

# Water

H<sub>2</sub>O=Life

## Museum Biographies

**Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra** is the Director the Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias (BRCC, the Museum's scientific research division) and curator of the Museum's *Water: H<sub>2</sub>O=Life* exhibition. He simultaneously serves as Provost of the Museum, the highest ranking academic officer. Dr. Ezcurra directs the Museum's science departments and research efforts, including the organization and leading of research expeditions. He promotes cooperation with the Mexican government and environmental and scientific organizations, and also performs his own applied conservation research.

Dr. Ezcurra is a highly regarded scientist whose international experience and contacts greatly enhance the Museum's research and education endeavors. Dr. Ezcurra has written 10 books and over 130 scientific papers. He was President of Mexico's National Institute of Ecology (INE) for Mexico (2001–2005). He also co-produced the award-winning giant-screen film *Ocean Oasis*. He has received numerous awards—most recently—for his professional contributions to the field on ecology, including the prestigious Pew Award and the Conservation Biology Award from the Society for Conservation Biology.

Dr. Ezcurra's education includes a diploma in Systems Analysis in Ecology at the *Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas*, and an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in ecology at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. Dr. Ezcurra has received scholarships from UNESCO, the British Council, the Ford Foundation, and the Agency for International Development. He currently serves on the Boards of PRONATURA, the Sonoran Institute, WWF-Mexico, the ALCOA Foundation, and the Drylands Institute.

**Michael W. Hager, Ph.D.**, has been in the museum profession since 1965. He has served as a preparator, curator and director in a number of museums and has been a museum consultant for most of those years as well. He was Professor of Geology at Augustana College (1973–78), Director of the Museum of the Rockies (1978–89), Director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History (1989–91), and is currently President and CEO of the San Diego Natural History Museum.

At the San Diego Natural History Museum, Dr. Hager led strategic planning efforts in 1991–92 that, subsequently, led to focusing the Museum's programs on Southern California and Baja California; the founding of the Environmental Science Education Center and the Biodiversity Research Center of the Californias; and a capital campaign for the construction of a museum addition and renovation that more than doubled its original size. He is also Executive Producer of *Ocean Oasis*, a giant-screen film about Baja California. Dr. Hager serves on the board of the Immigration Museum of New Americans, the Binational Advisory Board of the San Diego Natural History Museum, and is Past President of the Association of Science Museum Directors.

Dr. Hager earned a B.A. in biology from Grinnell College and a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Wyoming. His academic specialty is paleontology and his administrative specialty is strategic planning and development.

**Jim Stone** is the Museum's Vice President of Public Programs, serving as the senior executive responsible for Museum exhibitions, education programs, volunteers and website. Previously the Museum's Director of Education, he brings experienced leadership to the position with a career-long focus on science education and environmental literacy. During the past several years he has spearheaded the Museum's efforts to highlight the impacts of climate change around the world as well as here in San Diego through a series of acclaimed lectures and Internet web casts.

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Mr. Stone formerly served as Vice President of Programs and Director of Exhibitions at Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Connecticut. He frequently leads ecotourism expeditions, and has been to Ecuador, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Culebra Island, Puerto Rico, Sea of Cortés, Galapagos Islands, Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. He has a special interest in marine mammalogy and environmental stewardship.

He holds a B.S. in Biology from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), has taken graduate courses in Education at SCSU and the University of Rhode Island, and holds a Rhode Island Teaching Certificate for Secondary Level Biological Sciences.

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*Water: H<sub>2</sub>O=Life* is organized by the American Museum of Natural History and the Science Museum of Minnesota, in collaboration with the San Diego Natural History Museum, Great Lakes Science Center, The Field Museum, Instituto Sangari (São Paulo, Brazil), National Museum of Australia, Royal Ontario Museum, and Singapore Science Centre with PUB Singapore.

**SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**