

Montpellier (France), July 3rd - 8th, 2011

2ND CIRCULAR



International Year of
CHEMISTRY
2011

Perspectives on the Origin of
Life: an open dialogue

Ada Yonath
(Nobel 2009 - Chemistry)

Jean-Marie Lehn
To be confirmed
(Nobel 1987 - Chemistry)

Christian de Duve
(Nobel 1974 - Physiology
or Medicine)

MAIN TOPICS

- Origins: from stars to life
- Biosignatures and clues of life
- Early Earth processes
- Exoplanets and habitability
- Early and minimal life
- Past and present solar system
- Prebiotic chemistry
- Outreach and history of sciences
- Evolutionary perspectives
- Space exploration

<http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/>



I. INTRODUCTION

ISSOL- The International Astrobiology Society and Bioastronomy (IAU C51) Joint International Conference



After the XVth International Conference on the Origins of Life (Florence, Italy, August 2008) and Bioastronomy 2007 (Porto-Rico , July 2007), ISSOL – the International Astrobiology Society and Bioastronomy (IAU C51) have decided to join their triennial meetings and to hold **their first common international conference (Origins 2011)** in Montpellier (France) in July 2011.

The main goal of this conference is to bring together scientists from all over the world to share their newest results and insights into the wide field of the origin of life on Earth and its occurrence in the Universe.

This meeting will integrate the broader interests and techniques of **astronomy, planetology, geology, chemistry, biology** and also **history of sciences** to have a wide understanding of the topic. It will start from the formation of our Solar System up to the origin and evolution of living systems with an opportunity to generate a context for exploration in our Solar System and observation of extrasolar planetary systems.

This conference will provide an opportunity for astronomers, chemists, biologists, geologists, planetary scientists, and those from other disciplines to meet and discuss research of mutual interest for addressing the question of the origin and evolution of life on Earth and elsewhere in the Universe.

We are looking forward seeing you in Montpellier!



Muriel GARGAUD
Astrophysicist, Bordeaux



Robert PASCAL
Chemist, Montpellier

Chairs of the Local Organizing Committee

II. CONFERENCE VENUE : *Le Corum* (Montpellier, France)

The conference will be held at **Le Corum**, located in the inner centre of Montpellier, near historic sites, shops, hotels and restaurants. This nicely located place is easily reached by tramway from the railway station, by taxi or by shuttle bus from Montpellier Méditerranée airport.



Le Corum is a modern building covered with pink granite, designed in the 1980s by Architect Claude Vasconi. It hosts an up-to-date conference centre, as well as the Opera House of Montpellier.



Pasteur auditorium

The building Le Corum and its congress facilities are operated by the company Enjoy Montpellier, a subsidiary of Montpellier-Agglomération (the urban district).

PLANNING & SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

1. Planning

	Time	Sunday July 3rd	Monday July 4th	Tuesday July 5th	Wednesday 6th	Thursday July 7th	Friday July 8th
Morning	9am-10.30am		Origins: From Stars to Life	Early Earth Processes	Early and Minimal Life	Past and Present Solar System	Outreach, Education and History of Science
	10.30-11am		Coffee				
	11-12.30 am		Origins: From Stars to Life	Early Earth Processes	Early and Minimal Life: Panel	Past and Present Solar System	Evolutionary Perspectives: from Molecules to Biodiversity and Extraterrestrial Intelligence
	12.30-2.30 pm		Lunch, Poster Session, and Meetings of the Societies				
Afternoon	2.30-4.00 pm	Registration & Check in (2.30-9.00 pm)	Biosignatures and Clues of Life	Exoplanets and Habitability	Excursion (2.00 pm- 11 pm)	Prebiotic Chemistry	Evolutionary Perspectives: from Molecules to Biodiversity and Extraterrestrial Intelligence
	4.00-4.30 pm	Scientific Opening Ceremony	Poster Session and Coffee	Poster Session and Coffee		Coffee	
	4.30-5.00 pm		Biosignatures and Clues of Life	Exoplanets and Habitability		Prebiotic Chemistry	Coffee
	5.00- 5.30 pm						Closing Ceremony
	5.30-6.00 pm	Institutional Opening Ceremony	International Year of Chemistry: Nobel Awardees Panel	Space Exploration: Panel		Gala Diner (7.30 -11 pm)	
	6.00-6.30 pm						
6.30 - 8.00 pm	Welcome Cocktail	Public Conference					
8.00 -9.00 pm			Public Conference				
9.00-10.30 pm				Public Conference			

