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David Karl is the Victor and Peggy Brandstrom Pavel Professor of Oceanography and Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE) at the University of Hawaii. Karl has made significant contributions in environmental microbiology and helped to establish the discipline of microbial oceanography. He has logged more than 1,000 days conducting research at sea including 23 expeditions to Antarctica. In 1979 Karl participated in the first biology expedition to the Galapagos hydrothermal vents where microorganisms abound in the absence of sunlight. In 1988 he co-founded the Hawaii Ocean Time-series (HOT) program that has conducted sustained physical, biogeochemical and microbial measurements and experiments at Station ALOHA on approximately monthly intervals for the past 30 years. Karl has written or co-authored more than 400 research papers and reviews, and was a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Climate Assessment chapter on Ocean Systems. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the American Academy of Microbiology, and a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.