Panspermia is a possible theory for the origin of life. Panspermia is the theory that life began in space, able to withstand harsh conditions, and arrived to Earth by comets or meteoroids.

Scientists at MIT and Harvard believe that panspermia is true, and have spent a decade studying it. While using NASA funding, they helped to create an instrument that can be sent to Mars to possibly detect DNA (Kaufman, 2017).

It is believed that algae can survive through space travel and a strong impact landing. Scientists experimented with this hypothesis by creating a gun that shoots frozen pellets with algae into water at an extreme speed. This impact is meant to replicate the speeds of a meteorite hitting earth. Because of the high speed, a lot of algae will die. However, not all of them do because they can withstand the pressure (Gannon, 2013).

In 1996, scientists from the United States government found remains of terrestrial nanobacteria on a meteorite that was found in Antarctica. It is believed that the meteorite fell from Mars about 15 million years ago. This new discovery made headlines both nationally and internationally