



ICTV Newsletter #6 2008

This Newsletter is designed to provide useful information to all those involved or interested 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 9th Taxonomic Report and the ICTV database.

Readers are responsible for entering and keeping up-to-date their own personal and contact information, including new email addresses. 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, login using the name and password you provided. You can then view and update your contact and personal information by clicking on “Edit Profile” in the upper right-hand corner of the web page.

Meeting dates:

ICTV EC meeting: August 6-9, 2008.

The 40th Executive Committee meeting of ICTV will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in conjunction with the International Congress of Virology. Several Executive Committee positions will be open for election. Contact the Secretary for further information.

XIV International Congress of Virology, Istanbul, Turkey August 10-15 2008

American Society for Virology (ASV) annual meeting dates:

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

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

2010 Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana July 17-21

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

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

Executive committee activities:

News

The 39th Executive Committee meeting of ICTV was hosted by Eric Carstens in Kingston, Canada in June 2007. All but one of the Executive Committee members attended the productive 2 1/2 day meeting. With the resignation of Denis Fargette as Secretary, Andrew King and Mike Adams together with Elliot Lefkowitz agreed to take over the duties of organizing the taxonomic proposals and developing a new web presence. Set a bookmark for the new ICTV website at: <http://www.ictvonline.org/>. You are encouraged to join the ICTVonline community of users by clicking on the “Join” button and following the instructions given above.

Taxonomic Proposals

Taxonomic proposals are the essential components of ICTV! The EC continues to work on developing a system for handling the various levels of virus taxonomic proposals and providing an updated and official list of virus taxa. The goal is to enhance virus taxonomy, increase accuracy, minimize human input and shorten the decision making process of ICTV. Work is proceeding on

updating taxonomy for the 9th ICTV Report.

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. You can also access the database through the new ICTVonline web pages (<http://www.ictvonline.org/ictvdbIntro.asp>). The coordinating role for ICTVdb is the responsibility of Dr. Elliot Lefkowitz, Chair of the Virus Data Subcommittee.

ICTV Reports

The ICTV 8th report on virus taxonomy is the current edition. 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: <http://www.ICTVonline.org/subcommittees.asp>. The IUMS site also lists 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 appropriate Subcommittee Chair. If you are a member of a Study Group, please ensure that your contact information is up to date on the ICTVonline web site.

Important links:

Main Web site for ICTV

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

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 (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 your 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, and send a note to the ICTV Secretary, Anne-Lise Haenni haenni@ijm.jussieu.fr.

Editor: Eric Carstens
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