

**Dr. Erin Curry**  
**CREW Reproductive Physiologist**



Photo: Tom Uhlman

Erin Curry, Ph.D., is a staff scientist at the Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Dr. Curry's research centers on polar bears, the newest addition to CREW's Signature Projects.

Dr. Curry earned her B.S. degree in Animal Science from the University of Delaware in 2003. After working as a veterinary technician for a few years, she decided to pursue graduate studies at Clemson University in South Carolina, where she earned her M.S. (2007) and Ph.D. (2010) in Animal Physiology, with concentrations in reproductive physiology and molecular biology. Her graduate research involved the analysis of sex determination in cattle and the identification and characterization of microRNAs in porcine gametes and pre-implantation embryos.

Dr. Curry joined CREW as a Post-doctoral Fellow in January 2011 and began working with polar bears, an iconic species for climate change due to their dependence on sea ice for survival and reproduction. In addition to developing novel methods for non-invasively monitoring reproductive activity in polar bears, in 2012, Dr. Curry led a CREW team in performing the first ever artificial insemination procedure in a polar bear. Dr. Curry was hired as a staff Reproductive Physiologist in March 2014.

"I'm fortunate to have the unique opportunity to help increase our understanding of species threatened with extinction and to develop methods to preserve and expand the genetic diversity of those species. Using my scientific training in conjunction with my commitment to and passion for helping wildlife, I plan to integrate innovative scientific approaches to non-invasively monitor and learn about polar bear physiology and reproduction at the molecular, whole animal, and population levels."

