



PCE₃ Seminar Series

Thurs, June 3rd

1 p.m. EST/10 a.m. PST

More information & registration:

prebioticchem.info/seminar-series/index.html



Zoe Todd

Postdoctoral Scholar
University of Washington, Catling Lab
"What can the planetary environment tell us about origins of life?"



Zachary Cohen

Graduate Student
University of Washington, Keller Lab
"Prebiotic membranes are tough and accommodating: solute encapsulation and peptide formation in evaporative environments on the early Earth"

Topical introduction by Roy Black, Affiliate Professor,
University of Washington

Zoe Todd

Zoe Todd is a first-year NHFP Sagan Fellow at the University of Washington. Zoe completed her Ph.D. in astronomy at Harvard University and her undergraduate education at Penn State, with majors in astrophysics, biochemistry, and physics. Zoe's research interests have been geared toward astrobiology, and particularly understanding the origins of life. Zoe uses a combination of chemistry and planetary science, as well as both experiments and theory to provide an improved understanding of circumstances that could lead to the origins of life and the implications for life on other planets.

Zachary Cohen

Zack Cohen is a 4th year PhD student in the Chemistry Department and Astrobiology Program at University of Washington. Before coming to UW, Zack completed his undergraduate degree in Integrative biology and Physics at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. As an undergraduate, Zack used computational tools to research microbial communities and microbial genomes. During his time at UW, Zack has been investigating potential roles for fatty acid membranes during the origin of life on Earth, using a variety of experimental techniques including mass spec and microscopy.

Roy Black

Over a 26-year career in the biotechnology industry, Roy built and led R&D programs that identified important enzymes associated with inflammation. In addition to authoring key papers on the biochemistry, structure and cell biology of these enzymes, Roy co-directed medicinal chemistry efforts to develop protein inhibitors for therapeutic use, including for treatment of osteoarthritis and heart failure. In 2010, Roy took a sabbatical to learn about prebiotic membranes in the laboratory of Dr. David Deamer at the University of California-Santa Cruz, and in 2011 he left industry to pursue his origin-of-life interests as an affiliate professor at the University of Washington where he studies model prebiotic membranes and possible pathways for the emergence of cells.