

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

### **DIRECTOR**

Dr. Thomas B. Waltzek  
[tbwaltzek@ufl.edu](mailto:tbwaltzek@ufl.edu)

### **INTERIM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

Dr. Amanda L.J. Duffus  
[aduffus@gordonstate.edu](mailto:aduffus@gordonstate.edu)

### **PAST DIRECTOR**

Dr. Matthew (Matt) Gray  
[mgray11@utk.edu](mailto:mgray11@utk.edu)

### **SECRETARY - TREASURER**

Open

### **HONORARY ADVISOR**

Dr. V. Gregory (Greg) Chinchar  
[vchinchar@umc.edu](mailto:vchinchar@umc.edu)

## **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Asia**

Dr. Qiwei Qin  
[qingw@scsio.ac.cn](mailto:qingw@scsio.ac.cn)

### **Australia**

Dr. Ellen Ariel  
[ellen.ariel@jcu.edu.au](mailto:ellen.ariel@jcu.edu.au)

### **Europe**

Dr. Marja Kik  
[info@KIKDIERENARTS.NL](mailto:info@KIKDIERENARTS.NL)

### **North America**

Dr. María J. Forzán  
[mdf93@cornell.edu](mailto:mdf93@cornell.edu)

### **South and Central America**

Dr. Claudio Soto-Azat  
[csoto@unab.cl](mailto:csoto@unab.cl)

Dear Global Ranavirus Consortium (GRC) Colleagues,

The GRC executive board would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a belated Happy New Year (see attached card)! The board acknowledges Dr. Jesse Brunner, founding member of the GRC, for his years of service to our organization including the creation of the GRC website and membership system, contribution to the Global Ranavirus Reporting System, and for his significant research involving ranavirus ecology and modeling. Dr. Brunner stepped down as director of the GRC at the end of 2018 in order to travel and focus on research during his sabbatical. According to the GRC bylaws, the directorship falls to the associate director - yours truly! I am proud to follow in the footsteps of Drs. Jesse Brunner and Matt Gray and I hope to make the GRC proud. With my shift from associate director to director, the GRC executive board deliberated and identified three candidates for the associate directorship position. Dr. Amanda Duffus received the majority of the votes and we congratulate her on her new position within executive board. The secretary – treasurer position is now open and Dr. Duffus has kindly agreed to fill both roles until a replacement is found. Again, Amanda and I are proud to be leading the charge to ensure the GRC does amazing things in 2019!

## **What the GRC hopes to accomplish in 2019?**

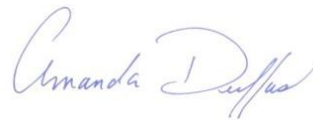
- **GRC membership.** The executive board has set a goal to increase our membership in 2019. Membership dues help fund our activities such as maintaining the website (<https://www.ranavirus.org>), helping organize and sponsor conferences, and more. We strive to keep membership affordable, just USD \$15 for students and USD \$30 for regular members. If you have not already done so, please renew at your earliest convenience. Also, please help us get the word out by encouraging interested parties to join the GRC by registering here: <https://www.ranavirus.org/register/>. You can update your membership information, including the credit card you use, or view past receipts here: <https://www.ranavirus.org/register/your-membership/>. A special thanks to Dr. Jesse Brunner for continuing to maintain the GRC website and membership system! Please address questions about either to Dr. Brunner: [membership@ranavirus.org](mailto:membership@ranavirus.org).

- **2019 International Symposium on Ranaviruses (ISR).** From June 4th-6th, 2019 the GRC and James Cook University will host the 5th ISR in Townsville, Australia. The lead organizer and founding member of the GRC, Dr. Ellen Ariel, extends a warm Aussie welcome to GRC colleagues for what will certainly be the best ISR symposium yet! Ellen and colleagues invites all to stay for a little while longer and enjoy the unparalleled diversity of the Great Barrier Reef and the rainforest in the region as well. The weather in Townsville in June is a pleasant max of 25°C with blue skies most days. There will be two days of presentations and workshops and a one-day field trip. Also, we will have a session on “**Other Iridoviruses**”, so if you work on genera other than ranaviruses, this is an excellent opportunity to present to a great audience! **The call for abstracts has been extended until March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** More details on the biannual ISR can be found at symposium webpage (<https://rana2019.com/>) and updates will be posted on the GRC website soon. The GRC executive board looks forward to catching up with old friends and colleagues and meeting new ones. So please plan on joining us! *Note bene:* **GRC members receive DISCOUNTED registration!**
- **Committees.** The GRC is working to expand the work the consortium does and is looking for members interested in helping on one or more activities including: a second course on ranaviruses for CE credits, ranavirus outreach and education, and GRC marketing and sponsorship. If you are interested, please contact me ([tbwaltzek@ufl.edu](mailto:tbwaltzek@ufl.edu)).
- **What are the big issues that you want the GRC to work on in 2019? The GRC wants to hear from you!** Please contact me ([tbwaltzek@ufl.edu](mailto:tbwaltzek@ufl.edu)) or any member of the executive board members with questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Waltzek (MS, DVM, PhD)



Amanda L. J. Duffus (MS, PhD)