

# Meet the Authors

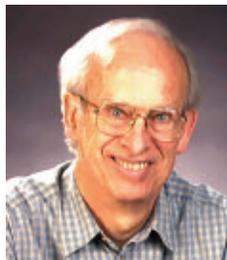


**A. Graham Cairns-Smith** was educated at Fettes College, where he dithered between painting and science as a prime interest, and then at the University of Edinburgh, where he settled on chemistry (rather than physics or biology) and ended up with a PhD in organic chemistry. His working life was spent at the University of Glasgow, where he taught, pursued ideas about the origin of life, and engaged in research on protein chemistry, clay synthesis, iron photochemistry, and crystal growth. He retired in 1997. He is currently Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry and spends most of his time writing.



**George Cody** received his PhD in geosciences at Penn State University in 1992, where his research focused on the organic geochemistry of coal. He then spent the next three years in the Chemistry Division of Argonne National Laboratory. In 1995, George joined the scientific staff of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. His current research interests include experimental investigations into mineral-catalyzed, hydrothermal organic reactions. Also, he focuses on the application of solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy

and X-ray absorption spectroscopy to a broad range of problems in geobiology and organic cosmochemistry.



**James Ferris** is professor of chemistry and director of the New York Center for Studies on the Origins of Life at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He obtained his BS in chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania and his PhD at Indiana University. He was the president of the International Society for Studies on the Origins of Life (ISSOL) and is a fellow of the AAAS. He served for 18 years as the editor of the ISSOL journal *Origins of Life and Evolution of the Biosphere*. In 1996 he was awarded the Oparin Medal of ISSOL for "the best sustained scientific research program in the origin of life."



**Robert M. Hazen**, research scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Geophysical Laboratory and Clarence Robinson Professor of Earth Science at George Mason University, received the BS and SM in geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1971) and the PhD at Harvard University in Earth science (1975). Currently the president of the Mineralogical Society of

America, Hazen's recent research focuses on the role of minerals in the origin of life. He is also active in presenting science to nonscientists. In addition to his scientific activities, Robert Hazen is a professional trumpeter who performs frequently with the National Symphony, the National Philharmonic, the Washington Bach Consort, and the National Gallery Orchestra.



**Joseph V. Smith** lived 17 years on a hill farm in Derbyshire, England. He has a PhD in physics (crystallography) from Cambridge University and was a fellow of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He served on the faculties of Cambridge University and Pennsylvania State University before joining the University of Chicago in 1960. He is in the final year of a half-time appointment as Louis Block Professor of Physical Sciences. His principal research has been on feldspar minerals, lunar and meteoritic minerals and rocks, and the framework structures of zeolite minerals and industrial materials particularly in the catalysis/petrochemical area. Since 1988, he has been associated with the Center for Advanced Radiation Sources where he was the first executive director and is now coordinator of scientific programs.

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