

Thursday, July 20, 2017
SPECIAL SESSION IN HONOR OF JIM FERRIS:
FROM THE PREBIOTIC SYNTHESIS OF BASES AND
POLYMERIZATION TO RNA WORLD RESEARCH/CONCEPTS
7:00 p.m. Price Center Theatre

Chair: Alan Schwartz

7:00 p.m. Schwartz A. *
Chairman of the Special Session

7:15 p.m. Powner M. W. *
[Prebiotic Synthesis: Selection Overcoming Clutter](#) [#4072]
A mechanism to efficiently and selectively direct multistep prebiotic synthesis of nucleotides and amino acids from complex mixtures, a divergent synthesis of pyrimidine and purine nucleotides, and prebiotic triose glycolysis will be presented.

7:40 p.m. Pressman A. Saha R. Müller U. Chen I. *
[Fitness in the RNA World](#) [#4223]
Life probably progressed through a primitive form based on RNA, in which RNA acted as both a genetic material and a catalyst for biochemistry. Understanding the evolution of RNA is therefore central to understanding the origin of life.

7:55 p.m. Williams L. D. * Kovacs N. Petrov A. Lanier K.
[Frozen in Time: The History of the Ribosome](#) [#4222]
Translation provides a window into the essential nature of biology.