

# WILDLIFE DISEASES ASSOCIATION

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# LATIN AMERICA SECTION

2017 - 2019

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WDA-CONFERENCE, MÉXICO, 2017

## THE CURRENT BOARD

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As the board for the Wildlife Diseases Latin America Section (WDALA) we began our work at the end of 2017 with great enthusiasm.

We are pleased that the current board is represented by members from North America (Mexico), Central America (Costa Rica and Guatemala) and South America (Colombia, Argentina and Brazil), and we seek to strengthen communication between the various regions of Latin America, while providing support for students and professionals who are venturing into areas related to the association.

Below is a summary of the current board:

## GERARDO SUZÁN, PRESIDENT

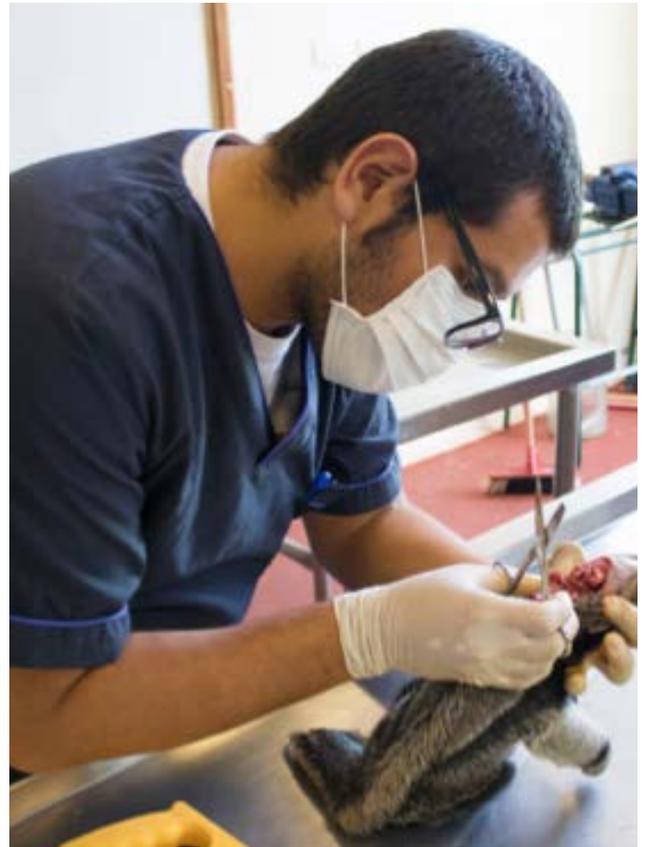
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Gerardo Suzán is a Veterinarian and Master of Science (Ecology) from UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), he has a PhD in Biology from The University of New Mexico and a Post Doctorate in Conservation Medicine at the Wildlife Trust in the United States. His research has been focused on the Disease Ecology and Conservation Medicine, identifying the micro and macro ecological and evolutionary relationships influencing the occurrence of infections with emphasis on changes in the landscape, the loss of diversity and the assembly of species resulting from the development of modern societies.

His studies have been developed in various countries including the United States, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and Brazil and he has publications in national and international indexed journals. Currently, he is professor at the "Faculty of Veterinary Medicine" FMVZ of the UNAM.



G. SUZÁN



## PEDRO ENRIQUE NAVAS-SUÁREZ, VICE-PRESIDENT

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Pedro is a Colombian veterinarian, holds a master's degree in Sciences through the program of Experimental and Comparative Pathology by FMVZ-USP (Brazil) works at the Laboratory of Wildlife Comparative Pathology - LAPCOM. Pedro currently developing his PhD in the LAPCOM evaluating main characteristics of the trauma by vehicle-collision and the health status in road killed Brazilian mammals. Pedro has an emphasis on the wildlife animal pathology mainly neotropical species.

His research topics include comparative pathology, forensic pathology, ecology, ecotoxicology, and infectious diseases. Pedro is a WDA member since 2012. Since joining the WDA, Pedro has participated in the biennial conferences of the Latin American section (WDALA), and participated in the local committee of the II biennial conference in Bogota (Colombia), and was elected student representative in the representatives 2015-2017.

## ANDREA CHAVES, SECRETARY

Andrea Chaves is Costa Rican tropical biologist with a Masters of Science in Tropical Diseases from Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA), and a Ph.D. in Animal Biology from the Justus Liebig University in Giessen, Germany. Andrea has been an investigator and faculty member at the School of Biology of the University of Costa Rica (UCR). Her investigations are focused on wildlife diseases and disease ecology, combining molecular, ecological and social analysis to understand the dynamics of infectious agents in animal wildlife.

Her research and international publications also attempts to relate the dynamics behind the increase in vulnerable wild populations, infectious agents and human activities in different countries including United States, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Andrea seeks to promote the insertion of new members of Mesoamerica. She is in charge of the coordination of the 2019 conference and hopes to continue with the work of the WDA throughout Latin America.



A. CHAVES



## MARINA GALVÃO BUENO, SECRETARY

Graduated in Veterinary Medicine from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FMVZ) of the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil (2002); residency in wildlife health and management at the São Paulo Zoo; PhD (2012) in comparative pathology of wild animals, by the Laboratory of Comparative Pathology of Wild Animals - LAPCOM, FMVZ / USP, studying parasitic diseases in wild and captivity primates. Over the years, she had worked on projects involving conservation medicine, wildlife translocation, infectious diseases, wildlife health and management, mainly in the Mata Atlântica and Amazon biomes.

