

News from ISVM

International Society for Viruses of Microorganisms

March 5
2024

ISVM updates

iVoM update

The iVoM webinar series season 3 is underway with the first three of six sessions completed. The webinar series is aimed at discussing the latest research and advancements in the field of microbial viruses and the ultimate goal is to provide an easily accessible platform for students and early career researchers to share their findings, exchange ideas, and foster collaborations within the scientific community. With over 614 attendees registered, the series has featured presentations from early career researchers making exciting contributions on i) the Ecological and function roles of viruses, ii) Cutting edge science behind effective phage therapy and iii) Bacteriophages in soil and plant interactions. The iVoM webinar series chairs, Matthias Fisher, Aleksandra Petrovic Fabijan and Hugo Oliveira underscored the importance of the topics discussed and the opportunity for attendees to engage with emerging and groundbreaking research in these critical areas. Register today and be a part of the remaining sessions to stay updated and contribute to the ongoing dialogue shaping the future of microbial virus research.

National VoM updates:

UK Viruses of Microbes

Workshop and conference for the UK Viruses of Microbes community took place at Northumbria University, Newcastle, January 25th – 26th 2024.

VOM-UK event was a two-day conference, preceded by a phage genomics workshop designed to support the development of postgraduate and early careers researchers, offering interaction with group leads and networking with peers. The meeting was open to academia and industry interested in Viruses of Microbes.

The event gathered over 100 participants with Professor George Salmond from the University of Cambridge as the keynote speaker and 29 postgraduate students and PDRA/Fellows presenting the research of more than 16 universities from the United Kingdom, USA, Poland, and Israel.

Second Symposium of the Belgian Society for Viruses of Microbes and Launch of the Phage Valley

The 2nd Belgian Society for Viruses of Microbes (BSVoM) symposium took place on September 8 2023 at the University of Liège and showcased over 140 researchers from 10 countries delving into the fascinating world of phages, from exploring the ecological roles of "generalist" and "specialist" microbes to uncovering novel phage diversity in human samples. The event presented both fundamental research breakthroughs and promising applications, including the potential of phages to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria and the development of personalized phage therapy approaches.

Additionally, the symposium marked the launch of the "Phage Valley" initiative, highlighting Belgium's unique ecosystem of researchers, companies, and regulators collaborating in the field. This collaborative approach underscores Belgium's commitment to accelerating phage research and

development, offering promising solutions for human and animal health, agriculture, and environmental challenges. The BSVoM symposium fostered a vibrant community, connecting researchers, industry leaders, and regulators. By sharing knowledge and working together, this community is poised to unlock the full potential of phages and help shape a brighter future.

A summary of the symposium can be found [here](#).

Call to Action: Please Share the Outcome of Your Phage/Microbe Virus Meetings! - Let us know about your national/local virus of microbes/phage meetings for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

iVOM
season 3

iVoM Webinar Series Season 3

- ☐ six sessions, diverse viral topics
- ☐ from December 2023 to April 2024
- ☐ featuring early career researchers




 Phage Directory
 International Society for
Viruses of Microorganisms

VoM	Location	Dates
VoM VI	Portugal, Guimarães	18-22 July 2022
VoM VII	Georgia Tbilisi	9-7 July 2023
VoM VIII	Australia, Cairns	15-19 July 2023

iVoM 1	2020/21
iVoM 2	2021/22
iVoM 3	2023/24

Please register [here](#). The iVoM series are made possible by contributions from ISVM members like you. We appreciate your financial support of ISVM, which will help support students and early career researchers attendance to VoM 2024.

VOM 2024



Viruses of Microbes 2024 Meeting: Expanding Our Viral Frontiers

The VoM 2024 meeting will be held outside of Europe for the very first time to be hosted on the shores of the Great Barrier Reef, in the tropical tourist destination of Cairns, Australia. The five-day scientific program will encompass a broad range of topics related to the viruses of microbes' research field.

An esteemed lineup of [Keynote speakers](#) with diverse backgrounds and rich experiences in their respective fields has been confirmed. Registrations to the meeting are now [open](#) and abstract submission closed with over 450 abstracts submitted from 49 countries. The breadth of research topics, the diversity of geographic representation, and the inclusivity across career stages showcased in the abstract submissions for VoM 2024 promise an exciting and enriching conference experience, fostering dynamic discussions and collaborations at the forefront of microbial viruses.

Visit www.vom2024.org for the latest information.

ISVM announcements

VOM 2026 application

Viruses of Microbes Meeting VoM 2026 Application

The Viruses of Microbes (VOM) conference is the official meeting of the International Society of Viruses of Microorganisms (ISVM; www.isvm.org/).

We cordially invite enthusiastic and dedicated ISVM members to become VOM2026 organizers. If you're ready to roll up your sleeves and create a passionate team that will organize a memorable event, Viruses of Microbes 2026 conference, we welcome your application!

The application template form is attached to the newsletter email.

Complete application form must be submitted by email to the ISVM Board (board@isvm.org) by **30 April 2024**.

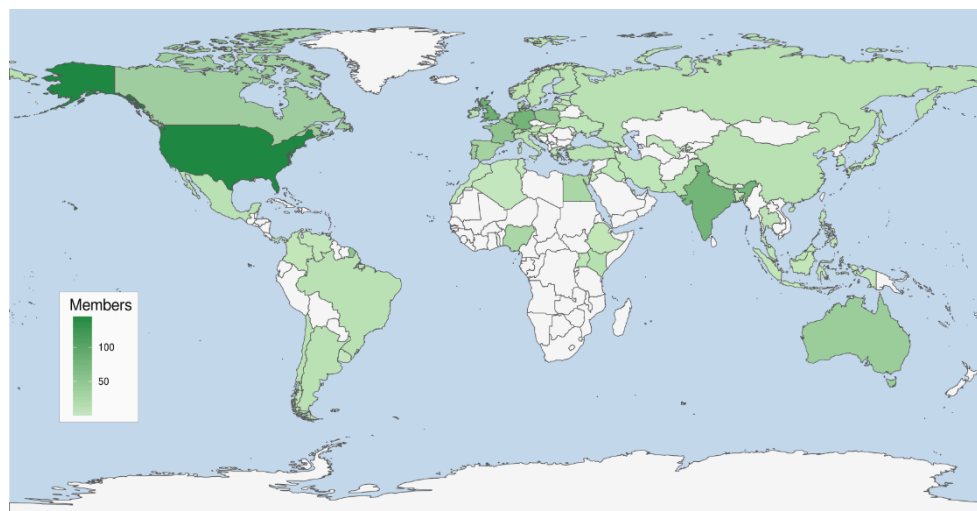
There will be a few weeks after the deadline of submission during which the ISVM Board may request additional information, after which the ISVM Board will review and decide by mid-June 2024. The selected organizers will be invited to present their application during the upcoming Viruses of Microbes conference (VoM 2024) in Cairns, Australia, in person or by sending a PowerPoint presentation or video.

Prospective organizers are advised that the organization of the Viruses of Microbes meeting is a rewarding but also demanding task that must be undertaken only with the backing of several co-organizers (a strong local organizing committee).

ISVM membership

The International Society for Viruses of Microorganisms (ISVM) boasts an impressive **1,300 members from nearly 200 different countries!** We invite you to become a part of this wonderful family, where we collectively redefine the possibilities and potential of the world of viruses of microorganisms.

Please spread the word, and **encourage young scientists to join our global community of members**, Register today here [link for registration](#).



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