

2023 SCIENTIST of the YEAR
Margaret Leinen, PhD
at THE CONRAD in LA JOLLA
May 7, 2023 | 4:00-8:00 pm



FOREST ROHWER, PhD

Professor, Department of Biology
Principal Investigator, Coastal and Marine Institute
San Diego State University
(ARCS Scholar Award 1995-1996, SDSU)

Dr. Rohwer is a viral ecologist. He pioneered the field of viromics and showed that viruses are the most biodiverse life forms in the world. Combined with other "-omics" methods the Rohwer lab studies the roles of viruses and microorganisms in the health and disease of ecosystems. The lab's main study systems are coral reefs and human lungs. Dr. Rohwer earned his doctorate in molecular biology in 1997 through the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program. His dissertation advisor was Dr. Kathleen McGuire, professor of biology at SDSU. He went on to do his postdoctoral research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography with Dr. Farooq Azam, before joining the faculty of biology at SDSU in 2001. Dr. Rohwer has authored and co-authored several books and multiple peer-reviewed scientific papers. For his scientific contributions, he has received numerous awards including the prestigious Young Investigators Award of the International Society of Microbial Ecology and the Marine Microbiology Initiative Investigator Award from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.