

**EC51**  
**Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC)**  
**International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV)**  
**Monday July 15 - Wednesday July 17, 2019**  
**at Kongresszentrum Reinhardtstraßenhöfe**  
**Reinhardtstr. 12-16, 10117 Berlin**  
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**EC Members**

Andrew J. DAVISON (President and meeting Chair)  
Stuart G. SIDDELL (Vice-President)

Arcady R. MUSHEGIAN (Secretary – Business)  
Peter J. WALKER (Secretary – Proposals)  
Elliot J. LEFKOWITZ (Secretary – Data)

Andrew M. KROPINSKI (Chair, Bacterial and Archaeal Viruses SC)  
Balázs HARRACH (Chair, Animal DNA Viruses and Retroviruses SC)  
Nick J. KNOWLES (Chair, Animal ssRNA+ Viruses SC)  
Jens H. KUHN (Chair, Animal dsRNA and ssRNA- Viruses SC)  
Peter SIMMONDS (Chair, Fungal and Protist Viruses SC)  
F. Murilo ZERBINI (Chair, Plant Viruses SC)

Bas E. DUTILH (Elected Member)  
Robert L. HARRISON (Elected member)  
Sandra JUNGLÉN (Elected member)  
Mart KRUPOVIC (Elected member)  
Max NIBERT (Elected member)  
Luisa RUBINO (Elected member)  
Sead SABANADZOVIC (Elected member) [SS]  
Arvind VARSANI (Elected member)

**In Attendance (Wellcome Trust grant employees)**

Donald B. SMITH [DS]  
Richard J. ORTON [RO]

## **Monday 15 July**

### **09.00 Section 1: Introductory business, minutes and commitments**

1.1 Welcome to Berlin; introduction of new Proposals Secretary, Dr. Peter Walker; local arrangements

1.2 Amendments to Agenda

Move proposal 012D will move to General section next to 005G.

1.3 Review and approval of the Minutes of EC50 in Washington in 2018

Full set of minutes approved in principle. Executive summary of the minutes for general public also approved in principle. Corrections due to Business Secretary within a week.

1.4 Matters arising (when not part of the Agenda)

None.

1.5 Review of Commitments made at EC50 in Washington.

### **Section 2: General ICTV business (Publications, Newsletters, Life Membership)**

2.1 Virology Division News (VDN)

There have been 19 VDN papers since the change of Section Editor in September 2017. The relationship with Archives of Virology is good. It is worth discussing with Archives how to search online for all VDN papers.

2.2 ICTV Newsletters

2.3 ICTV Taxonomy Report – report of the editor-in-chief and managing editor

Impactful: 34% of all views of the ictv.global website are the views of the Report.

2.4 Virus Metadata Resource (SGS)

VMRb34 release made on June 1, 2019 (based on MSL34) has 5560 species exemplars and an additional 708 isolates for 233 species.

### **Section 3: Finances**

3.1 ICTV financial position was reported, grant activities and other fundraising options were reviewed.

### **Section 4: Future EC**

4.1 Report of the working group on the EC nomination and election procedures was presented.

Votes were taken on several proposed revisions of the ICTV Statutes, all of which passed, including:

- To unify the nomination procedure for all vacant EC positions, i.e., either by the community ('any virologist') to the Nominations Subcommittee, or by the Nominations Subcommittee itself.
- To make the nomination windows for all positions statutory, with the same start and end dates.
- To create a statutory principle of diversity in geography, demographics and expertise of the EC members without specific quotes.
- To hold electronic vote for all positions, inviting every ICTV member to vote.

- To setting EC membership at 23 persons, with the numbers of SC chairs and elected members decided by the EC and set in advance of the election, with the President, Vice-President and three Secretarial positions remaining as at present.

[Note: The new Statutes were put to vote in Winter 2020, approved by VD, and the EC nominations under the new Statutes occurred in Summer 2020; the all-ICTV electronic voting of the new EC members and Officers under new Statutes took place in August-September 2020].

