

## **In Memoriam**

### **Gregory Dana Bossart, VMD, PhD** **(1951-2019)**

**Submitted by Stephen McCulloch**

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It is with the deepest sorrow we share that Dr. Gregory Bossart passed away on 19 November following a long and courageous battle with cancer. Greg was a pillar of the Georgia Aquarium and the zoological and conservation communities.

Greg came to the Georgia Aquarium in 2008. As the senior vice president and chief veterinary officer, he oversaw all animal care and research projects cultivating one of the most experienced and world-renowned animal care and veterinary teams. He also helmed the prestigious Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) research project for bottlenose dolphins. Alongside his research partners,

he identified re-surg-ing and emerging diseases in dolphins, manatees, birds, and whales. His research and innovative techniques helped characterize the first viral diseases in manatees, and he was responsible for developing the first immunohistochemical technique for diagnosing brevetoxicosis (red tide poisoning) in both marine mammals and birds.

Greg's passion for marine conservation and ocean science went beyond his role at Georgia Aquarium. As part of the One Ocean, One Health program, he researched aquatic species' role as sentinels for the effects of climate change on the ecosystem and human health.



Georgia Aquarium and the marine research and conservation field are forever changed because of Greg. His intelligence, passion, and dedication to furthering marine animal research and knowledge has changed our understanding of marine mammals and how to care for them inside our walls and in our oceans. It is impossible to sum up Greg's life and career justly with the contributions he made to science, the Aquarium, and the world we live in. We are committed to continuing his research initiatives and honoring the legacy he leaves behind.

While Greg's professional focus was on aquatic marine mammals, he dedicated personal time for his family. His daughters, Ansley and Haydan, are great examples of Greg's intellectual curiosities as well as his athleticism. Little Charlie (2 years old) will certainly follow in his Daddy's (Birkenstock) footsteps. Greg will be terribly missed by family, friends, and colleagues from around the world. Although missed, his legacy in aquatic marine mammals and his love for his family and friends remain a constant for forever!

