

Dickerson. “Here at Birch Aquarium, in collaboration with the amazing community of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, I am looking forward to bringing to life new, transformative, artful experiences that inspire action.”

Dickerson holds a BA in history from the University of California, Los Angeles and an MBA in next economy principles from LIFT Economy. Dickerson also has a unique MA degree from the University of Gloucestershire: in play and playwork, a research-based course of study that explores what play means in our world.

“When we are dealing with scary issues like climate change, play is often the last thing we think of,” Dickerson said. “However, to be able to get through tough times, we need play—and it’s definitely not just for kids. At Birch Aquarium, I hope to bring a spirit of playfulness that helps our community feel joyful, resilient, and informed, ready to face the great challenges of the coming years.”

Dickerson is an accomplished designer and developer who partners with individuals and groups to create spaces that leave lasting impressions. At Boston Children’s Museum, Dickerson’s user-centered designs included: Boston’s Longest Dinner Table, a three-month community participation project focused on family dinner; and GoKids in Boston Neighborhoods, a two-year health and nutrition

project co-designed with Boston Housing Authority family development tenants.

### **Dr. Eric Miller is the 2021 Recipient of the Murray Fowler Lifetime Achievement Award**



Dr. R. Eric Miller, senior vice president and director of

zoological operations and executive director of the Saint Louis Zoo’s WildCare Institute, is the recipient of the Murray Fowler Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Zoological Medicine. He has touched the lives of countless individuals throughout his career. Many, if not most Diplomates in the college, have known and most likely benefited from his support, encouragement, contributions, and leadership.

There are few individuals that have had more influence in advancing the importance of zoological medicine globally than Dr. R. Eric Miller. His long career is an example of what can be accomplished in our field through hard work, expertise, optimism, and collaboration.

Dr. Miller earned his DVM from Ohio State University. As a young veterinarian, he had a passion for rhinos and became one of the first veterinary advisors. He helped develop the first broad job description for this role; developing a list of needed research projects, compiling a comprehensive bibliography, creating a summary of medical problems, and he coordinated

investigation into the cause of hemolytic anemia. Through these efforts, he became one of the world’s experts in rhino medicine. This approach was adopted by many other veterinary advisors and became the gold standard.

Over four decades of work, Dr. Miller has also contributed to the conservation of countless other species and their habitats including South China tigers, giant pandas, endemic birds and prosimians of the Galapagos and Madagascar islands respectively, and many others. One of the biggest contributions to saving species from extinction was his ability to redefine zoo-based conservation to tackle global conservation issues incorporating a One Health approach long before the term was widely understood.

Dr. Miller has made contributions to expanding the knowledge base of zoological medicine through well over 100 scientific and popular articles and presentations. Perhaps what stands out even more has been their success and years of editorial service and contributions to the *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* (JZWM).

His efforts developed partnerships to sustain the publication financially and pulled together veterinary leaders from around the world to provide support and editorial influence for this journal. He followed a pattern set by Dr. Fowler, who was also so well regarded internationally;

brokering memorandums that led to JZWM becoming the respected and official publication of both AAZV and EAZWV. And he was the driving force behind having foreign translations of the journal’s abstracts in 11 languages.

Dr. Miller carried the torch as editor for *Fowler’s Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine* textbook series and continues to share Murray’s unrivaled passion to travel and connect with international colleagues to advance the knowledge of zoological medicine and a dedication to mentoring others. Like Dr. Fowler, he has been an effective leader and mentor by being kind, generous, and humble. He has spent a lifetime investing in teaching and training the next generation of zoo and wildlife veterinarians, directly mentoring many ACZM residents.

He started as a resident at the Saint Louis Zoo in 1981, before moving to a series of positions: staff veterinarian; director of animal health and conservation; and eventually taking on the leadership role as senior vice president and director of zoological operations and executive director of the Zoo’s WildCare Institute, Dr. Miller’s vision led to the creation of the Zoo’s Institute for Conservation Medicine, expanding conservation efforts to incorporate principles of wildlife epidemiology, One Health, and veterinary medicine.

