

Darlene R. Ketten, Ph.D. is a marine biologist and neuroanatomist specializing in the sensory adaptations of marine mammals. She received a B.S./B.A. from Washington University (Biology and French, 1970), an M.S. from M.I.T. (Biological Oceanography, 1979), and a Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University (jointly awarded by neuroanatomy, behavioral ecology, and experimental radiology, 1984). She currently holds a primary appointment as a Senior Scientist in Biology at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution with a joint appointment as an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School, where she serves as the clinical research director of the Three-Dimensional Imaging Service at the Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Her doctoral work explained how structural differences in the inner ears of dolphins and whales relate to their ultrasonic hearing abilities and showed how these hearing differences were related to the habitats and feeding behaviours of each species. She did post-doctoral work on perception of signals in noise (MIT/Research Lab of Electronics) and on middle ear mechanics (Eaton-Peabody Laboratory for Auditory Physiology).

Currently, her work focuses on underwater sound reception and hearing mechanisms of all types of marine mammals. She also works on developing methods of in vivo micro-CT scanning and functional imaging techniques for assessing ear trauma and disease in humans. In addition to her basic research training in marine biology and hearing sciences, she has completed medical specialty accreditation courses in Otopathology, Neuroradiology, and Forensic Pathology and serves as a lecturer on inner ear imaging and anatomy for specialty training courses for the Amer. Med. Assoc.- Head and Neck Surgery division. Dr. Ketten is a member of the Society of Marine Mammalogy, the Association for Research in Otolaryngology, J.B. Johnston Club, Neurosciences Society, International Society for Stereology, the Radiological Society of America, and a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America. She is an active member of the ASA Bioacoustics Technical Committee, is an associate editor for Marine Mammal Science, and has served on federal advisory boards and panels on hearing, bioacoustics, acoustic trauma, and marine mammal legislation for the National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Deafness and Communication Disorders, NIH Consensus Development Conferences, the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Hearing and Bioacoustics, the Marine Mammal Commission, Minerals Management Service, Office of Naval Research, NATO, and NMFS.