

Professor Julian Chela-Flores was born in Caracas, Venezuela and studied in the University of London, England, where he obtained his Ph.D. in quantum mechanics (1969). He was a researcher at the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC) and Professor at Simon Bolivar University (USB), Caracas until his retirement in 1990. During his USB tenure he was Dean of Research for six years. He is a Fellow of The Latin American Academy of Sciences, The Academy of Sciences of the Developing World, the Academy of Creative Endeavors (Moscow) and a Corresponding Member of the Venezuelan "Academia de Fisica, Matematicas y Ciencias Naturales". His current positions are Staff Associate of the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Research Associate, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) and Profesor-Titular, Institute of Advanced Studies (IDEA), Caracas. His particular area of expertise is astrobiology, in which he is the author of numerous papers. He organized a series of Conferences on Chemical Evolution and the Origin of Life from 1992 till 2003. In 2001 he published the book: The New Science of Astrobiology From Genesis of the Living Cell to Evolution of Intelligent Behavior in the Universe, reprinted as a paperback in 2004. The second edition of the book on astrobiology "The Science of Astrobiology" was published in 2011.

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