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Harry J. Grier 1940 - 2018

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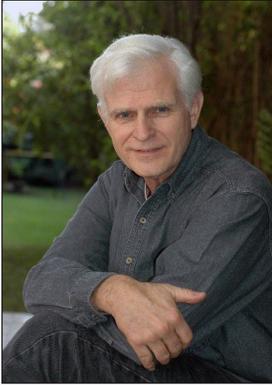
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## OBITUARY



**HARRY J. GRIER**  
1940 - 2018

**Harry J. Grier** passed away on 4 July 2018 at the age of 77 in St. Petersburg, FL. Harry had a lifelong interest in fish reproduction and a passion for studying and discussing the germinal epithelium and its importance in ovarian and testicular development. Anyone who ever had a conversation with Harry became educated on this subject. His interest in the germinal epithelium expanded to studying the comparative aspects of gonadal morphology, spermatogenesis and oogenesis among fish and other vertebrates, and Harry was a skilled histologist, light and electron microscopist. He played a major role in the development of fish reproduction analytical methodology for the state of Florida.

Harry was born on 7 August 1940 in New York and received his B.A degree in biology in 1964 from Queens College, Flushing, NY. Harry received his M.A. in Biology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1968, and was the first Biology Ph.D. graduate from the University of South Florida, Tampa, in 1973. His dissertation research described environmental cues that controlled the reproductive cycle of the viviparous Sailfin Molly *Poecilia latipinna*. After a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Endocrinology at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA, Harry became the owner and manager of Florida Tropicals, a tropical fish farm that focused on breeding small fishes in Lakeland, FL. Harry started as a Biological Scientist III in 1984 at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) in St. Petersburg, FL, first working at the hatchery and then joining the Fisheries Biology laboratory where he worked until the time of his death as a Research Scientist studying reproduction of commercially and recreationally important fish species. Harry's humor and devotion to science were evident in the sign he posted in the laboratory "Don't f\*\*\* with meiosis, you'll go extinct".

Harry was also a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., a Courtesy Associate Professor at the University of Florida, and editor of the tropical fish hobbyist magazine *Fresh Water and Marine Aquarium* (1981 - 2001). He published 74 peer-reviewed papers during his career, and he was senior author on the majority of these. His research encompassed a wide range of oviparous and viviparous marine and fresh water fish taxa and he became an internationally-known expert on the reproductive biology of viviparous fish species, editing 2 volumes of the book, *Viviparous Fishes* with his longtime colleague and partner, Mari Carmen Uribe. We don't all meet our lifelong goals, but Harry did with his 2016 publication "Conserved Form and Function of the Germinal Epithelium Through 500 Million Years of Vertebrate Evolution" in the *Journal of Morphology* (<https://doi.org/10.1002/jmor.20554>), which used one of his beautiful micrographs on the cover of the journal issue. Harry's love of fish reproduction was expressed in his life-long avocation of raising and breeding small tropical fishes in a series of ponds at his home. Many of these fish served as the basis of his research into the germinal epithelium. Harry served on the committees of one Masters and 3 Ph.D. students, and educated us all on the importance of the germinal epithelium in fish reproduction.

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