

Minutes of the 2016 Virus Division Business Meeting

The annual Virus Division Business Meeting was held at 6:00pm on July 27, 2016 in Tours, France. Division Chair Martin Erlandson proposed the agenda and no additional items were forthcoming from the floor. Subsequently, Martin Erlandson asked for approval of last year's minutes, which were posted on the SIP website (September 2015) after the 2015 meeting and members were notified of its availability by email. Martin Erlandson made a motion to approve the minutes and the minutes were approved.

The Chair's report was given by Martin Erlandson. There was one Division Symposium held at the Tours meeting, "*Viruses and horizontal gene transfers*", organized by Elisabeth Herniou and Jean-Michel Drezen. A Divisional workshop, "*Taxonomy of Polydnviridae*", organized by Michael Strand, will follow the business meeting. In addition to the Division symposium and Division workshop, Martin reported that there were 7 virus oral presentation sessions at the Tours meeting, with 55 oral presentations (17 student presentations). There were 33 virus poster presentations (13 student presentations). Many more abstract submissions were received than could be accommodated and a number of oral presentations were moved to the Diseases of Beneficial Invertebrates and Microbial Control Divisions. Martin sincerely thanked all of the session moderators and student judges for their efforts.

The Virus Division membership increased slightly to 102 (78 regular and 24 student) for 2016. Overall the division membership remains quite stable. Martin sent out a template letter earlier this year, which can be used to invite colleagues to join the Society and the Virus Division.

Martin announced that Vera Ros was unable to attend the Tours meeting, so Martin summarized the Division financial status by presenting the Treasurer's report. The financial state of the Division is sound, with a current balance of \$6,544.95, as of May 1st 2016. The income from dues was \$1,275.00 and \$2,250 was received from the SIP General Fund. Expenditures for the Vancouver meeting were planned at \$2,500 (\$1,500 on three student travel awards and \$1,000 on one speaker travel award). As the non-member invited speaker for last year's symposium was from Vancouver only the registration cost was covered by the Division, thus \$750.00 was returned to the SIP General Fund. For the current Tours meeting the expenses were for three student travel awards (\$1,500.00) and speaker travel awards were budgeted at \$2,000.00 to cover the registration and partial travel costs for two invited speakers. For the coming year all Divisions will receive \$4,000.00 from the SIP General Fund for Travel Awards (Student and Invited Speakers) as it will be the 50th Anniversary of the Society.

The Student Representative Report was given by Gianpiero Gueli Alletti. Gianpiero announced that the SIP student's Facebook page was closed in accordance to the decision of the Publications Committee. As an alternative, the official SIP Facebook page can be used to exclusively reach and communicate the SIP student members only. There was a "JUNIOR RESEARCHER WORKSHOP" and lunch on Monday, July 25 on "Postdoctoral funding opportunities in the EU & US", at which Allyre Lohier and Rollie Clem gave presentations.

Elections were held for four Virus Division executive committee positions. Martin Erlandson (Chair, to become Past-Chair), Vera Ros as a fill-in for Eric Haas Stapleton (Secretary/Treasurer), Adly Abd-Alla (Member at Large), and Gianpiero Gueli Alletti (Student Representative) are rotating off the executive

committee this year. There were several calls for nominations sent out by the Chair via e-mail requests. Although more than one nomination was received for several positions not all nominated individuals agreed to let their names stand. The following nominations were confirmed: Elisabeth Herniou is nominated as Chair-Elect; Vera Ros is nominated as the Secretary/Treasurer; Jörg Wennmann is nominated as Member-at-Large and Carina Bannach is nominated as Student Representative. All nominated individuals briefly introduced themselves. Martin called for show of hands to support each nomination, and all were in favour. Congratulations to all those elected. Madoka Nakai will take over as Chair of the Virus Division.

Martin presented certificates of recognition to the Student Travel Awardees: Kaat Cappelle, Yu Shang, and Yue Han. Congratulations to all student award winners. Martin thanked the fellow members of the Awards Committee for their work in selecting the Student Travel Award winners from among the 12 applications. Martin reminded judges of students oral and poster presentations to hand in their judging forms before tomorrow noon.

Upcoming symposia were then discussed. For the 2017 meeting in San Diego a Cross Divisional Symposium to be organized with the Diseases of Beneficial Invertebrates has been suggested to honour Just Vlak's contribution to the science of both divisions. Martin asked for a vote of approval for this symposium. The vote was carried unanimously. Martin Erlandson and Kelly Bateman will initiate the organization of this cross divisional symposium.

Martin had sent out an e-mail request for future symposia suggestions, and particularly for a special symposium for the upcoming 50th SIP anniversary in 2017. Although no firm proposals were received, a suggestion for a symposium addressing the impact of insect virology on advances in virology in general and its potential role in advancing virus research in the future was discussed and endorsed as a concept for next year's Divisional Symposium. Martin Erlandson will solicit individuals to organize this symposium.

Martin acknowledged all Virus Division executive committee members that will step down this year [Adly Abd-Alla (Member at Large), Gianpiero Gueli Alletti (Student Representative) and Madoka Nakai (Vice-Chair taking over as Chair)] and thanked them for their service to the Division.

At 6:40 pm, Martin Erlandson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. At that point the podium was turned over to Michael Strand to chair the workshop on Taxonomy of Polydnviridae.

Submitted respectfully,

Martin Erlandson for:

Vera Ros, Secretary/Treasurer