

Minutes of the 2015 Virus Division Business Meeting

The annual Virus Division Business Meeting was held at 8:00pm on August 13, 2015 in Vancouver. Division Chair Martin Erlandson starts off with apologizing to the students – the Virus Division photo was taken earlier today at the same time the student workshop took place, so most students are not in the photo. Subsequently, Martin Erlandson asked for approval of last year's minutes, which were posted on 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, Eric Carstens seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The Chair's report was given by Martin Erlandson. There was one Division Symposium held at the Vancouver meeting, "Advances in host and insect virus genomics", organized by David Theilmann and Martin Erlandson. Furthermore, a Divisional workshop, "Definition of virus species concept", organized by Holly Popham and Robert Harrison, will follow the business meeting today.

In addition to the Division symposium and Division workshop, Martin reported that there were 5 virus sessions at the Vancouver meeting, with 40 oral presentations (14 student). There were also 36 virus poster presentations (12 student). Martin sincerely thanked all of the session moderators and student judges for their efforts.

Virus Division membership increased slightly to 92 (69 regular and 23 student), with the 69 regular members being a bit down from previous years. Martin mentioned that these numbers are moving targets, dependent on those that pay dues in the present year. Overall the division is doing well. Martin sent out a template letter earlier this year, which can be used to invite colleagues to join the Society and the Division, and is planning to do this again.

Martin announced that Eric Haas-Stapleton had to step down as Secretary/Treasurer, 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 \$5,257.37, as of May 1st 2015. Last year's income from dues was \$979, and \$2,250 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). For the current Vancouver meeting the expenses for three travel awards will be \$1,500.00 and one speaker travel award to cover registration of one of the invited speakers will be \$590.00. This year we will receive \$2,500 from the SIP General Fund.

The Student Representative Report was given by Yasumasa Saito and Gianpiero Gueli Alletti. Yasumasa showed a screen-dump of the student's Facebook page, which the students in the Division have used to communicate. The page was used for the announcement of deadlines for student travel awards, workshops, etc. This page has been under discussion by the Publications Committee and the final decision was that the page had not been officially approved by the Publication Committee and therefore will be closed.. As an alternative, the official SIP Facebook page can be used to exclusively reach and communicate only the student members of SIP. Yasumasa mentioned that two administrators (students or postdocs) for management of the Facebook page will be selected (from all divisions). This will be discussed at the student meeting tomorrow.

Yasumasa requested members to announce the SIP meeting in their local/national meetings, to motivate students to attend the SIP meeting. Yasumasa and Gianpiero discussed the future of student mixers indicating that it was nice to get together and to socialize. Furthermore, there was a student workshop this year on "Writing scientific articles: what reviewers and publishers are looking for", organized by Gianpiero with Leelen Solter, Dale Seatone and Patricia Stock making presentations. Fifty-six students and postdocs attended, and it

included useful discussions and pizza. Tomorrow (August 14), the Student Affairs Business Meeting will take place. There will be a change in election, to ensure overlap of students on the committee. Next year's student workshop will be discussed, as will be the election of a student member for the SIP Facebook page administration. John Burand asked whether the students have thought about what they would like to see different with regard to the student awards. Should the amount of money be increased for a single travel award? Johannes Jehle added that the travel awards should not exceed the Mauro Martignoni award. Johannes said that the amount of money is limited, so either less awards with more money each or more awards with less money each. The award money should however not be too low, it is also a recognition for the student. Monique van Oers advised students to consider sending the application to a different division if the topic covers also other divisions (other divisions have fewer applications than the Virus Division). Yasumasa asked if applications can be sent to two divisions – this is not the case. Martin requested the students to report tomorrow's meeting outcome to Martin or Madoka Naki.

Elections were held for three officer positions. Eric Haas-Stapleton (Secretary/Treasurer), Elisabeth Herniou (Member at Large), and Yasumasa Saito (Student Representative) are rotating off the committee this year. Vera Ros is nominated for the Secretary/Treasurer position. Vera briefly introduced herself and was thanked by Martin to step in so quickly. Holly Popham was nominated as Member at Large and Yue Han as Student Representative. They also introduced themselves. Martin called for show of hands to support each nomination, and all were in favour. Congratulations to all those elected.

Martin reminded judges of students oral and poster presentations to hand in their judging forms before tomorrow noon. Martin thanked the fellow members of the Awards Committee. Martin presented certificates to the Student Travel Awardees, Ryuhei Kokusho, Irene Kasindi Meki, and Aleksej Stevanovic. Congratulations to all student award winners. A photo of all students of the Virus Division was taken, in addition to the Virus Division photo that was taken earlier today.

Upcoming symposia were then discussed. For the 2016 meeting in Tours the Division Symposium will be organized by Elisabeth Herniou and Jean Michel Drezen on "Horizontal gene transfers (HGT) within insect meta- or hologenomes". Martin had send out a message for future symposia suggestions, with not much response. Peter Krell had suggested in the past a symposium on acaropathology. Martin suggested to have a special symposium for the upcoming 50th SIP anniversary in 2017. Martin asked for additional suggestions for a list of potential topics. Once received, he will send out an excel sheet with proposals so that members can vote to indicate their preference. Some suggestions from the floor were discussed, including a joint division symposium on high throughput sequencing and bioinformatics (Kelly Bateman) and pathogens of bees (Elisabeth Herniou). No topic was decided upon yet, so there is still room for a Cross Divisional symposium and a 50th anniversary symposium. Martin encourages everyone to think about potential topics, to put on the list. Ideas for 2017 should be sent in before the end of this calendar year. Martin will send out reminder before the end of November 2015.

Martin brought up the topic of electronic voting for Division officers, which was discussed last year. There was not a lot of support among the other divisions for electronic voting. The virus division will continue pressing this issue. Martin urged Virus Division members to send nominations for the officers of the Division when a call for nominations is sent out later this year.

Martin acknowledged all members that step down (Eric Haas-Stapleton, Elisabeth Herniou, Yasumasa Saito) and thanked them for their service to the Division.

At 8:57 pm, Martin Erlandson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Monique van Oers and Loy Volkman seconded the motion, and all were in favour.

Submitted respectfully,

Vera Ros, Secretary/Treasurer