2. Scientific Program

Invited speakers and chair persons (Contributed papers will be displayed later)

*Session introduction: 10 min / chair person

*Invited talks: 25 min + 10 min questions

*Contributed papers: 10 min + 5 min questions

Contributed papers not presented orally are welcome as posters

Sunday July 3rd

- **Scientific Opening of the Conference:** Ada YONATH (Chemistry Nobel Awardee 2009)

Monday July 4th

- **Origins : from stars to life**

Chairs: James KASTING (US),
Purificación LÓPEZ-GARCÍA (France)

Invited speakers :

- Alessandro MORBIDELLI (France)
- Jose CERNICARO (Spain)
- Addy PROSS (Israel)
- Gerald JOYCE (US)

- **Biosignatures and clues of life**

Chairs: Barbara Sherwood LOLLAR (Canada),
Mikhail FEDONKIN (Russia)

Invited speakers :

- Emmanuelle JAVAUX (Belgium)
- Franck SELSIS (France)

Monday July 4th (continued)

• **Panel: Perspectives on the Origin of Life: an open dialogue**

Chair: Antonio LAZCANO (Mexico)

Invited speakers :

- Ada YONATH (Israel),
- Christian DE DUVE (Belgium),
- Jean-Marie LEHN (France), *to be confirmed*

Tuesday July 5th

• **Early Earth processes**

Chairs: Daniele PINTI (Canada),
Frances WESTALL (France)

Invited speakers :

- Abigail ALLWOOD (Australia)
- Minik ROSING (Denmark)

• **Exoplanets and habitability**

Chairs: Vicky MEADOWS (US),
Stéphane UDRY (Switzerland)

Invited speakers :

- Helmut LAMMER (Austria)
- Sara SEAGER (US)

• **Space and future exploration Panel**

Chairs: Alvaro GIMENEZ (Spain),
Pascale EHRENFREUND (Netherlands)

Invited speakers:

- David DES MARAIS (US)
- Alain LÉGER (France)

Wednesday July 6th

• **Early and minimal life**

Chairs: Eörs SZATHMÁRY (Hungary),
Ricardo ALONSO (US/Columbia)

Invited speaker:

- Irene CHEN (US)

• **Early and minimal life Panel**

Chair: David DEAMER (US chair)

Invited speakers:

- Michael ROBERTSON (US)
- Felix OLASAGASTI (Spain)
- Peter UNRAU (Canada)

Thursday July 7th

• **Past and present solar system**

Chairs: Tobias OWEN (US),
Hikaru YABUTA (Japan)

Invited speakers:

- Jonathan LUNINE (US)
- Dominique BOCKELEEE-MORVAN (France)

• **Prebiotic chemistry**

Chairs: Raffaele SALADINO (Italy),
Yufen ZHAO (China)

Invited speakers:

- Nicholas HUD (US)
- John SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom)

Friday July 8th

• **Outreach, education, history of sciences**

Outreach Panel

Chair: Linda BILLINGS (US),

Invited speakers:

- Woody SULLIVAN (US)
- Martin GRIFFITH (United Kingdom)
- Jennifer LAING (Australia)

History of sciences

Chair: Stéphane TIRARD (France)

Invited speaker: to be confirmed

• **Evolutionary perspectives**

Chairs: Simon CONWAY-MORRIS (United Kingdom),
Mary VOYTEK (US)

Invited speakers:

- Euan NISBET (United Kingdom)
- Anthony POOLE (New Zealand)

• **Closing ceremony**

Chairs: Carl PILCHER (US),
Gerda HORNECK (Germany)

3. Panels and Public Lectures

➤ PUBLIC LECTURE (in French)

Tuesday July 5th, 2011, 9.00 pm

La chimie à l'origine de la vie, by André BRACK (France)

➤ PANELS

Monday, July 4th 2011, 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

International Year of Chemistry: Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Marie Sklodowska Curie Nobel Prize, in presence of Ada YONATH (Israel, Chemistry Nobel awardee, 2009), Jean Marie LEHN (France, Chemistry Nobel awardee, 1987) *to be confirmed*, and Christian DE DUVE (Belgium, Medicine Nobel awardee, 1974).

