



## **Call for Proposals to Host 2015 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 appear to be an emerging threat in some populations. Widespread die-offs have 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 and 2013, international symposia were held 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, and field trips. The Global Ranavirus Consortium (GRC, <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/mgray/ranavirus/Ranavirus.htm>) is soliciting proposals to host the Third International Symposium on Ranaviruses. Submission instructions are provided below.

### Responsibilities:

The host committee will work with the Executive 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 brochure and program; plan symposium activities; and produce deliverables (e.g., video, presentation PDFs, t-shirts) 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 auspice of the host committee. We encourage possible applicants to peruse the 2013 Ranavirus Symposium website (<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/mgray/ranavirus/2013Ranavirus.htm>), especially the symposium program, to gain an appreciation of responsibilities.

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
- 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.

Please submit proposals to Dr. Amanda Duffus ([global.ranavirus.consortium@gmail.com](mailto:global.ranavirus.consortium@gmail.com)) by **31 October 2013 at 17:00 hrs** Eastern Daylight Time. Proposals will be shared subsequently with the GRC via the LISTSERV, and a confidential vote will occur in November 2013.