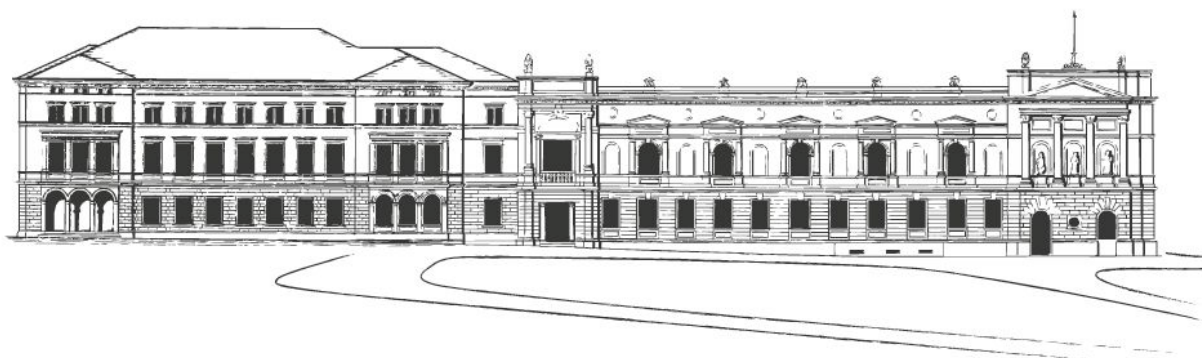


# Leopoldina Annual Conference 2024



## 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  
Jägerberg 1  
06108 Halle (Saale)

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Fax: +49 (0) 345 472 39 – 919  
E-Mail: [jahresversammlung@leopoldina.org](mailto:jahresversammlung@leopoldina.org)  
[www.leopoldina.org](http://www.leopoldina.org)

## Board Meetings

Thursday, 26 September 2024

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

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*(by invitation only)*

**11:00 – 11:30 am** | **Break**

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

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*(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**

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## Musical Prelude

**Welcoming and Opening  
Speech**

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

**Welcoming Addresses**

Reiner Haseloff  
*Minister President 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**

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

**The exoplanet revolution**  
*Didier Queloz, Zurich/Switzerland*

## Reception

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\* ML = Member of the Leopoldina

## Friday, 27 September 2024

9:00 – 9:30 am

| **Lecture of the Early Career Awardee**

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**Moderation:** *Ulla Bonas ML, Halle  
Vice President*

**N.N.**

9:30 – 10:50 am

| **Session I**

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**Moderation:** *Charlotte Klonk 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**

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11:20 am – 12:40 pm

| **Session II**

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**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**

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2:00 – 3:20 pm

| **Session III**

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**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**

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3:50 – 5:50 pm

| **Session IV**

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**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**

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*Thomas Henning ML, Heidelberg*

7:00 pm

| **Dinner**

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*(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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

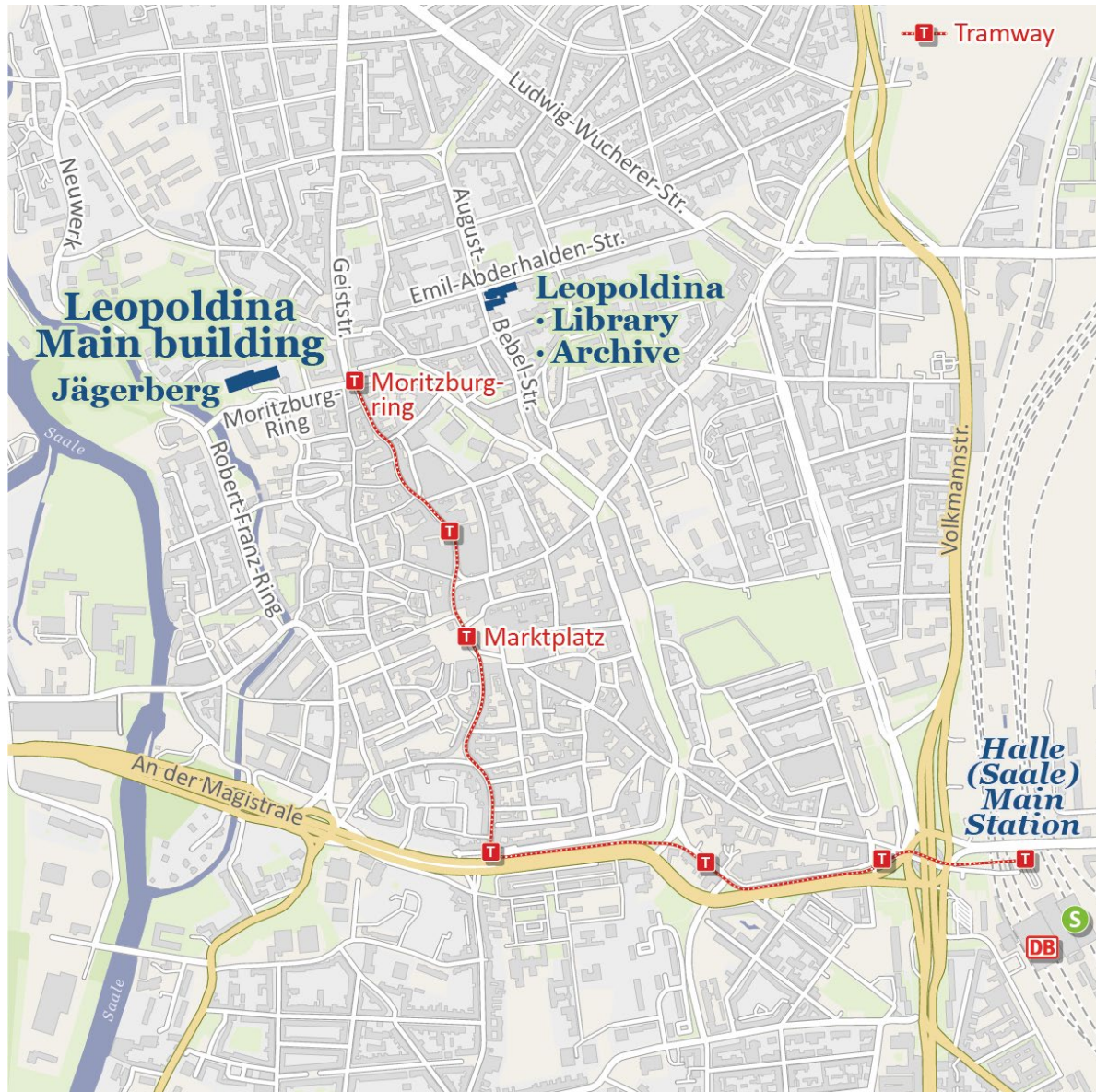
E-Mail: [halle@dormero.de](mailto:halle@dormero.de)

*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