



## ICTV Newsletter #9 2011

The "ICTV Newsletter" is designed to inform all interested in the work of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) about recent developments. It is produced by a member of the ICTV Executive Committee (EC) to keep Study Group members informed, and to involve them more directly in taxonomic deliberations. Please distribute this Newsletter freely to anyone who may be interested in increasing the awareness of virus taxonomy and nomenclature. Comments and suggestions regarding the content of the Newsletter are welcome. 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 keeping up-to-date their personal and contact information, including new email addresses. If you are a National Representative, make sure all the appropriate information is included on the web site, and send a note to the recently appointed ICTV Secretary Mike Adams (see below). To register, navigate to [http://talk.ictvonline.org/](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:

#### EC43 meeting

The 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the EC (EC43) was held September 9-11 2011 in Sapporo, Japan in conjunction with the XVth International Congress of Virology (ICV) and was hosted by Keizo Nagasaki. All but two of the EC members (list below) attended the 2½ days meeting. The agenda included processing of taxonomic proposals, new and those under consideration; discussion of taxonomy-related issues, including EC nominations and elections (see below); EC management; continuing development of the ICTV website; and the status of ICTV Reports (see below). The following Chairs of six Subcommittees were (re-)elected for the next 3 years: Andrew Davison (Viruses of Vertebrates), H el ene Sanfacon (Viruses of Plants), Peter Krell (Viruses of Insects), Rob Lavigne (Viruses of Prokaryotes), Said Ghabriel (Viruses of Fungi), and Elliot Lefkowitz (Virus Data). The terms of John Mackenzie (Vice-President), Anne-Lise Haenni (Secretary), James Van Etten (Chair, Fungal Virus SC), Handanahal S. Savithri (Elected Member) and Curtis Suttle (Elected Member) were completed after this meeting. They were thanked for their long service and many contributions to ICTV.

In an effort to facilitate coordination between ICTV and National Center for Biotechnological Information (NCBI), the meeting hosted presentations by NCBI researchers James (Rodney) Brister and Yiming Bao. ICTV also received a request from an individual in Japan to rename the genus *Norovirus* because of the possibility of negative associations for people in Japan and elsewhere who have the

family name “Noro”. ICTV consulted widely with current and past members of the *Caliciviridae* Study Group and carefully discussed the case. The position was made public at the Congress and a press release was prepared. Following this experience, the ICTV strongly encourages the media, national health authorities and the scientific community to use the virus name Norwalk virus, rather than the genus name *Norovirus*, when referring to outbreaks of the disease.

### ICTV plenary meeting

During the XVth ICV, the triennial ICTV plenary meeting was held. It approved reports for the period of 2008-2011 by the President and six Subcommittee (Co-)Chairs. Three ICTV officers (President, Vice-President and Meetings Secretary), and eight members were elected for a three-year term (2011-2014) (see table below). Dr. Roger Hull (Emeritus Fellow, John Innes Centre, UK) was elected a Life Member of ICTV. Some EC members presented posters about ICTV activities that were displayed throughout the Congress.

### ICTV Executive Committee Members (September 2011-June 2014)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Study Group</u>	<u>Country</u>
<a href="#">Carstens, Eric B.*</a>	President	Canada
<a href="#">Gorbalenya, Alexander E.#</a>	Vice-President	Netherlands
<a href="#">King, Andrew M. Q.#</a>	Proposals Secretary [Taxonomic proposals]	UK
<a href="#">Adams, Michael J.#</a>	Business Secretary	UK
<a href="#">Ghabrial, Said A.#</a>	<a href="#">Fungus Virus Subcommittee - Chair</a>	USA
<a href="#">Krell, Peter J.*</a>	<a href="#">Invertebrate Virus Subcommittee - Chair</a>	Canada
<a href="#">Sanfaçon, H��l��ne#</a>	<a href="#">Plant Virus Subcommittee - Chair</a>	Canada
<a href="#">Lavigne, Rob*</a>	<a href="#">Prokaryote Virus Subcommittee - Chair</a>	Belgium
<a href="#">Davison, Andrew J.*</a>	<a href="#">Vertebrate Virus Subcommittee - Chair</a>	UK
<a href="#">Lefkowitz, Elliot J.*</a>	<a href="#">Virus Data Subcommittee - Chair</a>	USA
<a href="#">Bamford, Dennis H.#</a>	Elected member	Finland
<a href="#">Breitbart, Mya#</a>	Elected member	USA
<a href="#">Knowles, Nick J.*</a>	Elected member	UK
<a href="#">Kreuze, Jan F.#</a>	Elected member	Peru
<a href="#">Nagasaki, Keizo*</a>	Elected member	Japan
<a href="#">Prangishvili, David*</a>	Elected member	France
<a href="#">Siddell, Stuart*</a>	Elected member	UK
<a href="#">Simmonds, Peter#</a>	Elected member	UK

