

Biography

Monique M . van Oers

Prof. Monique M. van Oers is the Chair of the Laboratory of Virology of Wageningen University in the Netherlands, and a member of the Academic Board of that university. Her main expertise lies in the biology, functional genomics and evolution of large DNA viruses of invertebrates, but she also has expertise in RNA viruses of the order *Picornavirales* infecting insects, and arboviruses. She applies the fundamental research data for the biological control of insect pests, the improvement of insect mass rearing, and the application/optimization of the baculovirus insect-cell expression system for the development of vaccines and gene therapy vectors. She coordinated the EU training network INSECT DOCTORS, aimed at a better understanding of pathogens that threaten insect mass-rearing. She is the current President of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology (SIP), and was the local organizer of the SIP-IOBC 2026 meeting, held in the Netherlands in August 2026. Since 2023 she is the chair of the *Baculoviridae* and *Nudiviridae* Study Group of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV), and a member of the Study group *Hytrosaviridae*. Under her guidance the binomial naming system was introduced for these three virus families, the family *Nudiviridae* was expanded with new genera, based on new virus discoveries, and the order *Lefavirales* was expanded with the family *Filamentoviridae*. The new naming system and the new classification levels *Lefavirales* and the *Naldaviricetes* was explained by her to the invertebrate virus community via a workshop at the SIP meeting in College Park, Maryland (2023) and a well cited paper in Archives of Virology, published in 2022. A concrete plan for the future is to add yet another family to the *Lefavirales*, harbouring viruses infecting ants.

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