



ICTV Newsletter #9 2011

The "ICTV Newsletter" is designed to inform all interested in the work of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) about recent developments. It is produced by a member of the ICTV Executive Committee (EC) 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 recently appointed ICTV Secretary Mike Adams (see below). To register, navigate to [http://talk.ictvonline.org/](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:

EC43 meeting

The 43rd meeting of the EC (EC43) was held September 9-11 2011 in Sapporo, Japan in conjunction with the XVth International Congress of Virology (ICV) and was hosted by Keizo Nagasaki. All but two of the EC members (list below) attended the 2½ days meeting. The agenda included processing of taxonomic proposals, new and those under consideration; discussion of taxonomy-related issues, including EC nominations and elections (see below); EC management; continuing development of the ICTV website; and the status of ICTV Reports (see below). The following Chairs of six Subcommittees were (re-)elected for the next 3 years: Andrew Davison (Viruses of Vertebrates), H       Sanfacon (Viruses of Plants), Peter Krell (Viruses of Insects), Rob Lavigne (Viruses of Prokaryotes), Said Ghabriel (Viruses of Fungi), and Elliot Lefkowitz (Virus Data). The terms of John Mackenzie (Vice-President), Anne-Lise Haenni (Secretary), James Van Etten (Chair, Fungal Virus SC), Handanahal S. Savithri (Elected Member) and Curtis Suttle (Elected Member) were completed after this meeting. They were thanked for their long service and many contributions to ICTV.

In an effort to facilitate coordination between ICTV and National Center for Biotechnological Information (NCBI), the meeting hosted presentations by NCBI researchers James (Rodney) Brister and Yiming Bao. ICTV also received a request from an individual in Japan to rename the genus *Norovirus* because of the possibility of negative associations for people in Japan and elsewhere who have the

family name “Noro”. ICTV consulted widely with current and past members of the *Caliciviridae* Study Group and carefully discussed the case. The position was made public at the Congress and a press release was prepared. Following this experience, the ICTV strongly encourages the media, national health authorities and the scientific community to use the virus name Norwalk virus, rather than the genus name *Norovirus*, when referring to outbreaks of the disease.

ICTV plenary meeting

During the XVth ICV, the triennial ICTV plenary meeting was held. It approved reports for the period of 2008-2011 by the President and six Subcommittee (Co-)Chairs. Three ICTV officers (President, Vice-President and Meetings Secretary), and eight members were elected for a three-year term (2011-2014) (see table below). Dr. Roger Hull (Emeritus Fellow, John Innes Centre, UK) was elected a Life Member of ICTV. Some EC members presented posters about ICTV activities that were displayed throughout the Congress.

ICTV Executive Committee Members (September 2011-June 2014)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Study Group</u>	<u>Country</u>
Carstens, Eric B.*	President	Canada
Gorbalenya, Alexander E.#	Vice-President	Netherlands
King, Andrew M. Q.#	Proposals Secretary [Taxonomic proposals]	UK
Adams, Michael J.#	Business Secretary	UK
Ghabrial, Said A.#	Fungus Virus Subcommittee - Chair	USA
Krell, Peter J.*	Invertebrate Virus Subcommittee - Chair	Canada
Sanfaçon, Hélène#	Plant Virus Subcommittee - Chair	Canada
Lavigne, Rob*	Prokaryote Virus Subcommittee - Chair	Belgium
Davison, Andrew J.*	Vertebrate Virus Subcommittee - Chair	UK
Lefkowitz, Elliot J.*	Virus Data Subcommittee - Chair	USA
Bamford, Dennis H.#	Elected member	Finland
Breitbart, Mya#	Elected member	USA
Knowles, Nick J.*	Elected member	UK
Kreuze, Jan F.#	Elected member	Peru
Nagasaki, Keizo*	Elected member	Japan
Prangishvili, David*	Elected member	France
Siddell, Stuart*	Elected member	UK
Simmonds, Peter#	Elected member	UK

and * - first and second term, respectively

Virology Division News (VDN)

The VDN section of Archives of Virology is an important vehicle to communicate ICTV news to the virology community and beyond. [Jens Kuhn](#) has been elected as the new Editor of VDN succeeding Anne-Lise Haenni. Please send him reports and articles that deal with the development of virus taxonomy. It is important to reflect properly the status of taxa in these articles. Those which are currently taxonomic proposals before ICTV for acceptance must be clearly indicated as provisional.

Important links:

Main Web site for ICTV

<http://ictvonline.org/index.asp>

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 of General Microbiology

<http://www.sgm.ac.uk/>

Funding

ICTV is very grateful to the following organizations for their recent support: the Virology Division of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, the Society of General Microbiology, the American Society of Virology, Leiden University Medical Center (Leiden, the Netherlands; EC41 meeting) and Pasteur Institute (Paris, France; EC42 meeting).

Problems, comments and questions

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome. To ensure efficient distribution of this and other information, we ask you to verify your personal information online and make necessary updates. 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, Mike Adams.

Editor: Alexander E. Gorbalenya
Vice-President
November 2011