

## **Minutes of the 2018 Virus Division Business Meeting**

The annual Virus Division Business Meeting was held at 8:00 pm on August 13, 2018 in Gold Coast, Australia, with 30 attendants. Division Chair Madoka Nakai presented the agenda and no additional items were forthcoming from the floor. Madoka asked for approval of last year's minutes, which were posted on the SIP website after the 2017 meeting and members were notified of its availability by email. Madoka made a motion to approve the minutes and the minutes were approved.

The Chair's report was given by Madoka Nakai. The Virus Division membership decreased slightly to 100 (with an increase in regular members to 84 and a decrease in student members to 16) for 2018. Overall the division membership remains quite stable. Madoka presented the current list of Virus Division officers. Madoka reported that there were 4 virus oral presentation sessions at the Gold Coast meeting, with 31 contributed oral presentations (10 student presentations). There were 21 virus poster presentations (2 student presentations).

Secretary/Treasurer Vera Ros summarized the Division financial status by presenting the Treasurer's report. The financial state of the Division is sound, with a current balance of \$7,809.26, as of May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. The income from dues was \$1,165 and \$4,000 was received from the SIP General Fund. Expenditures for the San Diego meeting were \$4,000 (\$2,250 for four student travel awards and \$1,750 for two speaker travel awards). Since this was equal to the amount received from the SIP General Fund, no money was returned to the SIP General Fund. For the current Gold Coast meeting the expenses were planned at \$3,000 for four student travel awards and at \$1,000.00 to cover two speaker travel awards. In addition a Cross Divisional symposium (at \$500) and a Student Journal Club (at \$25) will be supported, leading to a total of \$4,525 for estimated expenses. For the coming year (FY 2019) all Divisions will receive \$2,250 from the SIP General Fund [later at the SIP Business Meeting Johannes Jehle announced that the SIP General Fund will give \$3,000 to each Division and that the IOBC will contribute \$600 per Division for student awards].

The Student Representative Report was given by Bob Boogaard and Carina Bannach. Bob mentioned the number of student oral (10) and poster (2) contributions this year in the Gold Coast. The amount of posters presentations were a bit lower than preceding years. Prior to this Virus Division Meeting and Virus Workshop, a student Journal Club was held. As preparation for the workshop two articles were discussed. Ten students joined (even one from the Bacterial Division), and they had a nice discussion. Thursday August 16 at lunch time a workshop will be held on 'Career options inside and outside academics', to be given by Patricia Stock. After this workshop, the students will vote for the topic for next year's student workshop topic.

Madoka presented the awards to the Student Travel Awardees: Bob Boogaard, Carina Bannach, Hiroyuki Hikida and Jiangbin Fan (not present). Congratulations to all student award winners.

Madoka acknowledged all Virus Division executive committee members that will step down this year [Madoka Nakai (Chair, to become Past Chair), Elisabeth Herniou (Chair Elect taking over as Chair), Vera Ros (Secretary/Treasurer), Jörg Wennmann (Member-at-Large), Carina Bannach (Student Representative), Martin Erlandson (Past Chair)] and thanked them for their service to the Division. A certificate was handed out to Jörg Wennmann and Carina Bannach.

Elections were held for four Virus Division executive committee positions (Chair Elect, Treasurer/Secretary, Member-at-Large, Student Representative). 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: Rollie Clem is nominated as Chair-Elect; Adly Abd-Alla is nominated as Secretary/Treasurer; Gaelen Burke is nominated as Member-at-Large and Hiroyuki Hikida is nominated as Student Representative. All nominated individuals briefly introduced themselves. Madoka called for show of hands to support each nomination, all were in favor. Congratulations to those elected. Elisabeth Herniou will take over as Chair of the Virus Division.

