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From Messy Chemistry to the Origin of Life

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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.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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