



GISAID-ISIRV Training Workshop on *Genetic Analyses of Influenza Viruses*

Isirv in conjunction with the GISAID Initiative, the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University is organising a 2-day training workshop on *Genetic Analyses of Influenza Viruses* at the Polytechnic University on 21-22 November 2015. The workshop will be held following the 4th WHO Informal Consultation on Improving Influenza Vaccine Virus Selection on 18-20 November. There is capacity for 30 participants.

The purpose of the hands-on training is to enable laboratories, particularly in S.E. Asia, to contribute to and benefit from the extensive genetic and related data on influenza viruses, in relation to understanding the epidemiology of influenza, the evolution of the viruses and the emergence and spread of novel genetic and antigenic variants. Participants will be instructed in the use of GISAID's platform (hosted by the Federal Republic of Germany) and introduced to the new EpiFlu™ 2.0 database, its novel features and advanced analysis tools for the identification (and display on phylogenetic trees) and interpretation (using FluSurver) of mutations underlying the evolution and antigenic variation of human and animal influenza viruses.

The programme (to be available soon) will include a combination of brief lectures, demonstrations and hands-on training:

1. Brief introductory lectures covering:

- Evolutionary aspects of human and animal influenza viruses
- Antiviral resistance
- Sequence determination
- The GISAID EpiFlu™ database – features and tools
- Submission and curation/annotation of data
- Sequence analysis and phylogenetic comparisons (evolution)
- Phenotypic and functional association of mutations (receptor binding, antigenicity, antiviral resistance)

2. Bioinformatics training (demonstrations and hands-on) on:

- Submission of data and annotation
- Search and analysis of data
- Sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis
- Identification and interpretation of mutations using FluSurver

3. A final Question and Answer session.

The Workshop will be held at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 11 Yuk Choi Rd, Hung Hom, Hong Kong. You will need to book your own accommodation, and these are three hotels close to the Workshop venue:

[Hotel ICON](#) – 0.2 miles from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University

[Ramada Hotel, Kowloon](#) – 0.2 miles from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University

[Popway Hotel](#) – 0.1 miles from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Participation is free of charge but requires pre-registration. There are still a few places available. If you wish to participate in this Workshop, please contact Lida DeSouza (lidadesouza@isirv.org).

A few Travel Awards are available to support participants from low to middle income countries in South-East Asia. Applications should be submitted to Lida DeSouza (lidadesouza@isirv.org) by 28 October, together with a CV and Letter of Recommendation from your Head of Department.