

VIRUS DIVISION MEETING

August 7, 2013

Pittsburgh, PA, USA

The 2013 Virus Division business meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 by Division Chair Lorena Passarelli. Dr. Passarelli first gave the Chair's report. At the meeting in Pittsburgh, there was a Cross-Divisional symposium (with DBI) on "Invertebrate Innate Immunity" organized by Lorena Passarelli and Elke Genersch. There was a Divisional Symposium on "Evolution of traits and host usage by the related polydnaviruses, baculoviruses, nudiviruses, and salivary gland hypertrophy viruses", organized by Mike Strand, Elisabeth Herniou, and Michel Cusson. There was a workshop, "Invertebrate Virus Discovery", organized by Bryony Bonning. There were 36 platform presentations (11 student) and 23 poster presentation (8 student) in the Virus Division.

Thankfully, Virus Division membership has begun to recover after a couple of years of reduced numbers, going from 103 in 2010, to 84 in 2011, 86 in 2012, and back to 113 in 2013. Lorena asked that everyone please remember to invite colleagues to join the society. To aid in these efforts, she announced that she will write a boiler plate letter which will serve as a template to invite new members. This letter will be made available for members to use and modify as they wish. Lorena also asked everyone to please pay their dues early each year (preferably before January), since this helps greatly in determining the amount of funds that will be available for student travel awards in the Spring. For example, this year in March, when a decision had to be made, there were only 56 members in good standing. This meant that only two travel awards could be funded without going into deficit spending. Fortunately, by May, the membership number had increased enough that we were able to fund three travel awards.

Lorena then gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of the time of the meeting (end of FY 2013; April 2013) was \$4,058.22. Incoming funds include \$1,750 from the General Fund. Outstanding expenditures include \$1,500 for three student travel awards and \$1,000 for one speaker travel award for the Pittsburgh meeting. A recurring complication in explaining the account balance is that the fiscal year ends April 30, before the meeting and before expenditures are made. Elisabeth Herniou asked whether the balance takes into account the fact that some members are now paying dues 3 years at a time. (Note: it was later verified that the dues are added to the division account as they come in, so if someone pays for 3 years, all of the money is accounted for at the time of payment. However, membership is carried over for three years and reported every year). Lorena suggested that given our steady balance of around \$3-4K, we might want to consider using some of this money for purposes such as additional travel awards or workshops. Rollie Clem offered the opinion that it would be a good idea to protect the balance, even though this balance is more than some of the other Divisions carry from year to year.

The Student report was given by Aurelién Chateigner. There is now a SIP Student Facebook page, and Aurelién asked that everyone who is on FB "like" it. It was mentioned that there was some discussion about this student FB page at the SIP council meeting. The Council's concerns were that the page represented the Society, and so should maintain the proper decorum. The students in charge of the FB site reassured the Council that this would be the case. Bryony Bonning suggested that the student FB page be linked somehow to the Society FB page. At the Pittsburgh meeting, the students

held a workshop titled “Tricks and Tips for preparing a successful poster”. There was also a student mixer table at the Sunday evening mixer, which on the one hand was positive since it gave students a chance to mingle, but at the same time it limited somewhat the opportunities for networking with more senior colleagues. There was also a Student Business meeting at the Pittsburgh meeting.

There was then an election of two new officers. Outgoing officers, Yang Kai (Member-at-large; Certificate sent to him later, since he could not attend.) and Jörg Wennmann (Student Representative) were presented with a certificate of appreciation. The new Member-at-large is Elisabeth Herniou, while the new student representative is Yasumasa Saito.

Student travel award certificates were presented to Diveena Vijayendran (Iowa State University), Huachao Huang (Wuhan Institute of Virology), and Aurelién Chateigner (Universite Francois Rabelais de Tours).

Symposia for the 2014 meeting were then discussed. Two symposia were approved for the 2014 meeting. A Divisional symposium on “Small non-coding RNAs as regulators of insect host-virus/pathogen interactions and immunity” will be organized by Sassan Asgari, while a potential Cross-Divisional symposium on “Horizontal gene transfers within insect meta- or holo-genomes” will be organized by Elisabeth Herniou and Monique van Oers. An additional symposium on “Advances in insect and insect virus genomics” was approved for the 2015 meeting and will be organized by Martin Erlandson and David Theilmann. There was also discussion about a possible pan-divisional symposium on “Regulation and biosafety of biocontrol agents”, which apparently has been discussed by several Divisions for the 2014 meeting. Just Vlak and Johannes Jehle will coordinate this topic with other Divisions.

Under the topic of “Other Business”, Peter Krell reminded everyone on behalf of the ICTV to be careful in use of the proper nomenclature for virus and virus taxa names. In particular, italics and capitalization should only be used when referring to a taxonomic group, such as a species or higher taxa. When referring to viruses which are real, physical entities, the names should not be italicized, and should only be capitalized if they are a proper noun (for example, dengue virus is not capitalized, while West Nile virus is capitalized since it refers to a geographic region, the West Nile region of Uganda).

The Virus Division Business meeting was then adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted September 6, 2013 by Rollie Clem, Treasurer