# and \* - first and second term, respectively

## **Future Plans**

The 44th EC meeting will be held July 23-25, 2012 in Leuven, Belgium, hosted by Rob Lavigne.

## **Taxonomic Proposals**

Taxonomic proposals approved at the EC43 meeting are expected to be sent to the ICTV membership via e-mail for ratification later this year. The list of the proposals can be found at <http://talk.ictvonline.org/files/proposals/default.aspx>.

## **ICTV Ninth Report**

An updated online version of the Eighth Report was available for purchase from September 2010. This version of the Eighth Report served as an online resource until its replacement by the new Ninth Report.

The Ninth Report has now been published (ISBN-13: 978-0123846846). At 1327 pages, it is the largest report that ICTV has published, including 6 Orders, 87 families, 19 subfamilies, 349 genera, and 2284 species. An online version should be available before the end of 2011. The preparation of the Ninth Report was supervised by four Editors: Andrew M. Q. King (Editor-in-Chief), Michael J. Adams, Eric B. Carstens, and Elliot J. Lefkowitz, as well as ten Associate Editors: Andrew Davison, Nick Knowles, Peter Krell, Rob Lavigne, Keizo Nagasaki, David Prangishvili, H  l  ne Sanfa  on, Stuart Siddell, Curtis Suttle, and Jim Van Etten. ICTV is deeply grateful to the many virologists, most of them Study Group members, who contributed their expertise to the work. To improve the awareness of the community about developments in virus taxonomy, ICTV plans to update on-line version of the Report on a regular basis. Please request that your libraries purchase a copy of the Ninth Report.

## **ICTVdB**

The ICTV database (ICTVdb) contains descriptions of many virus isolates and species. However, following the retirement of the curator, Cornelia Buchen-Osmond, the taxonomy in the database became seriously out of date. With generous support from Ian Lipkin at Columbia U (through an NIH grant) and Charlie Calisher, the software and interface have been greatly improved but the database will remain offline and unavailable until the taxonomy has been fully updated and checked. The latest ICTV-authorized taxonomy can always be found at <http://www.ictvonline.org/>.

## **Study Group Chairs**

Study Groups (SGs) are responsible for keeping up-to-date with the emergence of new viruses and proposing new species or higher taxa in their families by submitting taxonomic proposals to the appropriate Subcommittee Chairs. Following the EC43 meeting, the newly elected Subcommittee Chairs dissolved the existing SGs and have appointed new SG Chairs who will assemble respective SGs. These developments will be reflected in the updated lists of SGs that can be accessed at the respective Subcommittee page (<http://ictvonline.org/subcommittees.asp>) or as an alphabetical list (<http://ictvonline.org/studygroups.asp>). Please send any changes to your contact information (e.g. mail address) to your SG Chair and to Mike Adams.

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

The VDN section of Archives of Virology is an important vehicle to communicate ICTV news to the virology community and beyond. [Jens Kuhn](#) has been elected as the new Editor of VDN succeeding Anne-Lise Haenni. Please send him reports and articles that deal with the development of virus taxonomy. It is important to reflect properly the status of taxa in these articles. Those which are currently taxonomic proposals before ICTV for acceptance must be clearly indicated as provisional.

### **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>

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

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

#### **American Society for Virology**

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

#### **Society of General Microbiology**

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

### **Funding**

ICTV is very grateful to the following organizations for their recent support: the Virology Division of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, the Society of General Microbiology, the American Society of Virology, Leiden University Medical Center (Leiden, the Netherlands; EC41 meeting) and Pasteur Institute (Paris, France; EC42 meeting).

### **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, Mike Adams.

**Editor:** Alexander E. Gorbalenya  
Vice-President  
November 2011