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CHEMISTRY WORLD

Seventy years ago, Erwin Schrödinger asked 'What is life, and how did it emerge from non-life?' This problem has puzzled biologists and physical scientists ever since. Living forms are made up of the same 'dead' atoms as inanimate forms, yet reproduce, and behave purposefully. What gives life this unique character?

It is only now that the emerging field of systems chemistry may finally be giving us insights into these questions. And as Addy Pross shows, the principle by which life can arise turns out to be none other than a deeper, more fundamental chemical expression of Darwinian evolution.

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