
ICTV 2024 Ratification vote

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

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 4:39 AM

To: adrian gibbs <adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com>

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

Dear Adrian,

I accept your apologies. This is the discussion we have started and will continue in the EC56. Personally, I think that the use of viral species names could follow the same logic as for cellular organisms, allowing the species names to be linked directly to the isolate. Using isolate names in parallel would be good for practical purposes to make the literature understandable.

The discussion continues.

Best regards,

Hanna

From: adrian gibbs <adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com>
Sent: tiistai 2. huhtikuuta 2024 10.20
To: Oksanen, Hanna M <hanna.oksanen@helsinki.fi>
Subject: Re: ICTV 2024 Ratification vote

Dear Hanna,

Many thanks for responding - my email was a little intemperate, and I apologise - I had written similar comments to a couple of your predecessors. My excuse is that I spent so much of my working life trying to help provide a useful virus nomenclature that I am really sad to see it go so wrong. Unfortunately most of the people involved, since I resigned from the EC (hoping to set a good example of regular turnover), never asked the simple question: "are we making this decision to fit with the other biological taxonomies. If not why not?"

As a result we now have a virus taxonomy that superficially looks like the taxonomies of cellular organisms but is, in fact, fundamentally completely different in several important aspects, and provides little of value, but is a trap for those visitors who have knowledge of the other taxonomies.

So in your proposed discussions at EC56 you might report that a rude relic from EC1, plus a few, suggests that a good start would be to compare the present virus taxonomy with those of the cellular organisms, and try to get the discussion beyond the assertion that "Well, viruses are different".

Kind regards.

Adrian

Sent from my iPad

On 2 Apr 2024, at 5:45 pm, Oksanen, Hanna M <hanna.oksanen@helsinki.fi> wrote:

Dear Adrian,

I will bring your views to the ICTV EC56 meeting this summer, where we will also discuss the challenges of naming viral species in general.

Best regards,

Hanna

Hanna Oksanen, PhD, Adjunct Professor in Molecular Virology

Principal Investigator

Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences

University of Helsinki, Finland

Research group, [Molecular Principles of Viruses Research group](#)

Vice-Director, [Biomolecular Complex Purification core facility \(Biocomplex\)](#)

Coordinator, [FINStruct](#) and [Instruct-ERIC Centre Finland](#), Research Infrastructures for Integrated Structural Biology

From: adrian gibbs <adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com>
Sent: torstai 28. maaliskuuta 2024 23.54
To: Oksanen, Hanna M <hanna.oksanen@helsinki.fi>
Subject: Re: ICTV 2024 Ratification vote

Dear Dr Oksanen,

Thank you for the voting correspondence. As in the past the ICTV voting procedure is a total charade, and a waste of your time and ours. Very few people will vote individually on 203 resolutions, and most will choose to vote for the lot with a single vote. Therefore the 'one vote covers all' people will win the vote, so it is a charade, which intelligent people should have rejected long ago. The only check on poor resolutions among the 203 was at EC55, attended by few and probably by none of those who might wish to oppose any particular resolution. The nett result of this method is the present chaotic state of virus nomenclature - a mish-mash of contradictory rules.

Kind regards

Adrian

Adrian Gibbs, 7 Hutt St, Yarralumla, Canberra, ACT, 2600; +61 (0)418489677.

From: Oksanen, Hanna M <hanna.oksanen@helsinki.fi>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:11 AM
To: Oksanen, Hanna M <hanna.oksanen@helsinki.fi>
Subject: ICTV 2024 Ratification vote

Dear ICTV Colleague,

It is time to vote for the Taxonomic proposals approved by the ICTV Executive Committee during its annual meeting (EC55), which took place in Jena, Germany, and virtually on Zoom in August 2023.

The online voting platform is the SurveyMonkey, as we have also used previously.

Within 36 hours, you should receive a separate email from me (hanna.oksanen@helsinki.fi via SurveyMonkey) with the link to vote. Please check your spam and junk folders, in case your mailbox settings are overly vigilant. The voting system will authenticate you on the basis of your email address.

You will be able either to vote once to approve all items, or to switch to the mode where you will vote for or against each ballot question separately. There are 203 ballot questions, one for each of the 202 taxonomic proposals approved by the EC55 and one question for a General proposal: "Establish a formal procedure for taxonomic proposal (TaxoProp) withdrawal, and a location to store rejected and withdrawn TaxoProps".

The ballot questions contain only the proposal titles and unique identifiers. Attached to the email is a file listing all proposals (MSL 39 Proposal list.xlsx). The full proposals are available at https://ictv.global/ratification_proposals

Please note that for technical reasons, the SurveyMonkey Page 1 is for the "Yes to all" option. The ballot questions in the SurveyMonkey are split into three pages (Pages 2-4; Questions 2-204); please make sure that you either vote "YES to All" (Page 1), or visit all Pages 2-4. If you wish to abstain from voting on any proposal, simply do not mark Yes or No.

We hope that you will find the entire voting procedure convenient. Should online technology fail us, feel free to send your votes to me by responding to this email.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This request to vote is being sent to members of the following groups:

ICTV Executive Committee 2020-2023;
ICTV Executive Committee 2023-2026;
ICTV Life Member;
ICTV Subcommittee Member;
ICTV National Society Representative.

If you have received the email in error, please let me know so that I can update our records.

In accordance with the ICTV Statutes, the final stage in the process of making changes to the official virus taxonomy is the ratification of taxonomic proposals by ICTV Members. Attached is a document summarizing a set of taxonomic proposals that have been subjected to the full, multi-stage review process. This review process involves input from the ICTV Study Groups and Subcommittees, other interested virologists, and the ICTV

Executive Committee.

The full proposal documents can be downloaded from the ICTV Online website at https://ictv.global/ratification_proposals. If you have difficulty accessing the online material, please contact Elliot Lefkowitz (ICTV Data Secretary; elliott@uab.edu) for advice. For queries about the proposals themselves or summary sheets, please contact the relevant Subcommittee chair or Murilo Zerbini (ICTV President; zerbini@ufv.br).

VOTING PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES:

Please vote to ratify these proposals by following the instructions in the SurveyMonkey email that you will receive shortly. You are entitled (and encouraged) to vote on all the proposals and not just those in your specialist area.

VOTING DEADLINE is 23:59 your local time on Thursday, 25th April, 2024.

Thank you for your interest in the taxonomy of viruses. For the latest ICTV news, please see <https://talk.ictvonline.org/>

Sincerely,

Hanna Oksanen
Business Secretary, Executive Committee of ICTV

University of Helsinki, Finland