Chair: Antonio LAZCANO (Mexico)

Tuesday July 5th, 2011, 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

Space Exploration Panel

Chairs: Pascale EHRENFREUND (The Netherlands) and Alvaro GIMENEZ (Spain).

Wednesday 6th, July 2011, 11.00 am to 12.30 pm

Early and minimal life Panel

Chair: David DEAMER (USA)

4. Exhibitions

Forums and exhibition stands available for enterprises, manufacturers, and laboratories. Please contact the Conference organizers (origins2011@exobiologie.fr) for booking.

III. REGISTRATION & IMPORTANT DATES

1 Important dates and deadlines

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2010 | • Saturday October 30 th : Preliminary and Earlybird Registration opening |
| | • Monday December 13 th : Abstract Submission opening |
| 2011 | • Saturday February 5 th : Earlybird Registration deadline |
| | • Saturday February 19 th : Abstract Submission deadline |
| | • Friday, March 11 th : Deadline for LowCost Accomodation booking and cancellation |
| | • Monday April 11 th : Selection of contributed communications and posters completed |
| | • Friday May 27 th : Deadline for Registration and for Cancellation with refund. |

2 Registration

The registration fees for participants (not for accompanying persons) includes:

- Access to all scientific sessions
- Printed Conference book (short abstracts)
- USB flash drive with Conference program and complete abstracts
- Congress rucksack
- Touristic information
- Exhibition information
- Welcome reception
- Coffee breaks

Registration Rates	Earlybird	Full Rate
	Before Feb. 5 th , 2011	After Feb. 5 th , 2011
Students	160 €	210 €
Others	385 €	485 €
Accompanying persons	70 €	90 €

The payment of fees for accompanying persons allows participation to the welcome cocktail and is required for registration to the social program and to the gala dinner.

Online registration and abstract submission: see Origins 2011 website <http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/>

3 Cancellation

- Before Friday May 27th: partial refund of received fees (50 € kept for administrative costs).
- After Friday May 27th: no reimbursement possible (Fees + Social Program).

4 Payment

Credit Card (online) and Order Form (for French public organizations only).

Warning: Any registration without payment at the requested deadline (May 27th, 2011) will have the associated abstract excluded from the Conference book and from the poster/oral session program.

5 Travel Grants :

Travel funds will be granted to members of ISSOL to partly cover the transportation costs. Awards are made in such a way as **to foster the participation of as many young scientists as feasible at the Origins 2011 Conference.**

ISSOL Travel Grant Applications will include:

- a short letter of motivation
- a copy of the submitted abstract(s)
- a short CV (age, field of research, present position, Institution/University/Laboratory, address)

Applications should be sent by February 19th, 2011 to: travelgrant@issol.org

Selection of the application for the grant is conditioned to the acceptance of an oral or poster presentation at the Conference.

For non-ISSOL members, applications to ISSOL membership can be made using the form available on ISSOL website <http://www.issol.org> and require the support of two ISSOL members.

For individuals at US institutions, the American Astronomical Society has a program to provide airfare to international science meetings. The application deadline for summer 2011 is January 14th, 2011. See <http://aas.org/grants/itg.php> .

Additional travel grants from other institutions could be available subsequently (See Origins 2011 website <http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/>).

