



## ICTV Newsletter #8 2010

The “ICTV Newsletter” is designed to provide information to those involved or interested in the work of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV). The ICTV Executive Committee (EC) seeks to keep Study Group members informed, and to involve them more directly in taxonomic deliberations. Please distribute this Newsletter freely to anyone who may be interested in increasing the awareness of virus taxonomy and nomenclature. Comments and suggestions regarding the content of the Newsletter are welcome.

The Newsletter mailing list is generated from anyone who has joined the ICTV discussion site at [ICTVonline.org](http://talk.ictvonline.org). Readers are responsible for keeping up-to-date their personal and contact information, including new email addresses. If you are a National Representative, make sure all the appropriate information is included on the web site, and send a note to the ICTV Secretary, Anne-Lise Haenni. To register, navigate to <http://talk.ictvonline.org/> and click on “Join” in the upper right-hand corner of the page, near the “Search” box. Registration is automatic. Once registered, sign in using the name and password you provided. You can update your contact information by clicking on “Edit Profile” in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

### Executive Committee activities:

#### EC-42 meeting report

The 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the EC (EC42) was held June 28-30 2010 at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France and was hosted by David Prangishvili and Anne-Lise Haenni. All but two of the EC members attended the 2 1/2 day meeting. Several elected members have been asked to act as Deputy Chairs for various Subcommittees (SC). David Prangishvili will act as Deputy Chair of the Prokaryote Virus SC and will handle archeal virus proposals. Nick Knowles and Stuart Siddell have been acting as Deputy Chairs on the Vertebrate Virus SC and handle positive-strand RNA virus and negative-strand RNA virus proposals, respectively. Hélène Sanfaçon has been acting as Deputy Chair for the Plant Virus SC. Fifty-three proposals were approved by the EC either during, or immediately following the meeting after minor corrections had been made. These proposals will be sent to the membership for ratification early in 2011. Plans for coordination of the editing and publication of the Ninth Report chapters were extensively discussed (see below). Other ongoing discussions included (1) the rapid emergence of a large number of environmental sequences for which no physical virus has been characterized and how such sequences should be classified, (2) revisiting the definition of the word polythetic currently associated with the species definition, (3) revisiting the development of a web-based taxonomic proposal management system, (4) problems associated with classifying virus taxa that cross the range of hosts covered by the various Subcommittees and the possibility of reorganizing Subcommittees to reflect virus characteristics rather than the host (note that ICTV previously had a Coordination SC which was charged with dealing with this very problem), (5) the need to maintain an appropriate range of expertise on the EC. Comments on these or other ongoing issues are welcome.

#### Future Plans

The 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be held Sept 9-11 2011 in conjunction with the ICV meeting in Sapporo, Japan and will be hosted by Keizo Nagasaki. Several members of the EC will be retiring from the EC in 2011 so elections will be held at the ICV plenary session. National members of ICTV

should ensure that their names are correctly listed in the ICTV directory web site so that they can be included in any future mailings, particularly ratification voting.

### **Taxonomic Proposals**

Taxonomic proposals approved at the EC40 and EC41 meetings, were sent to members of ICTV via e-mail for ratification in July 2009 and have become official taxonomy. The list of proposals ratified by the ICTV membership has been published [Carstens E. B. (2010) Ratification vote on taxonomic proposals to the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (2009). Arch Virol 155: 133-146]. In total, 215 taxonomic proposals have been ratified since the publication of the Eighth ICTV Report in 2005. The official taxonomy (including recently ratified proposals) is updated regularly online (<http://ictvonline.org/virusTaxonomy.asp>) and supersedes the taxonomy of the Eighth ICTV report. The text of recently ratified proposals can be found at [http://talk.ictvonline.org/files/ictv\\_official\\_taxonomy\\_updates\\_since\\_the\\_8th\\_report/default.aspx](http://talk.ictvonline.org/files/ictv_official_taxonomy_updates_since_the_8th_report/default.aspx) or following the link to “ICTV Official Taxonomy: Updates since the Eighth Report” under the “Files” menu tab. This web page also provides links to ongoing taxonomic proposals, categorised by host. Anyone who has signed up for the ICTV discussion site (see above) can post comments on these proposals. Commenting on new proposals before they are discussed at the EC and/or before they are sent for ratification ensures that potential disagreements with the proposed taxonomy are identified early in the approval process. Any proposals suggesting major taxonomy changes (new genera, families or order) are discussed over two EC meetings before they are considered for ratification voting. Other proposals (new species) can be fast-tracked for consideration for ratification voting at a single EC meeting, provided that no issues have been identified. The templates for submitting new taxonomic proposals can be found at <http://talk.ictvonline.org/media/g/templates/default.aspx>.

### **ICTV Reports**

An updated online version of the 8<sup>th</sup> Report is planned for release early in 2011. This version of the Eighth Report will serve as an online resource until it is replaced by the new Ninth Report. Andrew King has been appointed as the new Editor-in-Chief for the Ninth Report. Mike Adams, Eric Carstens, and Elliot Lefkowitz are the other main editors for the Report. Several other members of the EC are on the editorial board and have participated in the editing of chapters. Most chapters have been received and many have reached the final stages of editing. The Ninth Report will include all proposals ratified by the membership (including proposals approved at EC40 and EC41). Release of the online version of the Ninth Report is scheduled for late 2011. A print version of the Ninth Report is planned for launch before the end of 2011. The Ninth Report will be indexed in Scopus and Science Direct. Yearly updates to the online version will allow the inclusion of new ratified proposals (proposals approved at EC42 and at subsequent EC meetings).

### **Study Group Chairs**

Study Groups are responsible for keeping up-to-date with the emergence of new viruses and proposing new species or higher taxa by submitting taxonomic proposals to the appropriate Subcommittee Chairs. A list of the Study Group membership is available on the ICTV website. Please send any changes to your contact information (eg. mail address) to your Study Group Chair and to Anne-Lise Haenni. Information on Study Groups can be accessed either under the respective Subcommittee (<http://ictvonline.org/subcommittees.asp>) or as an alphabetical list (<http://ictvonline.org/studygroups.asp>).

### **Virology Division News (VDN)**

The VDN section of Archives of Virology is an important vehicle to communicate with the virology community. Study Group Chairs are encouraged to submit articles that discuss new taxonomic proposals, or any other taxonomic issues. Obituaries are also published in this section. See <http://ictvonline.org/virologyDivisionNews.asp> for a list of articles.

## Important links:

Main Web site for ICTV: <http://ictvonline.org/>

Current ICTV virus taxonomy database: <http://ictvonline.org/virusTaxonomy.asp>

Templates for taxonomic proposals: <http://talk.ictvonline.org/media/g/templates/default.aspx>.

International Union of Microbiological Societies: <http://www.iums.org/>

American Society for Virology: <http://www.asv.org/>

Society for General Microbiology: <http://www.sgm.ac.uk/>

## Meeting dates:

### ICTV EC Meeting: September 2011

The 43<sup>rd</sup> EC meeting will be held in Sapporo, Japan, September 9-11 2011.

**XV International Congress of Virology:** Sapporo, Japan, September 11-16 2011

### American Society for Virology (ASV) annual meeting dates:

**2011** University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 16-20

**2012** University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin July 21-25

**2013** Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, July 20-24

**2014** Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, June 21-25

**2015** University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada July 11-15

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