

Origin of Life: ISSOL '99 Overview

François Raulin; LISA, CNRS & Universités Paris 12 & Paris 7
Andr  Brack; CBM - CNRS, Orl ans

The International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life (ISSOL) organizes every 3 years an International Conference on the Origin of Life (ICOL). The 11th International Conference was held in Orleans (France) in 1996. It was attended by more than 400 participants, from various disciplines including astrophysics, planetology, geology and paleontology, chemistry, biochemistry, biology and microbiology. The 12th International Conference will be held in San Diego, California, USA, from July 11 to July 16, 1999. The scientific program includes five general sessions, covering the following complementary fields:

- 1 - Abiotic syntheses
- 2 - Origin of chirality
- 3 - Replication/catalysis
- 4 - Minimum genome
- 5 - Exobiology/astrobiology

A special session on Mars, and an evening public talk by Freeman Dyson (“Gravity is cool: or, why our universe is hospitable to life”) are also part of the tentative program. The paper will present a summary of the meeting, and outline the most significant contribution relevant to Bioastronomy.

Note : web site of the ISSOL meeting: <http://exobio.ucsd.edu/issol99.htm>