

'The BIG Questions'

Lecture Series



future ocean
KIEL MARINE SCIENCES

INTEGRATED SCHOOL OF OCEAN SCIENCES

The Ocean: a world ruled by microorganisms

Prof. Dr. Carlos Pedrós-Alió

National Center for Biotechnology (CSIC), Madrid, Spain

18 October 2018 | 14:30 h

Venue: GEOMAR Westshore (Düsternbrooker Weg 20), Lecture Hall

The ocean is the largest ecosystem in the world and is ruled by microorganisms. There are 10 to the 12 bacterial and archaeal cells but we do not know to how many species do they belong. Marine microorganisms control several mechanisms to regulate climate such as the biological carbon pump or the dimethyl sulfide cycle. They also influence the geology of the Planet. Moreover, each cells has a genome with between 1000 and 10000 genes with an enormous potential for useful genes. The microbial ocean, however, remains mostly unknown to most people, just as science in general does. We need to find ways to provide tools to people so they can discriminate between science and pseudoscience.

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