

From legacy biomolecules to biomolecular legacy – the lasting contributions of Geoff Eglinton

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The field of molecular organic geochemistry has made great strides over the past decades. It has evolved from a phase of discovery of diverse source-specific compounds preserved in the sediments to one in which these compounds have become versatile and powerful quantitative tools, such as for exploring the biosphere and its myriad interactions - past and present, and for reconstructing past ecosystems, environments and climates.

Geoffrey Eglinton has played a pivotal role in pioneering and shaping these developments, with his contributions evident in almost all facets of modern molecular organic geochemistry. In this presentation, I will attempt to summarise some of these contributions, providing specific highlights and the visionary manner in which he catalyzed the advancement of this discipline, as well as other sub-disciplines that have emerged from its roots.