Upcoming symposia were then discussed for the 2018 meeting in Valencia. Five proposals were received prior to this Virus Division Business Meeting. Elisabeth Herniou proposed 'Research advances in nudivirus ecology and evolution', which could either be a Virus Division symposium, or a cross-divisional symposium with the Division of Beneficial Insects (DBI). Vera Ros proposed 'Covert (persistent/latent) virus infections in insects'. Just Vlák proposed 'Insect-specific RNA viruses'. Gianpiero Gueli Aletti proposed a pest control topic, to strengthen the bonds between the SIP and International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC; a joint SIP and IOBC meeting will be held in Valencia in 2019). Lastly, Umut Toprak and Salvador Herrero proposed 'Host-pathogen interactions: the endless race' (on insect defence mechanisms), as a Cross Divisional symposium with the Bacteria Division.

Madoka showed some slides with details on the proposals of Elisabeth, Just, Gianpiero and Umut/Salvador. Vera gave extra information on her proposal. Regarding to the proposal of Gianpiero, Elisabeth Herniou had emailed that in her opinion the focus should not be on biocontrol. Johannes Jehle agreed that for a Virus Division Symposium the focus should be on viruses and not on microbial control. Martin Erlandson asked how the interaction between IOBC and SIP will happen. Johannes replied that this is not entirely clear yet, there might be a plenary session organized. The new chair should contact Miguel Lopez-Ferber (Viruses subgroup, IOBC). It was further discussed that the topic proposed by Vera and Just could be fused, and this topic might also be of interest to the industry.

It is decided to first vote for the Cross Divisional symposium, with as options the proposals from Elisabeth and from Umut/Salvador. A vote was taken, with 10 votes for Elisabeth's proposal, and 15 for Umut/Salvador's proposal. Therefore the Cross Divisional symposium in the 2019 meeting will be 'Host-pathogen interactions: the endless race', organized by Umut Toprak and Salvador Herrero, together with the Bacteria Division. Subsequently, a vote was taken for three proposals for the Virus Division Symposium. Five votes were counted for Elisabeth's proposal, 23 votes for Vera/Just's proposal and none for Gianpiero's proposal. Therefore the Virus Division symposium in the 2019 meeting will be 'Covert virus infections in insects', to be organized by Vera Ros and Just Vlák. Rose Hu reminded the symposium organizers to cooperate with IOBC.

Ideas for a workshop at the 2019 meeting were discussed. Last year, John Burand and Bob Harrison had proposed a workshop on changes in virus nomenclature, which might now be suitable for the 2019 workshop. The ICTV *Baculoviridae/Nudiviridae* study group met this evening. Bob mentions that an hour might be too excessive for a workshop. However, quite dramatic changes will most likely take place. Since it is important to get the intended changes out to all people, it was decided that a presentation of virus nomenclature be made part of a virus session in the general program, as a 15

minutes talk, which will be followed by an extended version during the Virus Division Workshop. This 15 minutes 'teaser' might also attract more people to the Virus Division meeting.

Madoka reminded everyone to encourage students to apply for a student travel award, since this is the only way they can receive the Mauro Martignoni award. This year, the Student Journal Club was held in preparation of the Virus Division workshop. Madoka asked whether this should be continued next year. It is agreed that this will be continued, and Bob Boogaard (student representative) will propose it next year as well.

Lastly, Madoka showed a slide to wish a happy retirement to Nor Chejanovsky. Nor said a few words and Madoka handed over a present. At 9:01 pm, Madoka Nakai made a motion to adjourn the meeting. At that point the podium was turned over to Madoka Nakai, Sean Marshall and Trevor Jackson for the workshop on *Oryctes nudivirus*.

Submitted respectfully,

Vera Ros, Secretary/Treasurer

*As extra information for later reference:*

There was one Division Symposium held at the Gold Coast meeting, "*Interactions between arboviruses and their vectors*", organized by Karyn Johnson and Rollie Clem. A Cross Divisional Symposium "*White Spot Syndrome Virus – Emergence and control*" was organized together with the Division of Beneficial Invertebrates, by Kelly Bateman and Just Vlak. A workshop entitled "*Oryctes nudivirus – what we know, and what we don't know*", organized by Madoka Nakai, Sean Marshall and Trevor Jackson followed the business meeting.