

**THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE:
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

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This is the first IAU Symposium in this new and exciting field, and its publication coincides with the 25-th anniversary of the first radio search by Frank Drake in 1960. Seventy experts from 20 different countries discuss the many interrelated aspects of this search, including the search for other planetary systems where life may originate and evolve, the widespread presence of complex prebiotic molecules in our Solar System and in interstellar space which could be precursors of life, and the universal aspects of the biological evolution on Earth. They also discuss the nearly 50 radio searches that were undertaken in the last 25 years, the fantastic technological progress that has occurred in this rather short period (from a single channel receiver, e.g., to 8 million channel spectrum analyzers), and the plans for the future including the comprehensive SETI search program that NASA is now preparing for the 1990's. Extensive introductions by the Editor to each of the 8 sections, make this volume friendly even to the non-specialist who has a genuine interest for this new field.

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