

Leopoldina Annual Conference 2024



LEOPOLDINA JAHRESVERSAMMLUNG



The origin and beginning of life

26 to 27 September 2024

Organising Committee:

Thomas Carell ML, Munich
Thomas Henning ML, Heidelberg

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
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Board Meetings

Thursday, 26 September 2024

10:00 – 11:00 am | **General Assembly of Leopoldina Members**

(by invitation only)

11:00 – 11:30 am | **Break**

11:30 am – 1:00 pm | **Meeting of the Senate**

(by invitation only)

Programme

The conference will be held in English and will be simultaneously translated into German.

Thursday, 26 September 2024

2:00 – 5:15 pm

Opening Ceremony

Musical Prelude

**Welcoming and Opening
Speech**

Gerald Haug ML*, *Halle/Mainz/Berlin*
President of the Academy

Welcoming Address

Rainer Robra
*Head of the State Chancellery and Minister for Culture of
Saxony-Anhalt*

Awards

Gerald Haug ML
President of the Academy

- Cothenius-Medal
- Medal of Merit
- ZukunftsWissen - Early Career Award of the Academy Leopoldina and Commerzbank-Stiftung

Coffee break

Introduction

Thomas Carell ML
Chair for Organic Chemistry I, LMU Munich

Keynote Lecture

**Whispers from Other Worlds: NASA's Search for Life
in the Cosmos**
Thomas Zurbuchen, Zurich/Switzerland

Break

6:00 pm

Evening Lecture

Moderation: *Gerald Haug ML, Halle/Mainz/Berlin*
President of the Academy

The Exoplanet Revolution

Didier Queloz, Zurich/Switzerland

Reception

* ML = Member of the Leopoldina

Friday, 27 September 2024

9:00 – 9:30 am

| **Lecture of the Early Career Awardee**

Moderation: *Ulla Bonas ML, Halle
Vice President*

**Resurrecting Ancient Proteins to Understand the
Biochemical Past and Present**
Dr. Georg Hochberg, Marburg

9:30 – 10:50 am

| **Session I**

Moderation: *Charlotte Klönk ML, Berlin*

**Origin and Definition of Life According to Ancient Greek
Philosophers**
Christof Rapp ML, Munich

**Eschenmoser Memorial Lecture: Reinventing the
(chemistries leading to) Origin of Life**
Ramanarayanan Krishnamurthy, La Jolla/USA

Discussion

10:50 – 11:20 am

| **Break**

11:20 am – 12:40 pm

| **Session II**

Moderation: *Thomas Henning ML, Heidelberg*

The Quest for Atmospheres on Rocky Planets
Laura Kreidberg, Heidelberg

**Early Earth Geochemical Models: Environments for the
Origin of Life**
Dimitar Sasselov, Cambridge/USA

Discussion

12:40 – 2:00 pm

| **Lunch**

2:00 – 3:20 pm

| **Session III**

Moderation: *Thomas Carell ML, Munich*

The Role of Volcanic Processes in the Emergence of Life

Bettina Scheu, Munich

Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) Could Not Not Have Emerged on Early Earth

Steven Benner, Gainesville/USA

Discussion

3:20 – 3:50 pm

| **Break**

3:50 – 5:50 pm

| **Session IV**

Moderation: *Roland Lill ML, Marburg*

The Origin of the Organic Building Blocks of Life on the Early Earth

Erik Boinowitz, Munich

Shaping Early Life: The Chemistry of Primitive Compartments

Claudia Bonfio, Strasbourg/France

From Microorganisms to Complex Life Forms

Christa Schleper, Vienna/Austria

Discussion

6:00 pm

| **Closing Remarks**

Thomas Henning ML, Heidelberg

7:00 pm

| **Dinner**

(for members of the Leopoldina and the Leopoldina Academy Circle of Friends as well as invited guests)

Venue

Restaurant „Speiseberg“, Kröllwitzer Straße 45, 06120 Halle

We would like to thank the Leopoldina Academy Circle of Friends for the generous support for a programme which enables the participation of secondary school pupils in the Leopoldina Annual Conference.



LEOPOLDINA
AKADEMIE
FREUNDKREIS



Alfried Krupp von Bohlen
und Halbach-Stiftung

Furthermore, the Leopoldina awards travel grants to young scientists for participation in the Annual Meeting. (Post)doctoral candidates can apply for these travel grants via jahresversammlung@leopoldina.org. If the application is successful, a scholarship of up to € 400 (regardless of travel and accommodation costs) will be paid out. The Leopoldina would like to thank again the Leopoldina Academy Circle of Friends and the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung as well for providing the funding.

Registration

The event is aimed at all interested persons. Participation is free of charge. We kindly ask you to register in advance by 5 September 2024 via <https://www.leopoldina.org/iv-2024>.

You can also watch the Annual General Meeting via Leopoldina's YouTube channel.

Hotel Reservation

The Leopoldina has provisionally reserved rooms. Participants are advised to make their individual booking under the keyword „Leopoldina“ no later than 22 August 2024. Room booking for speakers and senators will be made by the Leopoldina.