6 Call for abstracts

- The online submission of abstracts for contributed communications (Oral and Posters) will be open from Monday, **December 13th 2010** to Saturday **February 19th, 2011**. *After this deadline and until April 11th, 2011 ONLY POSTER submissions will be considered (WITHOUT guarantee of acceptance, and depending on available poster exhibition slots).*
- The number of abstract submissions is limited to two by submitting/presenting author (there is no limit as co-author). No abstract fees are charged.
- *Abstract presentation:* authors are requested to prepare a one-page PDF file (for upload on the online submission platform), together with a SHORT text for the Conference book. Detailed guidelines can be found on Origins 2011 website.
- Pre-registration to Origins 2011 is required for abstract submission. Pre-registered participants will receive login information and submission guidelines by e-mail (a valid e-mail address is required to access registration/submission platforms).
- Upon submission of their abstract, Authors are requested to choose the most relevant topic from the list of Origins 2011 topics, and to state their preferred presentation option (oral or poster). The final decision on oral

presentation belongs to the Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) however, on basis of the number and quality of received abstracts.

- Abstracts will be reviewed by the SOC before April 11th, 2011; reviewing and selection results will be communicated to authors in the following week.
- The submission of abstracts carries with it (once accepted by the SOC) the obligation of show-up at Origins 2011 (and of payment of registration fees before May 27th, 2011) by the presenting author. *In case of non-reception of registration fees within the above deadlines from any of the co-authors, the abstract would not be inserted in the Conference book, and the corresponding presentation (if accepted as oral) would be removed from the Conference schedule*

7 *Publication of Proceedings*

Invited lectures and contributed oral communications will be reviewed and published in a special issue of *Origins of Life and Evolution of Biospheres* (see Conference website for details).

IV. *SOCIAL PROGRAM*

Fieldtrips will be proposed before, during and after the Conference. Additional information and registration can be found on the Conference website : <http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/>

!! Fieldtrips have to be booked as the same time as registration for the Conference !!

- **Before the Conference:**

- Saturday July 2nd, 2011 (all day) : *Le Canal du Midi and Carcassonne* : fluvial boat trip on the Canal du Midi, lunch and visit of the medieval city.
- Sunday July 3rd, 2011 (morning) : *Visit of the Chateau “Domaine de la Croix Chaptal”* and wine tasting.

- **After the Conference:**

- Saturday July 9th and Sunday July 10th 2011 : *Week-end in Provence : Avignon, Arles, Les Baux de Provence*

Accompanying persons :

During the week, several excursions will be proposed every day (see Conference website).

- **Gala Dinner :**

The Conference gala dinner will be held on Thursday evening (7.30pm) at the restaurant “*Les Cuisiniers Vignerons*” in Lattes, a very nearby town (15 min driving). A grouped transportation will be organized from Le Corum at 7.00pm.

!! The gala dinner has to be booked at the same time as registration for the Conference !!



Gala dinner venue

V. *SCIENTIFIC & LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEES*

Scientific Organizing Committee

Alan P. BOSS	Carnegie Institution Washington, DTM, Washington, US
André BRACK	Centre de Biophysique Moléculaire, Orléans, France
Jose CERNICHARO	Centro de Astrobiología, CSIC/INTA, Madrid, Spain
Pascale EHRENFREUND	Leiden University, The Netherlands
Natalia GONTAREVA	Institute of Cytology, RAS, St. Petersburg, Russia
Nils HOLM	Stockholm University, Sweden
Gerda HORNECK	German Aerospace Center, Cologne, Germany
William IRVINE	University of Massachusetts, Amherst, US
Kensei KOBAYASHI	Yokohama National University, Japan
Ramanarayanan KRISHNAMURTHY	Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, US
Antonio LAZCANO	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico
Anny-Chantal LEVASSEUR-REGOURD	Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France
Claudio MACCONE	Turin, Italy
Francois RAULIN	Université Paris-Est Creteil, France
Alan SCHWARTZ	Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Janet SIEFERT	Rice University, Houston, US

Local Organizing Committee

Chairs:

Muriel GARGAUD and Robert PASCAL,

Members:

Laurent BOITEAU, André BRACK, Hervé COTTIN, Didier DESPOIS, Yves ELLINGER, Eric HEBRARD, Louis D'HENDECOURT, Anny-Chantal LEVASSEUR-REGOURD, Marie-Christine MAUREL, Marc OLLIVIER, François RAULIN, François ROBERT, Franck SELSIS, Dahbia TALBI, Stéphane TIRARD, Michel VISO, Frances WESTALL.

