



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE STUDY OF VIRUS
AND VIRUS-LIKE DISEASES OF GRAPEVINE**

**19th Meeting
General Assembly of ICVG
Minutes**

Thursday, April 12, 2018

The General Assembly meeting was called in order by M. Fuchs, former Secretary of ICVG, at 12:30 pm at Viña Santa Carolina, in Santiago, Chile.

Discussion item 1: “Report from the Secretary”: M. Fuchs indicated that ICVG is a vibrant organization with more than 400 members from 45 countries. He announced the transfer of the ICVG website (<http://icvg.org>) from Cornell University to the University of California at Davis. Proceedings of most previous ICVG meetings are now posted on the Council’s website. Proceedings of a couple of past meetings are missing; these will be added to the site shortly. M. Fuchs invited ICVG members to enhance the website by contributing photos of their favorite vineyard(s) to create a “Vineyards of ICVG” photo gallery.

Discussion item 2: “International collaborations”: Several international collaborations have been recently established to advance our understanding of viruses and phytoplasmas of fruit crops through EU-funded COST initiatives, Tropicsafe or PATHOGEN. Opportunities for such collaborations should be further explored to leverage international expertise for the development of solutions to important grapevine diseases.

Discussion item 3: “Venue of the next meeting”: The leadership of the ICVG steering committee received four expressions of interest for the organization of the 20th ICVG meeting in 2021, including from Nikos Katis, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece; Arnaud Blouin and Karmun Chooi, The New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand; Valeria Gualandi, Fondazione Edmund Mach, San Michele All’Adige, Italy; and Martina Segura-Music (University of Zagreb, Croatia) and Duska Delic (University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina). Each potential convener was given a 5-min presentation opportunity to make their case. Then, M. Fuchs acknowledged the long-lasting gentlemen’s agreement among leaders of the ICVG steering committee to alternate venues between Europe and countries outside of Europe for hosting ICVG meetings. He also recognized the anteriority of Katis’ offer and proposed the 20th ICVG to be held in Greece. Prof. Martelli seconded M. Fuchs’ motion and the majority of ICVG members voted in favor. Therefore, the Assembly entrusted N. Katis with the organization of the 20th ICVG meeting in Thessaloniki in 2021.

Discussion item 4: “Leadership of the Steering Committee”. M. Fuchs announced that Prof. Martelli was stepping down as a member of the Steering Committee and as President of ICVG. On behalf of all the ICVG members, M. Fuchs expressed his utmost sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Martelli for many years of dedication and service to ICVG. He thanked him for carrying the vision of the founding fathers of ICVG, for his leadership, guidance, wisdom and generosity that inspired us, carried us, transported us and helped us reach beyond excellence. Prof. Martelli received an emotional and long-lasting standing ovation from the Assembly. After thanking the Assembly for its perdurable support, Prof. Martelli indicated that he nominated M. Fuchs as the next president and his nomination received unanimous support from the Steering Committee. M. Fuchs agreed to serve as the 3rd President of ICVG and elected Prof. Martelli as an Honorary President of ICVG.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Fuchs