

Minutes of the 2014 Virus Division Business Meeting

The annual Virus Division Business Meeting was held at 8:00pm on August 6, 2014 in Mainz. Division Chair Lorena Passarelli opened the meeting by asking for approval of last year's minutes, which were posted in the SIP website soon after the meeting and members were notified of its availability by email. Martin Erlandson made a motion to approve the minutes, Bryony Bonning seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The Chair's report was given by Lorena Passarelli. There was one Division Symposium held at the Mainz meeting, "Small non-coding RNAs as regulators of insect host-virus interactions and immunity", organized by Sassan Asgari. Lorena thanked Sassan for organizing an excellent symposium. A potential Cross-Divisional symposium that was approved at last year's meeting on "Horizontal gene transfers (HGT) within insect meta- or holo-genomes", to be organized by Elisabeth Herniou and Monique van Oers, was postponed due to not being able to find another Division to participate. This symposium will be attempted again in 2016. Lorena suggested that members try to develop proposals for symposia in advance of the annual meeting and communicate with interested parties, especially potential Cross-Divisional symposia, to increase the chances of success. In addition to the Division symposium, Lorena reported that there were 7 virus sessions at the Mainz meeting, with 55 oral presentations (13 student). There were also 38 virus poster presentations (6 student). Lorena thanked all of the session moderators and student judges for their efforts.

Membership decreased slightly to 89 (74 regular and 15 student), from a recent high of 113 in 2013, and is now back near 2011 and 2012 levels (84 and 86, respectively). Student membership levels remain steady. Lorena reminded everyone that she sent out a template letter earlier in the year, which can be used to invite colleagues to join the Society and the Division.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Rollie Clem. The financial state of the Division is sound, with a current balance of \$4,058.22. Last year's income from dues was \$1,197, and \$1,750 was received from the SIP General Fund. Expenditures were \$2,500 (\$1,500 on three student travel awards and \$1,000 on one speaker travel award).

Lorena reported that at this year's council meeting, she asked the council to consider increasing the amount of travel funds that the Council provides to the Divisions, and the Council agreed to increase the funds by \$750. Starting this year, there will be \$750 designated for Student Travel Awards, \$1,000 for speaker travel, and the additional \$750 can be spent on either Student Travel or to support Speaker travel. Peter Krell pointed out that these funds have to be spent each year, or they will be taken back by the Council. At the Council meeting, there was a suggestion of placing a cap on Division accounts, with excess funds going to the General Fund. Some Divisions keep their balance very low, while others such as the Virus Division, keep a running balance of a few thousand dollars. Lorena vigorously opposed this suggestion at the Council meeting, which was not discussed further at that time.

The Student Representative Report was given by Aurélien Chateigner and Yasumasa Saito. Yasumasa showed a screen shot of the Virus Division Student Facebook page, which the students in the Division have used to communicate. Bryony Bonning pointed out that this page must be approved by the Publications Committee, and the students agreed to discuss this with the committee (the committee is already aware of the page). Aurélien and Yasumasa also discussed the student mixer, which was held near the end of the Society mixer on

Sunday. The students reported satisfaction with having an opportunity to get together and socialize. There was a student workshop at the meeting, "How to Write a Paper", which the participants reported was useful and well attended.

Elections were held for four officer positions. Martin Erlandson becomes the Division Chair at the end of the Mainz meeting. Rollie Clem (Secretary/Treasurer), Bob Harrison (Member at Large), and Aurélien Chateigner (Student Representative) are rotating off the committee this year. Elections were held by secret ballot, and the new officers elected were:

Chair-elect: Madoka Nakai

Secretary/Treasurer: Eric Haas-Stapleton

Member at Large: Adly Abd-Alla

Student Representative: Gianpiero Gueli Alletti

Congratulations to all those elected, and a big thank you to the outgoing committee members for their service to the Division.

Lorena then acknowledged that the Martin Martignoni Award winner, Aurélien Chateigner, was a Division student. She presented certificates to the Student Travel Awardees, Siddhartha Biswas, Germain Chevignon, and Laila Gasmi. Congratulations to all student award winners.

Symposia were then discussed for the 2015 meeting in Vancouver. A proposed symposium approved last year, "Advances in insect and insect virus genomics", to be organized by Martin Erlandson and David Theilmann, was again approved as the Virus Division symposium for 2015. A new proposal, "Development of innovative virus management strategy", was proposed by Adly Abd-Alla. This proposal was approved as a potential Cross-Divisional symposium, assuming another interested Division can be identified. "Horizontal gene transfers (HGT) within insect meta- or holo-genomes" will be organized by Elisabeth Herniou for the 2016 meeting in Tours. An additional proposal made by Peter Krell, "Acaropathology", last year may be voted on in the future.

A workshop was proposed by Holly Popham and approved by vote for the 2015 meeting, "Definition of a Virus Species". Holly and Bob Harrison will organize this workshop for 2015.

Lorena discussed the implementation of electronic voting for Division officers, which she proposed at the Council Meeting and which received a generally favorable reception by the Council. This change will require modifying SIP bylaws. This would allow all paying members to have an opportunity to vote for Division officers, regardless of whether they are able to attend the annual meeting. It was requested by Council that the Divisions discuss this option at their business meetings to gauge the level of support. A vote was taken and an official endorsement of this as a request for future votes was approved by the members present (After the SIP meeting, Lorena requested this change to Council).

New business: Martin Erlandson thanked Lorena for her service as Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.

Submitted respectfully,

Rollie Clem, Secretary/Treasurer