

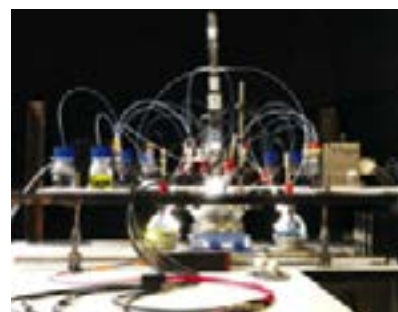
Solvay Colloquium



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Towards a general theory of chemical evolution

What is life? How did life start on planet earth *ca.* 3.5 billion years ago, and which molecules/chemical systems lead to biology? Is there a general theory of evolution that extends to all matter? Can we make or evolve life from scratch in a matter of hours? These are fantastically interesting questions but in this lecture, rather than look back into the past, we will look to the future and discuss how chemists may go about creating new types of truly synthetic (artificial life, new or 'inorganic' biology). In embarking upon this quest we will be asking the question: "What is the minimal chemical system that can undergo Darwinian evolution?" and in doing so looking towards the concept of 'adaptive matter' and evolvable materials and chemical systems. The aim is inorganic biology, or more simply, a living system that does not use the current chemical infrastructure utilized by biology.



Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 4.00 P.M.

COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE SERVED AT 3.45 P.M. IN FRONT OF THE SOLVAY ROOM

SALLE SOLVAY

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