



ICTV Newsletter #5 2006

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 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: June 2007.

The next meeting EC meeting is currently in the planning stages. It will be hosted by Dr. Eric Carstens in Kingston, Ontario

American Society for Virology (ASV) annual meeting dates:

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 38th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the ICTV was held on July 8 and 9, 2006 at the Institut de Recherche et Développement (IRD) in Montpellier, France. Dr. Yves DUVAL, Associate-Director of the IRD, welcomed the participants in the meeting. The meeting was characterized by the fact that the EC has several new members who were attending the meeting for the first time. Two items occupied most of the meeting, 1) the presentation of taxonomic proposals, and 2) the Taxonomic Proposal Management System (TPMS) that is being established at the IRD (<http://ictv.ird.fr/>).

Taxonomic Proposal Management System

TPMS is an application being developed at IRD aimed at handling virus taxonomic proposals and providing an updated and official list of virus taxa. It is expected that TPMS will enhance virus taxonomy, increase accuracy, minimize human input and shorten the decision making process of ICTV. You can see the new system at: <http://ictv.ird.fr/> If you have questions, problems logging on, or suggestions, please contact Denis Fargette denis.fargette@mpl.ird.fr. He would appreciate hearing from you.

ICTVdb

The ICTVdb is for many researchers, the primary mechanism whereby they obtain information on

virus taxonomy and therefore become familiar with the ICTV and its work. This use of the ICTVdb is frequently through links provided from sequence records on the NCBI and UniProt web sites to the ICTVdb web site (<http://phene.cpmc.columbia.edu/>). Since its inception, the ICTVdb has been in the capable hands of and the primary responsibility of Cornelia Büchen-Osmond. With Cornelia's retirement, the ICTVdb enters a new era; and this era starts with warm, heartfelt thanks to Cornelia for all of her efforts over the years to keep the ICTVdb funded, up-to-date, and an important resource of the ICTV. Dr. Ian Lipkin will now serve as the Principle Investigator for the ICTVdb, and he will oversee its continued development. The coordinating role for ICTVdb has been taken over by Dr. Elliot Lefkowitz.

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](#)

If you have comments or questions about information in the 8th Report, contact the current Study Group Chair of the particular virus. The IUMS site is most up-to-date place to view Study Group Chair information: <http://www.iums.org/comcofs/comcofs-virology.html>

Study Group Chairs

The Study Groups represent major players in the functioning of ICTV, 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>

International Union of Microbiological Societies:

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

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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 (Dec 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 2006 comes to a close, and many of us look forward to celebrating Christmas while others look forward to enjoying other holiday celebrations, I wish all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Editor: Eric Carstens
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