

# Authors & Affiliations

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## In Memoriam



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**Nicholas Mrosovsky (1934–2015).** Born in Romania, Nicholas Mrosovsky was educated in England and earned a PhD in psychology from University College London. He joined the faculty at the University of Toronto in 1967, where he remained in the departments of zoology, psychology, and physiology for his entire career. He is recognized internationally for important contributions to sea turtle biology, behavior, and conservation. His work on temperature-dependent sex determination and the role of light in hatchling turtles’ sea-finding abilities had an enormous effect on our community. He was co-chair of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group with Archie Carr, and he worked hard on issues such as the *IUCN Red List* assessment process for sea turtles. He was also founding editor of *Marine Turtle Newsletter* (MTN); he served as managing editor of MTN through the 1980s and remained on the MTN board until his death. His books *Conserving Sea Turtles* (1983) and *Sustainable Use of Hawksbill Turtles* (2000) were groundbreaking and thought provoking. Nicholas was an early champion of sustainable use, and he applied science to all perspectives of species conservation, from biology to sociology, economics, and politics. He was admired for his keen insights and for his willingness to speak his mind and encourage open discussion of contentious issues.



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**Loretta Dittrich Spotila (1945–2015).** Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Laurie Spotila began her career as a nutritionist in Buffalo, New York. She later earned her doctorate at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Buffalo with research focused on the use of molecular biology to study the mechanisms of disease. After earning her doctorate, she was a research associate at SUNY Buffalo from 1985 to 1988; she later moved to Philadelphia and joined the faculties at Thomas Jefferson University and Drexel University. An expert in molecular biology and genetics, Laurie discovered the origins of replication of the SV 40 virus and yeast and made important discoveries about the genetic basis of osteoporosis and collagen diseases. She also made important molecular discoveries on the basis of temperature-dependent sex determination and paternity of leatherbacks. She co-founded and managed the Leatherback Trust with her husband, Jim Spotila, and with Frank Paladino. She mentored numerous graduate and undergraduate students involved in research and conservation of turtles, particularly leatherbacks at Las Baulas de Guanacaste National Park in Costa Rica.

Laurie’s keen mind and gentle demeanor were in no small way responsible for the accomplishments of the Spotila lab over the years, and she was a formative influence on many early career scientists and colleagues working on turtle research and conservation. Her sharp sense of right and wrong was a rudder for the actions of the Leatherback Trust for many years.