#### 4.2 EC composition and structure

Create the Archaeal Virus Subcommittee effective 2020. Defer the discussion of Metagenomics Subcommittee until EC52 in 2020

#### 4.3 Candidates for 2020 EC elections

A list of candidates for elected members is discussed, and it is concluded that more candidates are needed to balance various desiderata. The Officers will send the reminders to the community in various forms.

### Section 5: Procedures

Agreed on the following amendment to a general procedure of taxonomic proposal consideration: “All proposals approved by the relevant SC chairs shall be tabled at the following EC meeting. During the progress of a proposal, a decision may be deferred for a maximum of one meeting at the request of the authors.”

### Section 6: Data and Software

Reviewed the scope and progress of online proposal submission system TPMS v2 – a Web form that can generate the proposal Excel sheet. Some functionality is available for testing.

Report on the ICTV website production server: it has been moved to Amazon Web Services (AWS), and the https protocol implemented. The new domain is ictv.global. The additional taxonomic ranks adopted recently have required a number of changes to the taxonomy browser. Developing the way to search NCBI Taxonomy from the ICTV web site, using virus names and virus species names as queries, would be advantageous, but requires new funding.

Persistent accession numbers (DOI) for proposals: Some journals, for example PeerJ, now require that a taxonomic proposal is submitted to ICTV before the relevant paper is published, and a persistent ID is created for it. We have a way to make persistent “ICTV URLs”, but DOIs are better --- although the paperwork to become a party that may issue DOIs is quite onerous, so it should wait until funding is available.

### Section 7: General taxonomy and nomenclature issues

7.1 Binomial species nomenclature. The rule allowing deferral of a proposal for a year was established yesterday. As a result, the present item is for discussion and a year-long deferral. Agreed that the EC as a whole publishes a consultation paper in VDN, where the options are defined.

7.2 The “Type Species” definition. Discussion of the background on and the meaning of having the type species. Further discussion deferred until EC52.

7.3 Procedures for reporting new taxa named after people (AD, EL, SGS, AM)

Discussed that the explanation of the origin of a taxon name should be given in the etymology section of the proposal, and permission should be obtained from the person. The use of trade names or copyrighted names also raised. Discuss further at EC52.

**Section 8: General taxonomic proposals and Section 9: Subcommittee reports and proposals (continued on Wednesday)**

Total proposals: 205, including 159 for streamlining and 46 for discussion (for comparison, EC50 count was 219/194/23). The results of discussion, approval and ICTV-wide ratification are published in Archives of Virology, DOI: 10.1007/s00705-020-04752-x

**Wednesday 17 July**

**Continuation of Section 9.**

**Sections 10 and 11: Optional catch-up session, Future EC activities and concluding business**

11.1 Appointment of the interim Bacterial and Archaeal Virus SC Chair for part of 2020: Andrew Kropinski wishes to step down on February 1, 2020, Evelien Adriaenssens is approved as an interim Chair.

11.2 Arrangements for EC52 in 2020 and for ICV 2020 in Daejeon

Agreed to hold EC52 in Daejeon prior to ICV2020. Update Winter-Spring 2020: because of COVID-19 pandemic and long uncertainty in the ICV2020 status, EC52 was moved to all-virtual Zoom meeting on October 5-9.

11.3 Any other business

Elected members names for EC 2020 elections – deadline for proposing them is in July.

Establish a working group to report at EC52 on what the EC position should be on viruses in environmental samples.

Update on the proposed Wellcome grant-funded Oxford meeting. The topic will have to do with Grand Challenges in taxonomy, defined and programmed broadly. Update: meeting postponed because of COVID-19 pandemic.

11.4 The President closed the meeting on time with thanks to all for their hard work at the meeting and throughout the year, and especially to Stuart and Helga Siddell for making excellent local arrangements.