *Hepeviridae* Study Group). I know that there are historical reasons for how things are done, but I just wanted to let you know my thoughts about the process. I have said the same things to Arcady in previous years ...

1. I don't imagine that any voters will read all the TPs (I didn't read any as part of voting). A few people will read specific ones where they have a particular interest, but if they vote against one they will be outnumbered by all the people who didn't read the TP, so the vote becomes a rubber-stamp "Yes". I can't remember any TPs being rejected at the Ratification step - so one has to wonder what is the point except to fulfill our statutes.

2. This sense of the vote being a formality is accentuated by having an option to accept all votes with one tick, the alternative being to go through each TP individually. A cursory reading of the TP titles as I did this took 15 minutes - that is without looking up any TPs - so the temptation would be to click "Yes to all" (5 seconds) and so not even read any of the titles. Would it be possible to break the TPs down by SC so that you could vote Yes/No/abstain in batches? That might encourage a plant virologist, for instance, to look more carefully at the plant TPs, and perhaps abstain on the other TPs. It would be interesting to know what proportion of voters clicked "Yes to all" ...

There were a few titles with odd characters in them - 138, 164 and one other (on the first page) - hopefully just glitches in getting the titles onto Survey Monkey.

Best wishes,

Donald

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My normal working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday