

Dr. Craig Carlson to be presented with the 2015 G. Evelyn Hutchinson Award

The 2015 G. Evelyn Hutchinson Award from the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) has been awarded to Craig Carlson, an SBC and MCR investigator. A professor of biology at the University of California Santa Barbara, Carlson was honored for accurately mapping variation in dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and linking it to the dynamics of microbial communities in the ocean. His work established scientific concepts now considered vital to understanding the ocean carbon cycle and assessing its impact on future planetary health. Prior to Carlson's research advances, DOC was considered a large but relatively quiescent reservoir of carbon. He linked the biogeochemistry of carbon to microbial dynamics to an extent never before accomplished. Thanks to his pioneering work, today DOC is recognized for its quantitatively significant and dynamic role in the cycling of ocean carbon.



"Microbial oceanography is a fascinating area of research with many outstanding scientists and colleagues who continue to push the cutting edge of this discipline," said Carlson, who is also a member of UCSB's Marine Science Institute. "When I look at the list of previous recipients of the Hutchinson Award, whom I have long respected, I am truly humbled and am honored to have been named this year's recipient."



Carlson's Microbial Oceanography group focuses on the role of marine microbes in the cycling of elements through oceanic dissolved organic matter (DOM) and the biogeochemical significance of DOM in the marine carbon cycle. Carlson's team employs a variety of oceanographic, microbiological and molecular approaches to quantify and characterize both DOM composition and the microbial composition that grow on these substrates. The ultimate

Dr. Craig Carlson (center) confers with MCR LTER Investigator Dr. James Leichter (left) of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (UCSD) and Dr. James Hench (right) of the Duke University Marine Lab during a recent trip to Moorea, French Polynesia

goal of Carlson's research is to gain a better understanding of the role of DOM in ocean biogeochemistry and how microbial community structure responds to and transforms DOM quantity and quality in the world's oceans.

The American Society of Limnology and Oceanography has presented the G. Evelyn Hutchinson Award annually since 1982 to recognize excellence in any aspect of limnology or oceanography. The award is intended to symbolize the quality and innovations toward which the society strives and to remind its members of these goals. In lending his name to the award, Hutchinson asked that recipients be scientists who had made considerable contributions to knowledge, and whose future work promised a continuing legacy of scientific excellence. The G.E. Hutchinson Award is made each year to a scientist whose work has inspired us and promises future outstanding accomplishments. In February, Carlson will travel to Granada, Spain to receive the Hutchinson Award at ASLO's international meeting.

- See more at: <http://www.news.ucsb.edu/2015/014734/ucsb-professor-receives-hutchinson-award#sthash.ptgXV0HC.dpuf>