



39th ILASOL MEETING

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

June 2, 2026 | Jerusalem

Venue: Edmond J. Safra Campus, Los Angeles Building

Registration / info: ilasolmeet39@gmail.com

Program Schedule

Morning Program

8:45–9:20 Light Breakfast and Gathering

Welcome Remarks

9:20–9:35 **Meital Rechtes**, Vice Rector
Amri Wandel, ILASOL Chair

Session 1 – Early Evolution towards Molecular Biology (Chair: Nir Ben-Tal)

9:35–9:55 **Invited - Norman Metanis (HUJI)** - Through the Looking Glass: Functional "Ambidexterity" in an Ancient Nucleic Acid-Binding Protein

9:55–10:15 **Invited - David Avnir (HUJI)** - The extraterrestrial homochirality in carbonaceous meteorites as an inducer of the homochirality on Earth

10:15–10:35 **Invited - Yossi Paltiel (HUJI)** - Breaking the chiral symmetry at the origin of life

10:35–10:50 **Disha Gajanan-Hiregange (WIS)** - The Origin of Life: Structural and functional insights of the Protoribosome

10:50–11:20 Coffee Break

Session 2 – Prebiotic Chemistry and Systems Chemistry (Chair: Moran Frenkel-Pinter)

11:20–11:50 **Keynote – Daniele Dondi (Pavia U.)** - First-principle calculations for the study of reaction pathways in prebiotic chemistry

11:50–12:10 **Invited - Meital Rechtes (HUJI)** - Simple Hydroxybenzene Molecules and Single Amino Acids as Prebiotic Catalysts

12:10–12:30 **Invited - Yoni Toker (BIU)** - Intra-cluster bond formation

12:30–12:45 **Suman Maji (BGU)** - Coupling Replication, Catalysis, and Compartmentalization in a Minimal Chemical Network

Afternoon Program

12:35–14:00 Lunch and Poster Session

Session 3 – Astrobiology, Astrophysics and Astrochemistry (Chair: Amri Wandel)

14:00–14:20 **Invited - Itay Halevy (WIS)** - TBD

14:20–14:40 **Invited - Nir Shaviv (HUJI)** - Galactic Climate Forcing: How the Milky Way Influences Earth's Habitat

14:40–14:55 **Gidi Yoffe (WIS)** - Molecular diversity as a biosignature

14:55–15:10 **Amri Wandel (HUJI)** - A New Concept of Planetary Habitability: the Habitable Zone redefined in terms of Planetary Water Content

15:10–15:25 **Olga Rakovskaya (Ariel)** - Detecting water ice clouds in exoplanetary atmospheres

15:25–15:50 Coffee Break

Session 4 – Early Chemical Evolution (Chair: Gonen Ashkenasy)

15:50–16:10 **Invited - Yaron Paz (Technion)** - enantioselective adsorption of amino acids and sugars on composites of metal phosphates and a silica binder

16:10–16:25 **Daniil Akulenko (HUJI)** - Abiotic sugar oligomerization reactions

16:25–16:40 **Roy Yaniv (WIS)** - Support from the lipid-first model for exploring life in the solar system

16:40–17:00 **Invited - Rachel Kolodny (Haifa U)** - Modeling sub-sequences with a Protein Language Model

17:00–17:15 **Joseph Gale (HUJI)** - How relevant are studies of Extremophiles to Astrobiology? A provocation!

17:15 Award Ceremony and Closing Remarks

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