

# McConnell Lectureship

Speaker:

Professor Ken Dill  
Stony Brook University

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November 13, 2023 – 2:00 pm

EMU Redwood Auditorium

Hosted by Andy Marcus



## *The Origins of Life:*

*An uncanny resemblance to the old Protein Folding Problem*

*How did the first living cells come into being from the earth's molecular soup 3.5 billion years ago? Despite much speculation – maybe RNA came first, or proteins, or chemical networks – there's not yet a consensus origins story. New insights are coming from thinking not just about life's molecules, but about biology's process of adaptation. The Darwinian evolution process must have preceded the origins of life. This, and the apparent needle-in-a-haystack nature of sequence space, indicate a key role of proteins in life's origins.*

**Zoom Link: TBA**