



EDITORIAL

This issue of the “Bollettino della Società Paleontologica Italiana” hosts the first BSPI Invited Paper. Following a decision by the board in May 2015, BSPI Invited Papers are introduced as specifically requested contributions from esteemed specialists in various aspects of Palaeontology. We have exclusively asked Frances Westall, not only a friend but one of the world leaders in astrobiology research, to explore for us the intriguing topic of the origin of life. The recent report by a team of Australian and British researchers of claims of Earth’s oldest fossils in 3.7 -billion-year-old structures from Greenland (Nutman et al., Nature, September 2016) underlines how lively interest is in the current argument and debate.

The full content of this paper will be available online in open access also to non-members of the Italian Palaeontological Society in order to give even more visibility to the journal. A new graphic style is planned for the contribution. The printed version of the paper will have all images in full colour. BSPI Short Notes and BSPI Special Issues will continue to run alongside normal BSPI Research Contributions.

Annalisa Ferretti and Marco Balini

Modena, 23 September 2016