

Department of Ocean Sciences (OCE)

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

August 3, 2026

OCE Announcements

- **Shane Elipot** was awarded a \$4.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation for a five-year project titled “Understanding the Weakening of the Atlantic Meridional Overtuning Circulation: Extension of the RAPID-MOCHA array.” This project builds upon the Rosenstiel School’s ongoing contributions to the [RAPID-MOCHA-WBTS](#) array at 26.5°N, in collaboration with NOAA AOML and the UK National Oceanography Centre. The original MOCHA project was initiated by Emeritus Professor **William Johns** (OCE) in 2004. This new project not only continues observing the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) but also funds a PhD assistantship at the School, funds the purchase and deployment of innovative high-accuracy bottom pressure recorders in collaboration with Woods Hole geophysicist Dr. Catherine Rychert, and funds the purchase of an additional autonomous underwater vehicle (glider) to be deployed in collaboration with the [Cape Eleuthera Institute](#) in the Bahamas. This project supports and expands the activities of the Ocean Technology Lab (OTECH) at Rosenstiel.

OCE Publications

- Lapidot O, Perlin N, Biton E, Khain P, Levi Y, Alpert P, Ramon D, Stern N, Rilov G, Guy-Haim T, Lehahn Y, **Paris CB**, Berenshtein I* (2026) Species-specific sensitivity to PAHs reveals widespread biodiversity impact from the 2021 oil spill in the Eastern Mediterranean, *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 233 (2026) 120090, doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2026.120090 (* corresponding author Igal Berensthein, Paris Lab Alumnus)

OCE New Students / Hires / Farewells

- New PhD, MS, MPS Students: We will soon welcome our new students for AY 2026-2027. Interestingly, the only new PhD student in the OCE program is **Nichole Ruiz**, advised and funded by **Cassie Gaston** of the ATM department (she will be Cassie's third OCE student after Hope Elliott and Phoebe Scharle). **Philip Tuchen** and **Igor Kamenkovich** will have two new PhD students in the MPO program: **Lexi Dooley** and **Alexander Kolesnichenko**, respectively. In addition, **Roland Romeiser's** MPS student **Katerina Krader-Cornelius** will stay for another year to go for a regular MS degree in OCE. In the MPS program, **Anthony d'Auria**, **Natalia Jorbenadze**, and **Cameron Pratt** will start on the Applied Remote Sensing track. The Natural Hazards track does not have new students for this year.
- Postdoctoral Associate **Dr. Ivenis Pita** is leaving Rosenstiel this summer to start a new postdoctoral position at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution with Dr. Isabela Le Bras to work on the [GOHSNAP](#) project. Dr. Pita obtained his PhD in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography from the Rosenstiel School in 2024 and for the last two years had been working on the MOCHA project, co-supervised by Emeritus Professor **William Johns** and Research Associate Professor **Shane Elipot**.