

# MOLECULAR ORIGINS OF LIFE

CAS Conference 2018

Thursday, 11 October 2018

## Session A

- 08:30 - 8:55 ■ **Job Boekhoven (TU Munich)**  
Self-selection of dissipative assemblies from primitive chemical reaction networks
- 8:55 - 9:20 ■ **Irene Chen (UC Santa Barbara)**  
Fitness landscapes of RNA
- 9:20 - 9:45 ■ **Dora Tang (MPI for Cellular Molecular Biology and Genetics)**  
Synthetic cellular models for probing the origin of life
- 9:45 - 10:05 **Discussion**
- 10:05 - 10:35 *Coffee break*

## Session B

- 10:35 - 11:00 ■ **Clemens Richert (University of Stuttgart)**  
Enzyme-free replication of genetic sequences
- 11:00 - 11:25 ■ **Phil Holliger (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology)**  
Replicating RNA with RNA
- 11:25 - 11:50 ■ **Niles Lehman (Portland State University)**  
Scrambling to build the RNA world
- 11:50 - 12:10 **Discussion**
- 12:10 - 13:30 *External lunch break*

## Session C

- 13:30 - 13:55 ■ **François Guyot (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris)**  
Emergence of organized geochemical systems in the early earth
- 13:55 - 14:20 ■ **Christof Mast (LMU Munich)**  
Physical non-equilibria as driving force and habitat for the origin of life
- 14:20 - 14:45 ■ **André Estevez-Torres (ESPCI Paris & Sorbonne Université)**  
Synthesis of spatio-temporal structures with DNA molecular programs
- 14:45 - 15:05 **Discussion**
- 15:05 - 15:35 *Coffee break with poster session*
- 15:35 - 16:35 **Poster session**

## Session D

- 16:35 - 17:00 ■ **Andrei Lupas (MPI for Developmental Biology)**  
Ribosomal proteins as documents of the transition from unstructured polypeptides to folded proteins
- 17:00 - 17:25 ■ **Sijbren Otto (University of Groningen)**  
Can we synthesize life in the lab? How chemistry may become biology

17:25 - 17:50	■ <b>Laurie Barge (California Institute of Technology)</b> Simulating prebiotic chemistry in hydrothermal systems on early earth and ocean worlds
17:50 - 18:10	<b>Discussion</b>
18:10	End

## Friday, 12 October 2018

### Session E

08:30 - 8:55	■ <b>Dimitar Sasselov (Harvard University)</b> Stellar UV light and the origins of life
8:55 - 9:20	■ <b>Cornelia Meinert (Université Nice Sophia Antipolis)</b> The asymmetry of life
9:20 - 9:45	■ <b>Stephen Mojzsis (University of Colorado)</b> Onset of late accretion to the inner solar system – consequences for the first habitats
9:45 - 10:05	<b>Discussion</b>
10:05 - 10:35	<i>Coffee break</i>

### Session F

10:35 - 11:00	■ <b>Matt Powner (University College London)</b> On the divergent synthesis of purine and pyrimidine nucleosides
11:00 - 11:25	■ <b>Saidul Islam (University College London)</b> Prebiotic selection and assembly of proteinogenic peptides and ribonucleotides
11:25 - 11:50	■ <b>Thomas Carell (LMU Munich)</b> The prebiotic origin of RNA building blocks on early earth
11:50 - 12:10	<b>Discussion</b>
12:10 - 13:40	<i>External lunch break</i>

### Session G

13:40 - 14:05	■ <b>Matthew Pasek (University of South Florida)</b> Disequilibrium polyphosphate formation from phosphorus redox
14:05 - 14:30	■ <b>Sheref Mansy (University of Trento)</b> The emergence of iron-sulfur catalysts
14:30 - 14:55	■ <b>Shawn McGlynn (ELSI of Tokyo Institute of Technology)</b> How much can we learn about ancient cells from sequence analysis?
14:55 - 15:15	<b>Discussion</b>
15:15 - 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>

### Session H

15:45 - 16:10	■ <b>Robert Pascal (University of Montpellier)</b> How chemical kinetics can become a driving force for life self-organization
16:10 - 16:35	■ <b>Moritz Kreysing (MPI of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics)</b> Ribozyme reactions in the presence of uncharged and charged co-polymers
16:35 - 17:00	■ <b>Frank Postberg (University of Heidelberg)</b> The subsurface ocean of Enceladus: a habitable place in our solar system
17:00 - 17:20	<b>Discussion</b>
17:20	Closing of the Conference

■ Venue: Literaturhaus München, Salvatorplatz 1, 80333 München



CAS<sup>LMU</sup> CENTER FOR  
ADVANCED STUDIES



SIMONS FOUNDATION

CAS

Research  
Group