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Oceanography: Not Just the Oceans

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Global change, resource depletion, carbon dioxide and health of the earth have placed oceanography at center stage as we contemplate our future. The aqueous milieu is the origin and link of the bio- geochemo-spheres that make our world possible. While this realization is relatively widespread among the general public, the connections between all the traditional fields of sciences is opening a renaissance view that bears on solving the problems facing us. While a da Vinci or Galileo could not so easily span the full range of expertise necessary to solve problems now as they did half a millennium ago, multidisciplinary team approaches are performing the same function by becoming the standard for scientific discovery. From its origin, oceanography has appreciated the links that are essential to understanding multifactorial problems, and serves as the role model as we tackle some of the most intractable challenges confronting us that do not so clearly fit chemistry, biology, medicine or physics.

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