

Minutes of the ICTV Plenary Session
11:30 Tuesday 29 July 2014
Room 513B, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Montreal, Canada

Chair: Professor Eric Carstens (President of ICTV)

Attendance: 32 people.

The chairman welcomed people to the meeting.

1. President's Report

The chairman summarised the activities of ICTV in the period 2011-2014 by presenting:

- a) A list of Executive Committee (EC) members and life members
- b) A list of the EC meetings held
- c) A list of the websites and newsletters associated with ICTV
- d) A list of references to ratification votes on taxonomic proposals
- e) A list of references to changes to the Taxonomic Code (2013) and the Statutes (2013 and 2014). The 2014 changes to the Statutes allow for the appointment of a third secretary responsible for virus data and for some re-structuring of the remits of the Subcommittees
- f) A list of organisations who were thanked for their financial support
- g) A summary of the contents of the Ninth Report, which appeared in print late in 2011.

The chairman explained that these activities represented a tremendous amount of work by the members of the EC and he asked the meeting to join him in thanking everyone for their hard work. He also acknowledged the effort of many other virologists who participate in Study Groups and prepare proposals as well as those who act as national representatives.

2. Reports of the Subcommittees

Brief reports were presented by the Chairs of the six Subcommittees summarising progress during 2011-2014 and some issues that were currently being discussed and carried forward.

- a) Viruses of Fungi presented by Said Ghabrial; the subcommittee is also responsible for viruses of algae and protists
- b) Viruses of Invertebrates presented by Peter Krell
- c) Viruses of Plants presented by H  l  ne Sanfa  on
- d) Viruses of Vertebrates presented by Andrew Davison
- e) Rob Lavigne, chair of the Prokaryotic Virus Subcommittee was unable to be present but the President noted that the Subcommittee had been very active in preparing proposals during the last 3 years
- f) Virus Data Subcommittee presented by Elliot Lefkowitz; this included a survey of the web sites of ICTV, particularly highlighting the ways in which the current taxonomy can be accessed and the recent addition of historical data allowing examination of changes in taxonomy from the first Report (1971) onwards. He explained that the EC was now investigating ways to make ICTV Reports available online with open-access and with a continuous system of updating.

3. Elections to the Executive Committee

The President presented to the meeting a list of Subcommittee (SC) chairs who had been appointed by the EC to serve for the period 2014-2017:

- Dr. Balázs Harrach, Hungary (SC for viruses of vertebrates and invertebrates with DNA or reverse-transcribing genomes) (1st term)
- Dr. Nick Knowles, UK (SC for viruses of vertebrates and invertebrates with ssRNA+ genomes) (1st term)
- Dr. Andrew Kropinski, Canada (Prokaryote Virus SC) (1st term)
- Dr. Max Nibert, USA (Fungal Virus SC) (1st term)
- Dr. Hélène Sanfaçon, Canada (Plant Virus SC) (2nd term)
- Dr. Stuart G Siddell, UK (SC for viruses of vertebrates and invertebrates with ssRNA- or dsRNA genomes) (1st term)

Most other positions on the EC were open for election and sufficient nominations had been received to fill each of the positions. No position was contested. The following were then elected by general affirmation:

- President: Dr. Andrew Davison, UK (1st term)
- Vice President: Dr. Alexander ('Sasha') Gorbalenya, The Netherlands (2nd term)
- Proposals Secretary: Dr. Andrew King, UK (2nd term)
- Data Secretary: Dr Elliot Lefkowitz, USA (1st term)

Elected members:

- Dr. Peter Simmonds, UK (2nd term)
- Dr. F. Murilo Zerbini, Brazil (1st term)
- Dr. Sead Sabanadzovic, USA (1st term)
- Dr. Jens Kuhn, USA (1st term)
- Dr. Robert Harrison, USA (1st term)
- Dr. Mart Krupovic, France (1st term)
- Dr. Arcady Mushegian, USA (1st term)
- Dr. Arvind Varsani, New Zealand (1st term)

The Secretaries serve terms of 6 years: Dr. Mike Adams is continuing to serve as Business Secretary and did not need to be elected at this meeting.

Retiring EC members were thanked for their contributions and Andrew Davison was welcomed as the new ICTV President. Andrew Davison thanked the outgoing President, Eric Carstens, for his outstanding contribution to ICTV over 25 years and for his skilful leadership of the EC for the past 6 years.

4. Questions

After a brief general discussion to explain how EC members were nominated and appointed, the chairman closed the meeting at 12:32.