



## **Call for Proposals to Host 2019 International Symposium on Ranaviruses**

The scientific community is increasingly aware that emerging infectious diseases pose a significant threat to global biodiversity. A group of viruses in the genus *Ranavirus* (Family Iridoviridae) cause disease in amphibians, reptiles, and fish, and are causing population declines and economic losses in multiple species. The emergence of ranaviruses has sparked a diversity of research programs addressing the ecology and evolution of ranavirus-host interactions, potential reservoirs and transmission dynamics, molecular techniques for identifying and characterizing ranaviruses, immunological and histopathological responses to infection, hypothesized causes for emergence, and potential conservation strategies to thwart outbreaks. In 2011, 2013, and 2015, international symposia were organized to share current knowledge on ranaviruses, forge new collaborations, and provide direction on future research and outreach education needs. Activities during these symposia included oral and poster presentations, breakout discussions, field trips, and workshops. Planning is currently underway for the Fourth International Symposium on Ranaviruses, which is being held in conjunction with the 10th International Symposium on Viruses of Lower Vertebrates in Budapest, Hungary from June 7 – 10, 2017 ([www.rana-2017.com](http://www.rana-2017.com)).

The Global Ranavirus Consortium (GRC, <http://www.ranavirus.org>) is soliciting proposals to host the Fifth International Symposium on Ranaviruses in 2019. Submission instructions are provided below.

### Responsibilities:

The host committee will work with the Board of the GRC to identify sponsors and raise funds for travel grants and symposium activities; organize a call for abstracts, review submissions, and extend invitations to present; develop advertising flyers and a symposium program; plan symposium activities; and produce deliverables (e.g., video, presentation PDFs) for sponsors, GRC members, and the public. We recommend that several individuals are members of the host committee. *Ad hoc* planning committees with certain tasks (e.g., funding, presentations) can be formed using GRC members under the direction of the host committee. We encourage possible applicants to peruse the 2015 Ranavirus Symposium website (<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aeh/ranavirus/index.html>) to gain an understanding of the responsibilities. The GRC has a manual to help guide the planning process (<http://www.ranavirus.org/symposium/symposium-planning-resources/>). For the

Submission:

Proposals should be  $\leq 2$  pages of written text (2.5-cm margins, 12-pt font, single spaced), with up to 3 pages of supporting appendices (e.g., photos of venue, draft schedule). The proposal should include:

- a) Location and Venue (e.g., hotel, university)
- b) Approximate Dates
- c) Concurrent Meeting (if there is one)
- d) List of Co-organizers
- e) Proposed Activities
- f) Explanation why you think your venue is most ideal
- g) Draft budget outlining possible costs to participants (e.g., hotel rate, registration fee assuming no external support is received)
- h) List of Possible Sponsors

Please submit proposals to Dr. Amanda Duffus ([aduffus@gordonstate.edu](mailto:aduffus@gordonstate.edu)) by **11 November 2016 at 17:00 hrs** Eastern Standard Time (USA). Proposals will be reviewed by the GRC Board and a decision made about the symposia by January 2017. It is expected that the institution that is selected to host the 2019 ISR will send a representative to the 2017 ISR in Budapest and give a brief presentation on the venue and possible activities in 2019.