

Oceanography Seminar

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"Understanding the Role of Viruses on the Great Barrier Reef"

Viruses are the most common biological agents in the global oceans, with numbers typically averaging ten billion per litre. Marine viruses influence many biogeochemical and ecological processes, including energy and nutrient cycling, host distribution and abundance, and horizontal gene transfer events. Viruses are obligate symbionts, typically thought of as agents of disease, but they can also confer benefits to their hosts and the surrounding environment. However, many aspects of viral-host interactions are poorly understood and this is particularly evident for coral reefs. During this seminar, I will present a summary of coral-virus research at the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Understanding the role viruses play in corals is timely and important, especially in light of disease and climate change impacts on these important ecosystems.

Thursday April 9, 2015 3:00 p.m. MSB 100