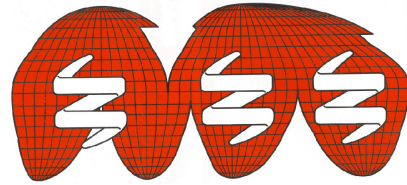


Minutes of Virtual ICT Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 7th February 2024
15:00 – 16:15 (CET)



Agenda

1. Candidate host proposals for ICT-17
2. Submission of manuscripts for publication in ICT-16 Special Issue of Vet Par
3. Updates to ICT website
4. Any other business

I. Vallée chaired the meeting and B. Scandrett recorded the minutes.

Ad 1) *Candidate host proposals for ICT-17* (I. Vallée et al.)

Isabelle reminded the EC that no preliminary proposals for hosting ICT-17 have yet been received, and we are now well past the deadline of Dec 31, 2023 indicated in the original call-out message. She is asking the EC for suggestions on next steps to address this apparent lack of interest. Zuzana then indicated that she and her colleagues have considered being potential hosts of the conference but that 2027 is too far ahead to have any certainty of financial commitments from the host institute and other sponsors. Karsten mentioned that surplus ICT funds could be provided at a later date if necessary to support the host of the next conference, via the Secretary General responsible for overseeing the funds and as agreed to by the EC. Rajnish indicated that India could be a potential host, but that the conference dates could hopefully be flexible enough to be scheduled in Jan/Feb to avoid the heat in summer. Xiaolei also indicated the possibility of China (Chanchun or Beijing) as a potential host venue.

Zuzana expressed concern about potentially low attendance at the next meeting. Karsten mentioned that Ljiljana had the same concerns with ICT-16, but it ended up being a productive meeting with only approx. 60 attendees. Karsten stated that if the participating membership is below that originally anticipated, there are always options to change venues, increase registration fees, etc. to effectively balance costs. Karsten also mentioned that non-hosting members of the ICT can also help the hosting committee in terms of workload and costs by, for example, including the conference website on their own institutional platform at reduced cost.

Mirek reminded the EC that ideally the conference should be held on various continents to be more representative of *Trichinella* as a global issue, not just Europe. Gianluca agreed and provided a quick re-cap of the previous discussion in that 1) a new call for expression of interest in hosting ICT-17 will be sent to the membership, 2) surplus ICT funds could be used to support costs in excess of that covered by registration fees and, 3) although facilities and access in Europe can facilitate attendance by European members, having the conference outside of Europe is a good opportunity to engage and recruit new scientists and ICT members (as was the case for ICT-13 held in Changchun, China).

Mirek suggested that perhaps grants could be applied for by ICT or hosting institutes to support the cost of the ICT conference, although Isabelle indicated there were no such possibilities she was aware of at this time. However, Brad agreed that if there was an

‘automatic’ contribution of funds committed by ICT to potential conference hosts, that might entice more applicants.

Isabelle mentioned that ICT needs to be more dynamic so that *Trichinella* continues to be recognized as a priority. Mirek suggested that combining ICT-17 with the EURP meeting which includes other parasites in its scope could be a way of increasing participation, and that such a joint meeting would not necessarily need to be held in Rome. Isabelle mentioned that the ICT meeting should be kept international and Gianluca agreed, clarifying that the EURP meetings are not focussed on *Trichinella* but more on NRL issues that are not parasite-specific.

Isabelle proposed that a new call for expressions of interest in hosting ICT-17 be send to the ICT membership via e-mail with an extended deadline of May 31, 2024 and this was agreed upon by the EC.

Ad 2) *Submission of manuscripts for publication in ICT-16 Special Issue of Vet Par* (B. Scandrett et al.)

Due to the few submissions of manuscripts received thus far for the Vet Par Special Issue (which aims to include at least 20 published articles), Brad asked the EC about possible options that might need to be considered to address this, including expanding the scope beyond that pertaining only to work presented at ICT-16 (but still restricted to ICT members only). There is apparently nothing in the By-Laws prohibiting this. Isabelle agreed with this consideration, but emphasized that submissions from ICT-16 should remain the priority. Zuzana and Peter suggested that we wait a bit longer before considering any changes since the current deadline is not until 10th September 2024 and there is still quite a bit of time for interested conference participants to prepare and submit their manuscripts. Peter also suggested that we might have to increase the frequency of the e-mail reminders currently sent monthly. He also suggested waiting until June to re-assess the situation, with the EC concurring.

Ad 3) *Updates to ICT website (EC member photos, member lists; site currently appears to be ‘Under Construction’)* (M. Rozycki)

Brad noted that the ICT website has recently been down (‘Under Construction’) and asked that Mirek provide an update. Mirek indicated that while updating the site recently he generated an error that resulted in the website not functioning properly but he has since identified the problem and hopes to have it fixed and the site up and running again within the next week or so. Brad also took this opportunity to remind any new EC members who have not yet submitted their photos for the website to Mirek to do so at their earliest opportunity.

Ad 4) *Any other business*

No other business was broached or discussed.

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List of attending ICT members (12)

Fernando Fariña (Argentina), Brad Scandrett (Canada), Liu Xiaolei (China), Isabelle Vallée (France), Karsten Noeckler (Germany), Rajnish Sharma (India) Gianluca Marucci (Italy)

Miroslaw Rózycki (Poland), Milena Zivojinovic (Serbia), Zuzana Hurníková (Slovak Republic), Peter Thompson (USA)

Regrets: Ben Rosenthal (USA)