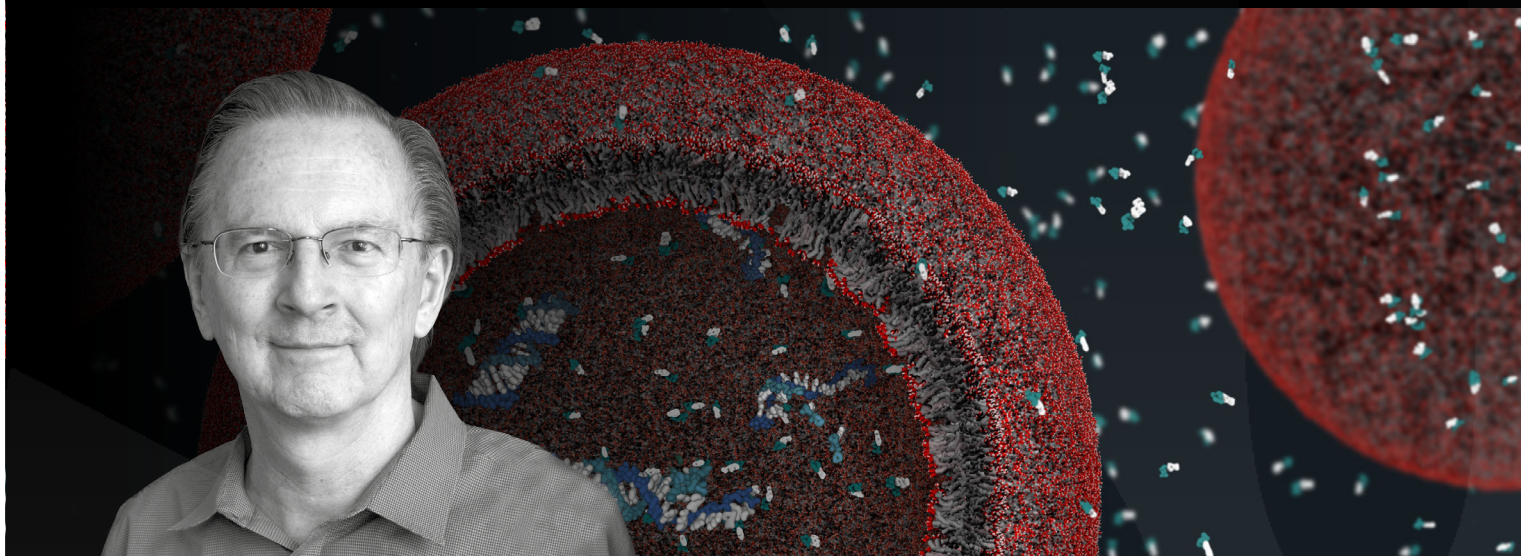




LEVERHULME CENTRE FOR
LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE

LCLU ANNUAL LECTURE



JACK SZOSTAK

University of Chicago (Department of Chemistry)

CONSTRAINTS ON THE PROPERTIES OF PRIMORDIAL PROTOCELLS

TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2025 | 17:30–18:30

Bristol-Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre, Department of Chemistry

Primitive cell membranes must have been sufficiently robust to survive environmental fluctuations, but also sufficiently permeable to allow for essential nutrients such as nucleotides to reach the protocell interior. In addition, the primordial genetic material must have been able to replicate with sufficient speed and accuracy to allow for the transmission of useful genetic information from generation to generation. Jack Szostak will describe recent progress in the development of a laboratory model of a protocell capable of growth and division, and replication of the genetic material in the absence of any evolved machinery.

If you have a question about this talk, please contact admin@lclu.cam.ac.uk



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