

EarthCube's Oceanography and Geobiology Environmental 'Omics ([ECOGEO](#)) RCN is now fully operational on the EarthCube platform (<http://workspace.earthcube.org/ecogeo>). This website will be our main contact point, with instructions on how to join EarthCube and the ECOGEO group, a link to subscribe to our listserv, and several avenues for communication through the discussion board and a dedicated email ([ecogeo.rcn@gmail.com](mailto:ecogeo.rcn@gmail.com)). The website also contains information about the steering committee, with [Ed DeLong](#) (MIT/UH Mānoa) as the lead PI and [Elisha Wood-Charlson](#) (UH Mānoa) managing communications related to the ECOGEO RCN (please contact her directly by [email](#)).

The mission of our ECOGEO RCN is to identify community needs and develop necessary plans to create a federated cyberinfrastructure to enable ocean and geobiology environmental 'omics. We have three main goals:

- Create a strategic network and community of field and cyber scientists to explore new facets of 'omics data.
- Articulate the needs, challenges, and practical solutions that address: 1) development of infrastructure, 2) integration and implementation of workflows, and 3) database and resource sustainability to support ocean and geobiology environmental 'omics research.
- Develop a community-based framework that integrates best practices for curation and analysis of 'omics data and metadata, and facilitates collaboration and training among environmental microbiology, geobiology, and computer science disciplines.

Aligned with those goals, we are conducting a research [survey](#) that will reach out to the oceanography and geobiology communities and encouraging participation from anyone that currently does, or is planning to embark on, environmental 'omics research. This survey focuses on identifying community needs with respect to 'omics research. (survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECO-GEO>)

Following the survey, we will host our first strategic RCN workshop mid-August 2015 at UH Mānoa, Hawai'i, with an overarching theme of addressing big data issues and discussing the cyberinfrastructure required create an 'omics research platform (contact [Elisha](#) if you would like further information).

Prior to our first workshop, we will be looking to network within EarthCube to determine how we might align with existing resources and collaborate with other funded teams, such as the Coral Reef Science and Cyberinfrastructure Network RCN (2014 award team), the OceanObs RCN, and the BCube Building Blocks.