Administration Team:

Reine BEDOS, Sylvie CORNEILLE, Jocelyne GAUTHIER, Marie-Sophie MONFORT.

Web Team:

Laurent BOITEAU, Hervé COTTIN, Nicolas DAUGEY, Remy DERNAT.

VI. *PRACTICAL INFORMATION*

Communication language : English – *No translation facility provided.*

Information requests

Ms. **Reine BEDOS**

Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Bordeaux

2, rue de l'Observatoire – BP 89

33271 Floirac – France

Fax: +33 (0)5 57 77 61 55 — e-mail: origins2011@exobiologie.fr

Accommodation

An online hotel reservation service will be available on the Conference website

<http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/>

Low-cost accommodation

A limited number of university student rooms (located 10 min by tram from the Conference centre) should be available for Origins 2011 participants, as a 6-night unfractionnable package covering the entire Conference extent (Saturday 2nd to Saturday 9th July) for 160 € More details on **Origins2011 website**
!! Specific booking Deadline: Friday, March 11th (cancellation with refund: same deadline!)

Lunches

A lot of nice and cheap restaurants (10–15 €per lunch) are located around the Conference site.

How to reach Montpellier

- **By air:** The *Montpellier-Méditerranée* international airport (MPL)

http://www.montpellier.aeroport.fr/layer_en.asp?nav-0_0_0

Up to 15 flights to and from Paris (both Orly & Charles de Gaulle airports) operate every day; daily flights are available to/from Frankfurt, London, Amsterdam. Main operating companies & connections are: Air France (Paris, Lyon), Iberia (Madrid), Transavia (Amsterdam), Easyjet (London Gatwick), Ryan Air (London Stansted, Frankfurt, Brussels).

The airport is located 10 km from the city (*ca.* 15-20 min by shuttle bus or taxi). The **shuttle bus schedule** is connected to main flight departures/arrivals ; timetables are available on MPL airport website or on Hérault transport website. (http://www.herault-transport.fr/horaires_tarifs.html).

Ticket fees (one-way ticket, 1.10 €in Oct 2010), possibility of combined ticket with TAM (city public transportations, 2.40 €in Oct 201). The shuttle bus stop in Montpellier is located near tram station « Place de l'Europe ».

Car renting (upon reservation) also available, see airport website.

Air France/KLM are official partners of the event. To get discounted prices, please book your tickets on website (<http://www.airfranceklm-globalmeetings.com>) using the Event ID : 09974AF , and travel with a printed copy of the document to download from <http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/AirFranceTravel.pdf>.

- **By rail:**

The central rail station **Montpellier-Saint-Roch** is 3h20 from Paris by high speed train (TGV, 8 to 10 direct connections/day), and 5h from Barcelona (2 direct connections/day by train Talgo). Daily direct TGV connections are also available from/to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport (3.30) and from/to Brussels (6h).

Timetables on SNCF website (in french) : <http://www.voyages-sncf.com/>

- **By bus:**

The Eurolines bus network ensures regular connections with most important european cities : <http://www.eurolines.com/>

Local & public transportation

City public transportations (TAM) include 2 tramway lines (both serving the central rail station) and 30 bus lines serving the centre and suburban zones.

A bicycle rental service (4h to several days) is also available from TAM. Except by car, this transportation mode is probably the most convenient to reach the seaside (12km from the city at closest).

Public transportations are operated by the urban district Montpellier Agglomeration. More info (maps, timetables, fares, bicycle rental) on TAM website (in french) <http://www.montpellier-agglo.com/tam/index2.php>

Walking. The oldest, historical inner center of the city (*ca.* 0.8km diameter) is dedicated to pedestrians – taxis are however allowed to reach the hotels located in this area.

Tourist information

Montpellier city tourist office : <http://www.ot-montpellier.fr/en/>

VIII SPONSORS

- *Mairie de Montpellier,*
- *Région Languedoc Roussillon, Région Aquitaine,*
- *Montpellier Agglomération,*
- *Conseil Général de l'Hérault*

