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Geochemistry and the Origin of Life

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue will be dedicated to the origin of life in its geochemical environment. In addition to liquid water and organic molecules, specific environmental components and conditions were essential for the origin of life. Early Earth was not a perfect chemical laboratory for organic reactions, and thus prebiotic chemistry must embrace realistic geological scenarios. There are three critical steps leading towards primitive life: (1) concentration of the molecular components participating in prebiotic reactions and control of water activity, (2) stabilization and structural conformation of molecules, and (3) chemical evolution through complexification. In addition to new results in classical prebiotic chemistry and in comprehensive evaluation of the Hadean mineralogy, special attention will be paid to experimental data showing that the aforementioned processes are greatly aided by the presence of mineral surfaces.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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