



ICTV Newsletter #4 2005

Welcome to the fourth ICTV Newsletter. This Newsletter is designed to provide useful information to all those involved in the work of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. In particular, the ICTV Executive Committee (EC) seeks to inform the members of the numerous Study Groups that oversee the individual viral taxa, and to involve them more directly in taxonomic deliberations. It is hoped that the Newsletter will provide an effective way to disseminate important information and thereby facilitate collective efforts such as the 8th Taxonomic Report and the ICTVdatabase.

Readers should be aware that they are responsible for keeping their own personal information, including new email addresses, up to date on the ICTVnet website. You can view your current information on the "UPDATE INFO" link on the ICTVnet web page. There are also several different pages where you can check the address of other contributors or members of ICTV. Check it out at: <http://www.danforthcenter.org/iltab/ICTVnet>.

Meeting dates:

ICTV EC meeting: likely June, 2006.

The next meeting EC meeting is currently in the planning stages. It will be hosted by Dr. Denis Fargette in Montpellier, France at the [Institut de Recherche pour le Développement/France](http://www.ird.fr/us/) <http://www.ird.fr/us/>

American Society for Virology (ASV) annual meeting dates:

2006 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin July 15-19

<http://www.virology.wisc.edu/asv06/>

2007 Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon July 14-18

2008 Cornell University, Ithaca, New York July 12-16

2009 University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada July 11-15

XIV International Congress of Virology, Istanbul, Turkey August 11-15 2008

Executive committee activities:

News

The International Congress of Virology was held in San Francisco, CA July 23 – 28 2005 as a joint meeting of the three divisions of IUMS under the title Microbes in a Changing World. The meeting was very successful, attracting over 2200 scientists. ICTV organized a very successful taxonomy poster session. The posters were on display during the entire Congress and can be viewed on-line at <http://www.danforthcenter.org/iltab/ICTVnet/sanfran.htm>. In addition to the strong scientific program, ICTV held its Plenary Session where reports of the President, and the Subcommittee Chairs (SC) were presented. The new Executive Committee was elected and the members are listed below. Congratulations to Dr Charlie Calisher who was elected a Life Member of ICTV.

Taxonomic Proposal Management System

Taxonomic Proposal Management System (TPMS), is a new database being developed at IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France) aimed at handling virus taxonomic proposals and providing an updated and official list of virus taxa. TPMS will be a tool for ICTV members and all virologists to make taxonomic proposals on-line, manage them through the ICTV

process, with public exposure and intervention of specialized ICTV study-group members, to accrue the updated list of virus taxa. All interested viral databases and individuals will therefore have constant and free access to the last updated list of virus taxa. In addition, TPMS will receive direct information from GenBank, relative to potential new virus taxa, for examination by members of the specialized study-groups and relevant subcommittees, to speed-up virus taxonomy. It is expected that TPMS will enhance virus taxonomy, increase accuracy, minimize human input and shorten the decision making process of ICTV.

Eighth report

The ICTV 8th report on virus taxonomy has now been published. Check it out: [Virus Taxonomy: VIIIth Report of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses](#)

In addition, Claude Fauquet and Denis Fargette have published an interesting paper outlining some of the problems that have arisen as a result of differences between the ICTV 8th report and the data that is included in GenBank. Take a look at: <http://www.virologyj.com/content/2/1/64>

Study Group Chairs

The Study Groups represent major players in the functioning of ICTV. They are responsible for keeping up-to-date with the emergence of new putative species as viruses become better characterised and submitting taxonomic proposals to the Subcommittee Chair. If you are a member of a Study Group, please ensure that your contact information is up to date on the ICTVnet web site.

Important links:

Main Web site for ICTVnet

<http://www.danforthcenter.org/iltab/ICTVnet/asp/MainPage.asp>

Templates for taxonomic proposals

http://www.danforthcenter.org/iltab/ICTVnet/Taxoprop_templates.htm

Taxonomic proposals on the web:

<http://www.danforthcenter.org/iltab/ICTVnet/asp/iMessageBoards.asp?mode=2>

Contact information:

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Please distribute the Newsletter freely on to anyone who may be interested in increasing the awareness of virus taxonomy and nomenclature.

Problems, comments and questions:

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome. The last emailing (June 2005) resulted in 54 individual and many more group distribution errors, unrecognized or inactive email addresses. How can we reach these people and make sure that the email addresses are correct in our database? One way is for YOU to check you personal information to ensure that it is correct, and update it on-line if it is not. If you are a National Representative, make sure all the appropriate information is included on the web site.

As the year 2005 comes to a close, and many of us look forward to celebrating Christmas, I wish all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Editor: Eric Carstens
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