

Minutes of the 2021 Virus Division Business Meeting

The annual Virus Division Business Meeting was held virtually at 3:00 pm (Paris time) on July 27, 2021 with 9 attendants. Division Chair Rollie Clem presented the agenda, and no additional items were forthcoming from the floor. Elisabeth Herniou (Past Chair) presented the minutes of the 2019 Virus Division meeting and Rollie asked for its approval. Elisabeth and Adly made a motion to approve the minutes and the minutes were approved. No business meeting was held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chair's report was given by Rollie Clem. The Virus Division membership dropped to 67 in 2019/2020 and to 75 in 2020/2021 (there was a general reduction for all divisions due to the Covid-19 issue). Overall, the division membership remains slightly decreased. Rollie reminded everyone to tell their students and colleagues about the advantages in joining the society and encourage them to join. Johannes Jehle mentioned that the regular membership (non-student) was down in comparison with previous years and suggested that Rollie can get this list from Cecelia Schmitt and approach those members who did not renew their membership or attend this SIP meeting, to renew their membership to the Division. Another suggestion to consider multiple year (3 or 5) subscriptions to the Society was discussed and it was agreed to take this idea to the council meeting for discussion to reach the appropriate decision.

Rollie presented the current list of Virus Division officers and indicated that election is needed for Chair elect, Secretary/Treasurer, one member at large and one student representative. Rollie suggested that Manli Wang (Member at large) and Shili Yang (Student representative) should continue for another year since due to the Covid-19 pandemic they did not have chance to carry out their duties. This suggestion was accepted. In relation to the finance, Rollie mentioned that there is not much to report as there were no expenses from the Division and the balance remains at \$8191.00 as of May 1st 2021. Rollie reported that there were 6 virus chat sessions with 42 oral presentation and 7 posters at the 2021 annual meeting.

As planned, a cross-divisional symposium entitled "Viruses of pollinators" between the Virus and Diseases of Beneficial Invertebrates Divisions was organized by Bryony Bonning. In addition, a virus division symposium entitled "Place of Baculovirus in the fight against Covid-19" was organized by Elisabeth Herniou and Cristina de Rincon Castro. The Plenary symposium 'Current Challenges in the microbial control of *Spodoptera frugiperda*' was organized by Cristina de Rincon Castro and Elisabeth Herniou.

Upcoming symposia were then discussed for the 2022 meeting in South Africa (Port Elizabeth). Bob Harrison expressed his interest in organizing a workshop on "virus nomenclature" and for symposia the following ideas were proposed:

- 1- A symposium "Insect Virome: From Sequence Detection to Classification" proposed by Adly
- 2- A cross-divisional symposium about "multitrophic interaction involving entomopathogens" proposed by Salva Herrero with the Bacteria Division or other; contact with other Divisions soon is recommended.
- 3- The plenary symposium in South Africa is proposed to be "Biopesticide in the developing world", to be organized by Sean Moore.

The nominations for officer elections were discussed. Rollie asked members to send him nominations by email. In addition, some nominations were proposed as follows: Adly was nominated for Chair elect, Gaelen Burke and Holly Popham were nominated for Secretary/Treasurer, and Linda King and Salva Herrero were nominated as Member at Large. Salva and Gaelen declined nomination. For the Student representative, Salva and Elisabeth agreed to work on that and nominations will be sent to Rollie. The online election will be held in September 2021 after consultation with Cecelia Schmitt.

Rollie reminded everyone to send him additional nominations.

Rollie asked for a motion to close the meeting and motion was given by Johannes and seconded by Elisabeth and the meeting was closed.

Submitted respectfully,

Adly Abdalla, Secretary/Treasurer