



ARTICLE INFO

Manuscript type	In Memoriam
Article history	
Received	30 May 2020
Received in revised form	30 May 2020
Accepted	30 May 2020
Available online	31 July 2020
Responsible Editor: Miriam Marmontel	
Citation: McCulloch, S.D. (2020) Gregory Dana Bossart, V.M.D., Ph.D. (1951 – 2019). <i>Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals</i> 15(1): 46. https://doi.org/10.5597/lajam00263	

**Gregory Dana Bossart, V.M.D.,
Ph.D. (1951 – 2019)**

Stephen D. McCulloch

Ocean Experience, and Protect Wild Dolphins Alliance

<http://www.dolphinrescue1.org>

Corresponding author: dolphinrescue@yahoo.com



Figure 1. Greg Bossart with Lili, the giant river otter, during his visit to the Mamirauá Institute, Tefé, in 1997.

It is with the deepest sorrow we share that Dr. Gregory Bossart passed away on Tuesday, 19 November 2019 following a long and courageous battle with cancer. Greg was a pillar of Georgia Aquarium, the zoological, and conservation community.

Greg came to the Aquarium in 2008 and as the senior vice president and chief veterinary officer at Georgia Aquarium, 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-surging 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, 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 ocean. 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 & 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 forever!

A celebration of Greg's life and incredible legacy was held on Saturday, 23 November 2019 at 1:00 PM at Fellowship Bible Church located at 480 W. Crossville Road, Roswell, Georgia. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that a donation be made to one of three causes that are close to their hearts:

1. Georgia Aquarium Research and Conservation Program www.georgiaaquarium.org/donations (Should you choose this option, please also email development@georgiaaquarium.org so that we can effectively acknowledge your gift)
2. Christian Veterinary Mission www.cvm.org
3. Medical Missions Ministries – Guatemala www.mmm-guatemala.com

The marine mammal community has lost another icon and friend to all.

(originally circulated on 1 December 2019 via Marmam list, and published in *Aquatic Mammals* 2020, 46(1), 116-117, DOI 10.1578/AM.46.1.2020.116; reproduced with permission)