

Special Issue

From Messy Chemistry to the Origin of Life

Message from the Guest Editors

One of the characteristics of life, as we know it, is a complex but highly organized metabolic reaction network. Such a network is markedly different from the chemistry observed in model prebiotic and abiotic chemical systems, which yields an apparently disorganized vast and complex mixture of chemical materials with an end product, often being a polymeric tar. Understanding the mechanisms of organization in these messy chemical systems, and how such systems eventually transitioned into or contributed to primitive biochemistries, is crucial to solving the question of the origin of life. This Special Issue welcomes submissions of original research papers, comprehensive reviews, and perspectives that demonstrate or summarize advances related, but not limited, to the following fields: Experimental and computational studies of autocatalytic sets; Information flows in complex chemical systems; Selective chemical processes in prebiotic chemistry; Chemical evolution in complex chemical systems; Chemical characterization of complex chemical systems; Advances in the analytical methodology applied to studies of complex chemical systems.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Irena Mamajanov

Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI), Institute of Science Tokyo, 2-12-1-17E-313 Ookayama, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152-8550, Japan

Dr. Tony Z. Jia

Earth-Life Science Institute (ELSI), Institute of Science Tokyo, 2-12-1-IE-32 Ookayama, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152-8550, Japan

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Life
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
life@mdpi.com

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Life (ISSN 2075-1729) is an international, peer-reviewed open access journal that publishes scientific studies related to fundamental themes in life sciences. Some papers are published individually, while others are submitted for inclusion in special issues with guest editors. You are invited to contribute a research article, essay, or a review to be considered for publication.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Lluís Ribas de Pouplana

Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona), The Barcelona
Institute of Science and Technology, 08028 Barcelona, Spain

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