Dorint Hotel Charlottenhof

Dorotheenstraße 12, 06108 Halle (Saale)

Tel. +49 (0) 345-292 36 06, Fax: +49 (0) 345-292 31 00

E-Mail: reservierung.halle-charlottenhof@dorint.com

Walking distance approx. 20 minutes

Tram from Riebeckplatz – Moritzburgring (line 7) approx. 10 min. + 2 min. by foot

A shuttle service will be provided from Dorint Hotel to the Leopoldina and back at the following times:

Thursday, 26 September 2024

from 9:15 am; return journey after the reception

Friday, 27 September 2024

from 8:15 am; after closing remarks to the restaurant; return journey from 10 p.m. from the restaurant to Dorint Hotel

Further accommodation options (contingent keyword “Leopoldina”):

Ankerhof Hotel GmbH

Ankerstraße 2a, 06108 Halle (Saale)

Tel. +49 (0) 345 232 32 00, Fax: +49 (0) 345 232 32 19

E-Mail: reception@ankerkhof.de

Walking distance approx. 10 minutes

DORMERO Hotel Rotes Ross

Franckestraße 1, 06110 Halle (Saale)

Tel. +49 (0) 300-2021 33 00, Fax: +49 (0) 30-2021 33 33 (central reservation)

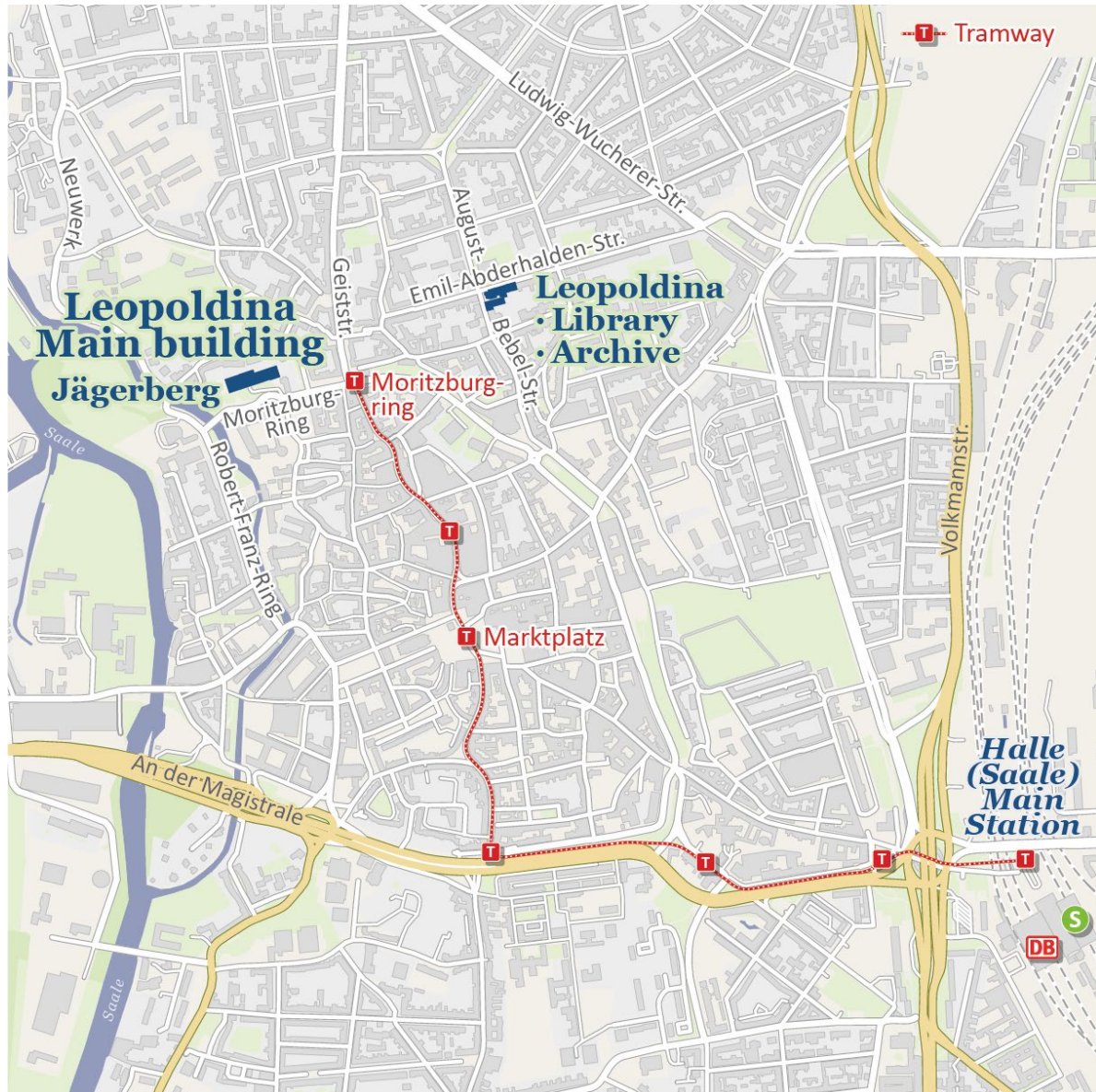
E-Mail: halle@dormero.de

Walking distance to the Leopoldina: approx. 25 minutes

Walking distance to Dorint Hotel Charlottenhof (shuttle service): approx. 5 minutes

Venue

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
Jägerberg 1
06108 Halle (Saale)



Getting to the Leopoldina

From Flughafen Leipzig/Halle airport

by taxi in 30 to 40 minutes (around 50 €) or
with Deutsche Bahn in 15 minutes (trains run hourly)

From Halle's main train station

by taxi in 5 to 10 minutes or
by tram line 7 (to Kröllwitz) alighting Moritzburgring