Eric Carstens: new life member of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV)

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We are delighted to announce that Professor Eric B. Carstens has recently been elected as a Life Member of the ICTV. This follows nomination by the whole Executive Committee at its meeting in London in July 2015 and subsequent ratification by the entire voting membership. Eric is currently a Professor in the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences, Queen's University,

Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and has a particular research interest in large DNA viruses that infect insects.

Life membership is an honorary appointment in recognition of outstanding service to virus taxonomy. Life members have voting rights in the ratification of taxonomic proposals, when changes to the ICTV Statutes or Rules are proposed, and in elections to positions on the Executive Committee.

Eric first joined the Executive Committee in 1993 as chair of the Invertebrate Virus Subcommittee, in which role he served for 6 years. He then contributed as an elected member of the committee for a further 6 years. After this, he was elected as Vice-President for 3 years and finally as President and Treasurer for 6 years until 2014. This period of continuous service for 21 years makes him the longest-serving Executive Committee member in the 50 year history of the ICTV. The stability, efficiency and good humour that he brought to the roles of Vice-President and President were particularly appreciated by his colleagues on the Executive Committee. Life membership will help Eric to continue his involvement with virus taxonomy.

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