

*Le Directeur Général  
Dr Laura Giuliano*

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### **Tribute to Mark Weinbauer**

Markus Weinbauer was a pioneering and visionary scientist whose contributions have left a lasting mark on marine microbial ecology. I first met him in the early 1990s at the German Research Centre for Biotechnology (GBF) in Braunschweig, within the team of Manfred G. Höfle, at a time when we were both young researchers inspired by the influential work of Gerhard Herndl and his colleagues. From the outset, Markus distinguished himself through the depth of his thinking and his early commitment to exploring the fundamental role of marine viruses in ecosystem functioning. His work significantly advanced our understanding of viral diversity and the ecological and evolutionary processes shaping virus–host interactions in the ocean.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Markus was a person of rare generosity and attentiveness. He had a remarkable ability to listen, to create space for thoughtful reflection, and to support others with both intellectual clarity and genuine empathy. For me personally, his kindness and openness were instrumental in making my early years in Germany feel welcoming and grounded. He contributed memorably to the CIESM workshop “Ecology of Marine Viruses” (Banyuls-sur-Mer, March 2003), where his insights once again highlighted the importance of addressing viral diversity at the genetic level to better understand the structuring of marine ecosystems.

Markus will be remembered as an emblematic figure in his field, both for the rigor of his science and the humanity he brought to it.

On a personal note, and on behalf of CIESM, I bid him a respectful and heartfelt farewell.

Laura