She is currently a researcher at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), working at the Institutional Platform for Biodiversity and Wildlife Health, in which the work is dedicated to the development of the theme of wildlife and human health. She is also member of the Brazilian Institute for Conservation Medicine (Tríade). Her interests are research and work related to conservation medicine, infectious disease epidemiology, One Health and wildlife reintroduction. She had been a WDA member since 2010 and participated in the WDALA committee for 2015-2017. In the current committee, she intends to continue to collaborate to the expansion and consolidation of the WDALA.

# PABLO REGNER, TREASURER

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Pablo is an Argentine veterinarian graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Science (FVET) of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) in Argentina. He is currently developing his PhD at the UBA, studying the humoral immune response of the viperids of Argentina. His research has focused both on conservation medicine (developed in FVET and in private practice), and also in various avenues related to toxins produced by wild animals (developed at the UBA Faculty of Medicine).

Pablo is a member of the WDA beginning with 1st Annual Conference held in Latin America (Iguazu 2010), and he has also participated at the biennials of San Pablo and Mexico. In 2015, he was the elected Treasurer of the Latin American Committee of the WDA. Both in his work as a teacher, and with institutional management, Pablo seeks to generate new spaces and professional networks in the field of conservation medicine. His main goal within the WDALA is to increase the participation of professionals from developing countries.



# LUIS FERNANDO GUERRA, TREASURER

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Luis Fernando Guerra is a Guatemalan veterinarian, with an MSc in Wildlife Conservation and management by the Wildlife Conservation and Management Institute (ICOMVIS) of the Nacional University of Costa Rica (UNA). Actually he works at Wildlife Conservation Society-Guatemala Program as Coordinator of the biological research department with conservation projects with scarlet macaw and conflicts between ranchers and carnivores at the Mayan Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala.

In recent years, his interest is to conduct research with the One Health approach within protected areas in Petén, Guatemala. His intention is to increase the participation of the Latin American professionals and students in the WDA, especially in Central America.



P. REGNER

# GILBERT ALVARADO, LA STUDENT

WDALA - COLOMBIA, 2015

Gilbert is a Costa Rican biologist of the University of Costa Rica (UCR). He also completed his studies as a veterinarian from National University of Costa Rica (UNA). He completed his master's studies in the Regional Postgraduate Program in Biology of the UCR. He is currently developing his doctoral studies in the Experimental and Comparative Pathology Program of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences of the University of São Paulo at the Laboratory of Wildlife Comparative Pathology, sponsored by the Office of International Affairs and the UCR. He was professor of Pathology and Anatomy at the UNA. He has been professor of the Section of Zoology and researcher of the School of Biology of the UCR. He has been a researcher at the Research Center for Microscopic Structures during the years 2013 and 2014; as well as the veterinary adviser of the Biological Testing Laboratory in 2015; both academic units of the UCR.

He has developed as principal investigator and collaborator in different projects within the field of interest (Comparative pathology of wildlife, host-pathogen relationship, amphibian diseases, conservation of critically endangered species). It was regent and veterinary adviser herpetofauna centers. He is founder and coordinator of the Laboratory of Experimental and Comparative Pathology of the School of Biology of the UCR. Gilbert has participated in the three conferences of the WDALA (São Paulo, Bogotá and Chiapas) and aims to help the chapter of Latin American students to consolidate with a greater participation in the number of students, activities and collaboration networks.



G. ALVARADO



## MEMBERS

The WDALA was incorporated in 2010 and to date has managed to increase the number of members year after year. By 2013, the number of members doubled, and by 2017 increased by more than 25%.

Today, most of members in the Latin American Section are students, accordingly, as a board, we are excited to support and seek activities that favor students to continue their careers in an integrative way of thinking that contribute to develop local and regional initiatives that favor conservation and health policies.

# LATIN AMERICAN STUDENT CHAPTER

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Likewise, in 2018, the student chapter of the Latin America Section is being consolidated, and the Board is committed to supporting the initiatives of the student chapter, and working together with them. In this way, taking advantage of the enthusiasm and innovative ideas that will undoubtedly arise from the youth of the Latin America chapter. We are expecting that the direct collaboration with the Chapter will increase the establishment on collaborative networks in Latin America.



WDALA - BRAZIL, 2013

These and other initiatives such as the implementations of new scholarships for students, and local activities, the WDALA has held different conferences. The first conference took place in 2013 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, followed by the conference in Bogota, Colombia in 2015. In 2017, the WDALA, in conjunction with the WDA, held the International Conference in San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico.

In 2019, the fourth Conference of the Section, will be held in San José, Costa Rica. It will take place for the first time in Central America, to continue spreading the work done in Latin America and promote the insertion of members from the Mesoamerican region and the Caribbean.

# WDALA - CONFERENCE COSTA RICA, 2019

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It is our interest that the 2019 conference will represent a platform in which participants may know of the work done in Latin America.

Simultaneously this opportunity will create and promote contact networks between experts, young professionals and students.

In addition, the conference would seek to increase the number of countries that are part of the WDALA, and above all encourage work in Latin America that supports the conservation of local fauna, and raises awareness of the value of multi and interdisciplinary work in Latin America as a single region.



HOST COMMITTEE - COSTA RICA, 2019

