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Dear Colleagues of the Global Ranavirus Consortium (GRC),

We are delighted to introduce to you our new executive board. We are excited to work with you and we are ready to face the coming challenges. Our webmaster, Danna Schock is revamping our website and updating the information about the board members as well as several ranavirus topics.

Among other priorities, we would like to address 3 important issues:

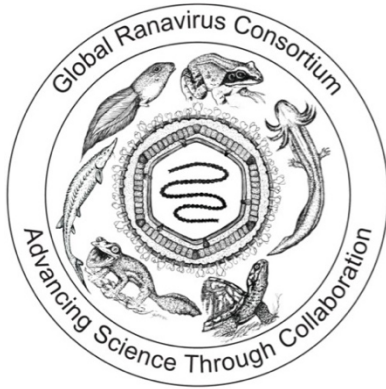
1. Widening member representation: There are many more investigators studying ranaviruses than presently identified as members of the GRC. Their ranavirus-related research activities span scientific disciplines from fundamental immunology and virology to ecology and conservation biology. We wholeheartedly believe that it is crucial for the longevity and growth of the GRC to incorporate, integrate and represent all these scientific disciplines with global inclusivity. Therefore, one of our central priorities as the new GRC board is to gain broader awareness of the GRC, thereby encouraging greater membership, including more junior scientists and students. To this end, we ask for help from all our current members. We are presently compiling a list of scientists around the globe who study ranaviruses with the intent to reach out to these individuals and encourage them to join the GRC. Thus, we welcome suggestion and contact information of anyone who you would like to see as members of our consortium and encourage you to share this email and letter with any pertinent colleagues and students.

Besides established investigators, we think that the GRC should serve as a valuable networking platform for undergraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral fellows. Through our symposia, courses, website, and other future activities, the GRC will strive to enrich connections across labs worldwide and help to disseminate news of career opportunities. As such, we would like to expand our membership, to include more junior researchers and so, we urge everyone to pass this information onto any potentially interested students and/or postdocs.

As for current GRC member, *please do not forget to sign up for your 2021 GRC membership.* It can be paid online at the GRC website (<http://www.ranavirus.org>).

2. 2022 GRC symposium: We are planning to organize a GRC symposium as part of the 2022 ISR conference, which will take place at the University of Tennessee in mid-June of 2022. More detailed information, including the dates will follow soon.

3. GRC courses: A particularly successful past GRC activity has been to organize an international course on the different aspects of ranavirus biology and diseases. The board is committed to revisiting this activity by organizing a new, updated course online.



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In closing, as the new GRC executive board, we wish to solicit any suggestions, comments, and feedbacks from you, the current GRC members and encourage you to help broaden our membership. We are convinced that the GRC is, and will continue to be a vibrant organization, connecting researchers at all levels and the public through topics related to ranaviruses.

Sincerely,

Jacques Robert

&

Leon Grayfer

P.S. Anyone interested in becoming a member is more than welcome to contact us for information. New members can register on the GRC website (www.ranavirus.org).