

Dear microbial virus enthusiasts,

today we want to welcome you again to the “Fachgruppe Mikrobielle Viren” a joint group of VAAM and DGHM. We are happy that many of you have supported Julia Frunzke’s initiative and thus made possible to constitute our new VAAM / DGHM special interest group this March in Leipzig.

Since then, research circumstances for many of us have been extraordinary, but hopefully still productive. As a freshly funded network we especially miss the opportunity to interact with you at this summer’s conferences, as for example the “Viruses of Microbes” meeting in Guimaraes/Portugal to name just one. Meeting you in person will probably have to wait until 2021. Nevertheless, we decided to keep you updated in more or less regular intervals with a short newsletter to encourage networking and exchange.

**1. Attract more members to the special interest group!** We would like you to spread the news about the Viruses of Microbes group to your network, as well as this newsletter. Every VAAM or DGHM member is welcome to join, and we especially want to encourage young researchers to link to our community. A simple email is sufficient to register: [office@dghm.de](mailto:office@dghm.de) or [mail@vaam.de](mailto:mail@vaam.de)

**2. DFG priority program** “New concepts for the virus-host interaction in prokaryotes – from individual cells to microbial communities”. Congratulations to the team coordinated by Prof. Julia Frunzke, Forschungszentrum Jülich for establishing this funding initiative that will substantially support fundamental microbial virus research in Germany.

**3. Minisymposium at VAAM annual conference spring 2021 in Düsseldorf.** The focus of next year’s meeting will be “Molecular structures made by viruses” and we are currently assembling a speakers list. Your input on this topic is highly welcome.

**4. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Viruses of Microbes meeting** has been postponed to 5-9 July 2021.

5. For those of you who are not a **member of International Society for Viruses of Microbes** yet, please sign up for free, to stay up to date on international initiatives of viruses of microbes.

6. The Journal ‘Viruses’ hosts a **special issue on ‘Viruses of Microbes’** with the deadline December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas and requests for all types of community activities, job postings, or any news to distribute into the “Fachgruppe Mikrobielle Viren”. We are looking very forward to the exchange with you!

Best regards

Tessa Quax and Stefanie Barbirz

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#### Links to microbial virus communities in the world wide web

VAAM Fachgruppe Viruses of Microbes: <https://vaam.de/die-vaam/fachgruppen/mikrobielle-viren-gemeinsame-fg-der-vaam-und-dghm/>

Nationales Forum Phagen: <https://nationales-forum-phagen.uni-hohenheim.de/>

International Society for Viruses of Microorganisms: <http://www.isvm.org/>

Priority program prokaryotic viruses:

[https://www.dfg.de/service/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/pressemitteilung\\_nr\\_19/index.html](https://www.dfg.de/service/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/pressemitteilung_nr_19/index.html)

### **Upcoming conferences**

Viruses of Microbes Meeting 2021: <https://vom2020.org/>

Gordon Conference Physical Virology 2021: <https://www.grc.org/physical-virology-conference/2021/>

### **Special issues**

'Viruses of microbes' in the journal Viruses:

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/viruses/special\\_issues/VOM2020](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/viruses/special_issues/VOM2020)