

ROBERT A. COOK, V.M.D., M.P.A.

60 Iselin Terrace
Larchmont, New York 10538

EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, NY, NY- Program Director - 2012-Present

Building and leading staff and consultants in strategic planning, grants management, due diligence, site visits and maintaining close supportive relationships with grantees. Engaging grantees in collaborative efforts towards mutually agreed upon goals. Work closely with trustee to ensure mission fulfillment. Grants to support over 35 NGOs in strategic, mostly community-based and protected area focused, conservation in Gulf of California, Mexico; Galapagos Archipelago, Ecuador; Madagascar and Myanmar. Major medical research grants include the Helmsley Center for Genomic Medicine at the Salk Institute, support of the Center for Advanced Digestive Care at NY Presbyterian Hospital and funding of digestive disease research at Rockefeller University.

Mayday Fund, NY, NY- Advisor- 2002- present

Foundation dedicated to alleviating human physical pain. Review research grant proposals. Contribute experience on policies and governance.

Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, NY: *A global zoological and field wildlife conservation organization with staff worldwide. Manages five New York City zoological parks including the Bronx Zoo. Over 4 million guests annually. Active field programs in over 60 countries.*

- **Special Advisor to President and CEO- 2011-2012**
- **Executive Vice President and General Director- 2007- 2011**
- **Acting Director, New York Aquarium- 2007-2008**
- **Chief Veterinarian (1990-2007) and Vice President of Wildlife Health (1999-2007)**
- **Assistant Clinical Veterinarian: 1988-1990**

Key Achievements:

- Chief Veterinarian overseeing care for 1300 species in 5 zoological parks and global field health programs.
- Acting Director, NY Aquarium – reorganized management structure, oversaw operational improvements and participated in the design of a major capital improvement plan scheduled for completion in 2016.
- General Director overseeing programs and operations at the NY Aquarium, Central Park, Queens and Prospect Park City Zoos and the flagship Bronx Zoo.
- Fundraising- philanthropic donors, foundations, corporations and government grants.
- Liaison to board of trustee committees.
- Worked with elected officials and agency representatives from New York City, New York State, the U.S. government and multi-lateral organizations including OIE, FAO and WHO.
- WCS global field veterinary program, established 1989 as the first of its kind.
- One World-One Health™ program, 2004, convened government agencies in wildlife, domestic animal and public health with NGOs and academics to develop integrated approaches to emerging disease threats globally.
- Coordinated the WCS West Nile virus programs that led to the identification of the first emergence of West Nile virus in the western hemisphere. Host, NY State Assembly funded West Nile Virus Action Workshop 2000.
- Testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works concerning health threats posed by the illegal trade in wildlife for pets and bush meat in 2003 following the emergence of monkey pox.
- Extensive media experience in print, on television and radio including West Nile Virus outbreak in 1999, avian influenza concerns, marine mammal strandings, and removing tiger from an apartment in Harlem in 2003.

Columbia University, NY, NY - Adjunct Professor - 2004-2007, 2012 to Present

Lecture, team-teach, individual student mentoring, office hours, examinations and grading.

Graduate course on Environmental Policy in School of International and Public Affairs- 2004-2007, 2013-present

Graduate capstone course in Sustainability Management, Earth Institute- 2012

Graduate course on Advanced Management in School of International and Public Affairs- 2004-2005

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs, CO- Head Veterinarian- 1983-1985

Aspenwood Animal Hospital, Denver, CO- Small Animal Practitioner- 1981-1983

EDUCATION

- * **Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs** New York, NY
Executive Master in Public Administration (Class Marshal) 2002
- * **Wildlife Conservation Society** Bronx, NY
Residency, Zoological Medicine 1985-1987
- * **Animal Medical Center** New York, NY
Internship, Small Animal Medicine and Surgery 1981
- * **University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine** Philadelphia, PA
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Magna Cum Laude) 1980
- * **Michigan State University, College of Natural Science** East Lansing, MI
Bachelor of Science, Microbiology (High Honors) 1976

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- * Executive Board of the International Species Information System (ISIS): 2010-2012
- * Amphibian Survival Alliance, IUCN, Executive Board: 2010-2011
- * Safe Affordable Food Everywhere (www.ssafe-food.org)- *Founding member of corporate consortium for food security* 2005-2008
- * Association of Zoos and Aquariums- Chair and Co-Chair Animal Health Committee: 2000-2005
- * American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, Executive Board & President: 1994-1998
- * Associate Editor of the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine: 1988-1991
- * Frequent lecturer to professional, academic and lay organizations
- * International travel and work experience in 40+ countries
- * Publications- Author or co-author of over 100 scientific papers and abstracts