

**From:** [REDACTED]

**To:** Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>

**Subject:** thank you

**Date:** Tue, 15 May 2012 05:17:11 +0000

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Hi Jeffrey,

My article today on Martin Novak's RNA replication work, got picked up by The Wall St. Journal, Reuters and CNBC amongst others. See links:

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/14/idUS233533+14-May-2012+PRN20120514>

Wall St. Journal: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/harvard-university-and-the-jeffrey-epstein-foundation-search-for-the-origin-of-life-2012-05-14>

Rich told me today that you would like to stop. I completely understand because I haven't been able to get the bad stuff off of the 1st page and that was your objective.

I am terribly sad because I really enjoy working with you and love writing about these subjects. My press releases have done well in that they get accepted by the top newspapers and media sites.

Isn't there anyway that I could be your media /pr person?

I would write about your work and maintain your website with all press, photos, archives etc of everything that you have done. I would have one website for your science work and one for general philanthropy.

After this RNA article, I was going to finish one on Eric Lander, George Church and Seth Lloyd. I also wanted to write a piece about the language conference, taking Stephen Hawkings under water for the first time and another on The Rick Hooper Distinguished Fellowship Fund.

All of these stories are wonderful things to document.

I know the answer is no but it's so worth my asking.

The main thing is that I want you to know how much I've enjoyed working with you and that I am appreciative.

many thanks,  
Christina

PS: below is the text from my last article on RNA replication:

NEW YORK, May 14, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- The [Program for Evolutionary Dynamics](#) at Harvard University, announced to The [Jeffrey Epstein](#) Foundation, its main sponsor, that its staff were closer to understanding the link between chemical kinetics and when life takes over.

"Prelife morphs into life when [replication](#) occurs," [Martin Novak](#) asserted, Director of the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics and Professor of Mathematics and Biology at Harvard. "There are many attributes necessary for life," he explains, "and it's not clear whether metabolism came first or replication. But replication sets evolution into full motion, dramatically distinguishing life from prelife. It's the mechanism that allows for efficiency and complexity to develop."

"Replication is the catalyst for life," Jeffrey Epstein adds, founder of The Jeffrey Epstein Foundation. "The fittest molecules dominate quickly, then on an exponential level and are selected again."

To illustrate this, Novak uses a prelife model of activated ribonucleotides (the building blocks for DNA and RNA) and polymerizes them into linked chains.

Novak explains that this synthetic prelife approach is favorable for a host of reasons. Firstly, it's impossible to recreate the atmosphere that existed when life began four billions years ago. Secondly, simple compounds, such as ribonucleotides, can more clearly reveal the steps towards life. Thirdly, polymerized nucleotides can form replicating templates. Lastly, the famous 1952 Miller-Urey experiment and derivatives of that, established that amino acids and other organic compounds could well have emerged from the atmosphere of early earth.

After creating nucleotide chains, Novak shows how the environment, such as nucleotide concentration, affects chain sequence, their lengths and durability. But despite these changes, Novak shows how prelife sequences always reach an equilibrium distribution with different chemical species coexisting.

Novak then looks at nucleotide chains with some capacity to replicate. (Chains replicate by attracting corresponding nucleotides, which form their own chain and break off). Replication rates only need to reach a low threshold for the fittest sequences to quickly dominate. Furthermore, templating capacity doesn't have to be fully formed for selection to quickly evolve. Even base pairs are sufficient. "In prelife, many events need to occur for molecules to become more sustainable. But as soon as replication happens, one event can lead to competitive exclusion."

Intriguingly, Novak also shows how certain chemicals, clay montmorillonite, for example, can induce nontemplated nucleotides to polymerize into sequences capable of templating after purification. The introduction of wet-dry cycling in the presence of lipids can also promote the template-directed synthesis of deoxyribonucleotide monophosphates.

The fact that replicating templates can arise from a single chemical reaction, suggests that life did not just evolve from prelife but could have literally sparked into being: a chemical anomaly that led to an unstoppable evolution of itself; an anomaly that could have occurred in various places around the earth, perhaps in a series of fits and starts but quickly proliferated with ever growing efficiency.

This synthetic approach for polymerization and replication is certainly controversial. Many argue that the components are too removed from those of early earth. For example, very specific activation agents are used to encourage replication (ImpA for adenine or ImpG for guanine). And the concentration of chemicals (especially cytosine and ribose) is billions of magnitude higher than what one would expect under prebiotic conditions.

Despite these limitations, Novak argues that the simplicity of the ribonucleotide model and its susceptibility to chemical reactions allows the scientist to "crystallize intuition, outline the dynamical transition caused by replication and point toward counterintuitive ideas like the dominance of long sequences."

Many questions remain, for example, were other forms of replication evolving at the beginning of life? But in the meantime, if Novak reveals that life is in part, a chemical anomaly that rapidly evolved from selection, one could derive that life, is not so much a force as it is a consequence, a by-product of ever increasing capacity for sustainability; and no matter how complex its tentacles or synapses, it should not be mislabeled as a desire for survival.

Source: [PR Newswire \(http://s.tt/1bML2\)](http://s.tt/1bML2)

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