



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Melissa Kruth  
Shedd Aquarium  
312-692-3330

[mkruth@sheddaquarium.org](mailto:mkruth@sheddaquarium.org)

Emily Vicker  
Public Communications Inc.  
312-558-1770, ext. 103

[evicker@pci-pr.com](mailto:evicker@pci-pr.com)

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**DR. ILZE BERZINS JOINS SHEDD AQUARIUM AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

*Internationally Recognized Animal Expert To Lead Shedd's World-Class  
Animal Health, Research, Conservation and Education Teams*

**CHICAGO** – Shedd Aquarium announces the appointment of award-winning veterinarian Dr. Ilze Berzins as Executive Vice President. In addition to overseeing Animal Health, Dr. Berzins is responsible for Shedd's Research, Conservation and Education teams, further strengthening the Aquarium's mission in these critical areas.

With 20 years of experience in veterinary medicine, doctoral and postdoctoral research, teaching, and establishing and managing conservation programs for public aquariums, Dr. Berzins is uniquely qualified to meet the challenge of advancing the long-term success of Shedd Aquarium, one of the largest public aquariums in the world.

"Dr. Berzins is a welcome addition to Shedd Aquarium's leadership team," said Ted Beattie, President and CEO. "She brings a combination of extensive experience with animal health, and a strategic vision for using engaging research and education programs to advance environmental conservation, which is at the heart of Shedd's mission."

Prior to joining Shedd Aquarium, Dr. Berzins was Veterinarian and Vice President of Biological Operations at Florida Aquarium in Tampa, Fla. During her 12-year tenure, Dr. Berzins reconfigured the organization's conservation program, creating a separate entity called The Center for Conservation at The Florida Aquarium. She also established the Global Reef Institute, a consortium of institutions dedicated to coral reef restoration, research and action. Research conducted at the Global Reef Institute provides the resources and information to help restore and rebuild Florida's damaged reefs.

Well respected throughout the zoological community, Dr. Berzins holds a doctorate in Zoology from the University of California – Berkley and earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of California – Davis. She has worked in Comparative Pathology for the fellowship at Johns Hopkins.

**About Shedd Aquarium**

Since 1930, the John G. Shedd Aquarium has been connecting the human world to the aquatic world through its majestic and unique animals, award-winning exhibits, leading conservation and research initiatives and world-class educational programming. Caring for more than 32,000 animals, representing nearly 1,500 species from around the world, Shedd Aquarium is the "world's aquarium." From its architecturally historic aquarium galleries, to its world-renowned marine mammal pavilion, the Oceanarium, to the colorful and exciting *Wild Reef* exhibit, Shedd Aquarium is one of the preeminent aquariums in the world. Shedd ranks as Chicago's top-attended cultural attraction and one of the top-attended aquariums in North America – welcoming 2 million guests every year. For more information, visit [www.sheddaquarium.org](http://www.sheddaquarium.org).

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*Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois.  
Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the  
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums.*