

Proposal to host the 4th International Symposium on Ranaviruses in 2017

a) Location and Venue

The Symposium would be held in the beautiful city of Budapest, Hungary in 2017. The venue would be either the Veterinary University or one of the conference Hotels in Budapest (e.g. Best Western or similar hotel in downtown) (<http://www.danubiushotels.com/our-hotels-budapest/best-western-hotel-hungaria>). Workshops and extra meetings would be scheduled at the Veterinary University. Dates would be chosen between May 20th and June 10th.

b) Concurrent Meeting (if there is one)

The proposed symposium would be held in conjunction with the International Symposium on Viruses of Lower Vertebrates (ISVLV). The ISVLV is a meeting for all scientists interested in fish, amphibian, and/or reptile virology. It was first initiated by Prof. Wilfred Ahne to bring together a diverse group of scientists to help enrich discussions on this often neglected topic. As such, it is an ideal partner meeting for the Ranavirus Symposium, which has very similar aims and speaks to many different scientists who have participated in the ISVLV over the years.

Possible Competing Conferences:

- International Conference on Avian, Herpetological and Exotic Mammal Medicine (ICARE), March 25th - 31st, 2017, Venice, Italy
- International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) Conference, July 17th-21st 2017, Singapore
- 18th Congress of European Fish Pathologists, September 2017, Belfast, UK

c) List of Co-organizers

Budapest:

Mária Benkő,

Balázs Harrach,

Tibor Papp,

Institute for Veterinary Medical Research, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (IVMR, CAR, HAS) Budapest, Hungary

GRC:

Rachel E. Marschang, Laboklin GmbH & Co. KG, Bad Kissingen, Germany, GRC European representative.

d) Proposed Activities

Professional activities to choose from for the final program (all with professional guides):

Visiting the Zoo and/or visiting the Hungarian Natural History Museum (looking behind the scenes)

Excursion to the nearby local Nature Reserve areas with reptile/amphibian habitats

Hungarian meadow viper Conservation Centre (80 km from Budapest)

Leisure activities to choose from:

Guided tours to: e.g. Buda castle, city and river ride with a “floating bus”, parliament, town of artists and open air folks museum of Szentendre (20 km from Budapest)

Having a relaxing evening in one of the famous spas (e.g. Széchenyi, Gellért)

e) Explanation why you think your venue is most ideal.

Hungary, in the “heart of Europe”, is a preferred destination for tourists as well as professionals for international meetings. The nice location of this twin city, divided by the “blue Danube”, provides a heart-warming panorama, especially in the evenings. The mild continental weather at this time of the year and the good public transportation makes it easy and enjoyable to explore. Food and drinks are tasty and cheap compared to Western European standards. The 8th International Meeting of the European Society for Veterinary Virology in 2009 was held here and got a very good critique.

Veterinary medical education has a history of over 225 years in Budapest, with professors like: Marek, Aujeszky, Derzsy and Bartha having made widely recognized research in virology. The latter three were also directors of the predecessor of the institute of the local organizing committee (IVMR, CAR, HAS).

Budapest has an international airport and is easily reached by air, train, car or hydrofoil (on the Danube from Vienna). A wide variety of hotel and other lodging options starting at low prices are abundantly available throughout the whole city and are also well served by the public transportation.

A countless number of tourist attractions are located in Budapest (castle, museums, zoo, spas, caves, etc.). The cultural and night life is flourishing, and shopping centers and streets are also very popular destinations for accompanying persons.

f) Draft budget outlining possible costs to participants (e.g., hotel rate, registration fee assuming no external support is received).

The cost of the conference fee can be kept below the required limit (400\$). The exact costs will depend on the amount of funding that can be raised as well as some negotiations with the hotel which are currently in progress.

Hotel rates in the candidate conference hotel are approx:

- 100 \$ for a single room (incl. breakfast) and
- 60 \$ per person/night in a double room (incl. breakfast)

Cheaper or more luxurious accommodations can be easily found online and individually arranged by the participants if preferred.

g) Final note:

As the two involved conferences have different customs and historical backgrounds, some compromise will be certainly needed to fulfill the requirements of both parts and some deviations from the GRC Symposium Planning Manual are unavoidable. However, we do not anticipate that finding a wise compromise will be an overwhelming task.

Draft Schedule:

The draft schedule proposes starting with the ISVLV and ending with the Ranavirus Symposium with two days of overlap between the two meetings:

ISVLV		Day 1	
		ISVLV Scientific sessions	
		ISVLV Ice Breaker	
	Ranav Symposium		Day 2
			Scientific sessions ISVLV
			Ranavirus research group meetings and GRC board meeting
			Optional programme (e.g., Széchenyi spa next to the zoo, Budapest by night)
			Day 3
			Joint Rana/ISVLV Scientific sessions
			ISVLV Final Banquet/Rana Symposium Ice Breaker (ship excursion on the Danube, dance)
			Day 4
			Rana Scientific meeting
			Breakout discussion groups
			State of the GRC report (lunch meeting)
			Rana Symposium event
	Day 5		
	Field trips and workshops (TBA)		

Note: As there were over 60 oral presentation at the ISVLS in 2014 and “only” over 30 at the Ranavirus Symposium, there is certainly a possible problem that the first two days might not be enough to present all worthy non-ranavirus ISVLV lectures. Thus, it must be considered to either include such topics in the plenary lectures of the overlapping day or parallel session must be considered for this day. It is also possible that talks on ranavirus-related topics (e.g. on other iridoviruses) will be included on this day.

