

Minutes of the Plenary Session of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV)

11:30 Monday 17 July 2017

Sands Grand Ballroom I-L, Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore

Chair: Andrew Davison (President of the ICTV)

Attendance: Approximately 50 people including >30 members of the ICTV

The chairman welcomed people to the meeting and apologised for the late start, which had been caused by the overrunning of the previous session.

1. President's Report

The chairman outlined the organisation of the ICTV and summarised the activities that had taken place during the period 2014-2017. A substantial expansion of virus taxonomy had been achieved, and a Bioresources Grant from Wellcome Trust UK was funding several specific projects, including the transition of the ICTV Report to a freely available, open access, online publication (the 10th Report) available at the ICTV website. Report chapters and summaries published in the Journal of General Virology had been released regularly since January 2017. The chairman acknowledged the tremendous contribution of the many virologists who had participated in ICTV Study Groups and provided taxonomic proposals.

2. Data Secretary's Report

Elliot Lefkowitz explained the continuing development of the ICTV website and the resources available, including current and historical taxonomy, the 10th Report, and various other pieces of news and information. He reported that 13 chapters and summaries were now available for the 10th Report, and that more were being prepared.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Brief reports were presented on behalf of the six Subcommittees, each summarising the progress made during 2014-2017 and highlighting the issues that were being discussed.

Animal viruses with DNA or reverse-transcribing genomes	Balázs Harrach
Animal viruses with ssRNA+ genomes	Nick Knowles
Animal viruses with ssRNA- or dsRNA genomes	Stuart Siddell
Viruses of bacteria and archaea	Andrew Kropinski
Viruses of fungi and protists	Andrew Davison*
Viruses of plants	Hélène Sanfaçon

* on behalf of Max Nibert, who was unable to be present

4. Elections to the Executive Committee (EC)

Many positions on the EC were open for election to service for the period 2017-2020. The candidates nominated for three of the Officer positions were supported unanimously by the EC, and there were no other nominations. The ICTV members present voted to elect these individuals *nem con*:

President: Andrew Davison, UK (2nd term)
Vice-President: Stuart Siddell, UK (1st term)

Business Secretary: Arcady Mushegian, USA (1st term)

Eight Elected Members, chosen by the ICTV Nominations Subcommittee from an encouragingly large number of candidates, were then nominated to the meeting and elected by the ICTV members present *nem con*:

Bas Dutilh, The Netherlands (1st term)
Robert Harrison, USA (2nd term)
Sandra Junglen, Germany (1st term)
Mart Krupovic, France (2nd term)
Max Nibert, USA (1st term)
Luisa Rubino, Italy (1st term)
Sead Sabanadzovic, USA (2nd term)
Arvind Varsani, USA (2nd term)

The chairman explained that, under the ICTV Statutes, the six Subcommittee Chairs are appointed directly by the EC. Those recently appointed for 2017-2020 were:

Animal viruses with DNA or reverse-transcribing genomes	Balázs Harrach, Hungary (2 nd term)
Animal viruses with ssRNA+ genomes	Nick Knowles, UK (2 nd term)
Animal viruses with ssRNA– or dsRNA genomes	Jens Kuhn, USA (1 st term)
Viruses of bacteria and archaea	Andrew Kropinski, Canada (2 nd term)
Viruses of fungi and protists	Peter Simmonds, UK (1 st term)
Viruses of plants	Murilo Zerbini, Brazil (1 st term)

5. Close

The chairman closed the meeting at 12:30 by thanking everyone for attending and also the three retiring EC members for their contributions: Alexander ('Sasha') Gorbalenya, H  l  ne Sanfa  on and Mike Adams. He then invited attendees to meet the EC members present and to raise any issues of interest with them.