



Call for Proposals to Host 2021 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*) causes disease in amphibians, reptiles, and fish, and is causing population declines and economic losses in several 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, 2015, 2017, and 2019 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. The Global Ranavirus Consortium (GRC, <http://www.ranavirus.org>) is soliciting proposals to host the Sixth International Symposium on Ranaviruses in 2021. 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 2019 Ranavirus Symposium website (<https://rana2019.com/>) to gain an understanding of the responsibilities. The GRC has a manual to help guide the planning process (please contact Dr. Amanda Duffus, aduffus@gordonstate.edu, for the most recent version)

Submission:

Proposals should be ≤ 2 pages of written text (2.5-cm margins, Times New Roman font size 12, 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)
- 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)

Please submit proposals to Dr. Amanda Duffus (aduffus@gordonstate.edu) by **15 October 2019**. Proposals will be reviewed by the GRC Board and a decision will be made by the end of November 2019.