Within the last 20 years, our perspective on the evolutionary and physiological diversity of marine microbes has been vastly enhanced by the widespread application of molecular biology techniques. The interrogation of both isolated microorganisms and entire microbial communities via single gene, whole genome, messenger RNA, and protein methodology is now fairly routine. In general, these studies reveal an astounding level of genetic diversity within the marine microbial plankton, which is often inferred to indicate high diversity in physiology and metabolism.

However, the extent that this diversity matters to questions of microbial speciation and biogeochemical and energy cycling in the world’s oceans is not yet clear.

Speakers for this Symposium represent some of the world’s leading experts on the application of molecular methodology in investigations of marine microbial diversity, and the application of this knowledge to questions of biodiversity, microbial speciation, and biogeochemical cycling in the oceans. Please join us for what promises to be an engaging and lively discussion of this important topic.

Invited Speakers:  
Carlos Pedrós-Alió • Instituto de Ciencias del Mar in Barcelona  
Alexandra Worden • University of Miami  
Saul Kravitz • The Center for the Advancement of Genomics, J. Craig Venter Institute  
Paul Gilna • Community Cyberinfrastructure for Advanced Marine Microbial Ecology Research and Analysis  
Janelle Thompson • Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Gabrielle Rocap • University of Washington  
Edward DeLong • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Lunch will be provided, reception to follow. Space is limited; RSVP to Matthew Church (mjchurch@hawaii.edu) by Monday, July 23.