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ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8268-5469
Nationality: British **Family:** Married, 4 daughters

Qualifications:
Diploma, Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (Oxford University) 2000.
D. Phil. Thesis, Critical Phenomena of Disordered Systems 1979.
B.A. Physics, First class honours & Scott prize 1976.

Positions held:

2023 –	**Senior Research Officer, Department of Physics, University of Oxford**
2023 –	**Senior Research Fellow, St Hilda's College, University of Oxford**
2023 –	Chevron Chair Professor, IIT Madras
2020 – 23	Head of the Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics
2020	Simons Visiting Professor, Niels Bohr International Academy, University of Copenhagen
2019 – 20	Vice Principal, St. Hilda's College, Oxford
2014	Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, Santa Barbara, USA
2011	Visiting Professor, Enhanced Education Programme, University of Kyushu, Japan
2002 –	**Professor of Physics, University of Oxford**
1998 – 02	Reader in Physics, University of Oxford
1995	Visiting Professor, University of Padua, Italy
1995 – 98	University Lecturer, University of Oxford
1992	Visiting Professor, Catholic University of Leuven
1983 – 2023	**Pauline Chan Fellow and Tutor in Physics, St. Hilda's College, Oxford**
1981 – 83	Lecturer, Department of Physics, Southampton University
1979 – 81	Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cornell University, USA

Distinctions:
Dirac Medal, Institute of Physics, 2025
PAIR Distinguished Lecture, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 2025
EPS-CMD Liquid Matter Prize, 2024
Tom Duke Lectureship, 2024
Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), 2024
ERC Advanced Grant (funded as Frontier Grant by UKRI), 2024–29
Ben Sturgeon Lectureship, British Liquid Crystal Society, 2024
Dorothy Hodgkin Memorial Lecture, Somerville College, Oxford, 2023
Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture, Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen, 2023
Honorary Fellowship, Somerville College, Oxford, 2022
Aditi Simha Memorial Lecture, Bangalore, 2022
Sam Edwards Medal and Prize, 2021
Lennard Jones Prize and Lectureship, 2021
Honorary Degree, University of Northumbria, 2019
Annual Edward Delaval Lecture in Physics, Lincoln, 2019
Chair, Gordon Conference on Complex Active and Adaptive Matter, California, 2019
Ehrenfest Colloquium, Leiden, 2017
PS Narayanan Memorial Lecture, Department of Physics at IISc Bangalore, 2017
Elected Fellow of the Royal Society, 2013
3rd EPJE-de Gennes Prize lecture, 2013
ERC Advanced Grant, 2012–17
University of Oxford Teaching Award, 2008
Inaugural CMMS Distinguished Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh, 2007
EPSRC Advanced Fellowship, 1990-95

Research Summary:
Active matter refers to materials that continuously consume energy from their surroundings to perform work. This concept applies to living systems and provides a framework for understanding how the movement of cells and tissues drives biological processes such as embryogenesis, wound healing, and cancer metastasis. We apply active matter theories to develop both analytical and numerical models of cell motility and biological development, with the goal of deepening our understanding of how living systems move, self-organize, and grow.
Publications at https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=jXdRIjUAAAAJ&hl=en

Selected recent advisory and committee appointments:

2026 –	Royal Society Grants Committee
2025 –	International Science Advisory Board, Niels Bohr International Academy
2024 –	ERC Advanced Grants Evaluation Panel
2024	Review Team, School of Physics, Trinity College, Dublin
2024	External Member, appointment of Head of School of Physics, University of Edinburgh
2023 –	Jury, (Chair 2025,2026) Blavatnik Awards for young scientists in the UK
2023 –	Royal Society Sectional Committee 2
2023	External Member, W2 Professorship Appointment Committee, University of Oldenburg
2023 –25	External Member, School of Physical Sciences Academic Career Pathway Committee, Cambridge
2022	Electoral Board, 1920 Professor of Physical Chemistry, Cambridge
2022 –	Swiss Advanced Grants Evaluation Panel
2020 –	Chair, Royal Society Research Appointment Panel A(iii)
2020 – 24	British Liquid Crystal Society, Awards Committee
2020 – 21	International Jury, Austria Science Fund, 1,000 ideas programme
2020 – 24	Committee for Natural and Technical Sciences, Novo Nordisk Foundation
2019 –	Royal Society International Exchanges Panel
2020, 2025	Physical Sciences Panel, Hong Kong RAE
2018 – 21	Council, Royal Society
2018 – 20	Royal Society FLAIR Fellowship Panel
2017, 2021	Chair, International Scientific Advisory Committee, SISSA, Italy

Recent invited/keynote/plenary lectures at major international meetings:

Jun 2026	Plenary lecture, 12th International Congress on Biological Physics, Genoa
Jun 2026	BarrierForce Centre of Excellence Symposium, Helsinki
Mar 2026	Artificial and Intelligent Living Matter II, Erice, Italy
Jan 2026	STATPHYS - Kolkata XIII
Nov 2025	Keynote lecture, MechBio2025, Brisbane
July 2025	Statphys 29, Florence
May 2025	Topological Soft Matter: From Liquid Crystals to Biosystems, Ljubljana
May 2025	Keynote lecture, Physics for the Future, Luxembourg
Apr 2025	International Workshop on Mechanobiology, Naples
Jan 2025	Decrypting Complexity in Active and Biological Matter Conference, Abu Dhabi
Sept 2024	Prize lecture, 12th Liquid Matter Conference, Mainz
July 2024	Plenary lecture, 29th International Liquid Crystal Conference, Rio de Janeiro
July 2024	Keynote lecture, 8th International Soft Matter Conference, Rayleigh, USA
June 2024	10th Bifurcations and Instabilities in Fluid Dynamics meeting, Edinburgh
Sept 2023	Keynote talk, Indian conference on micro and nanofluidics, Chennai
Sept 2023	Frontiers in Physics of Soft and Biological Matter, Bangalore
Aug 2023	Bohr - 100, centennial celebrations, Copenhagen
Aug 2023	European Biophysical Society meeting, Stockholm
July 2023	Keynote talk, International Meeting on Wetting and Carbon Neutralisation, London
May 2023	Plenary lecture, XXVII Sitges Conference on Statistical Mechanics
Feb 2023	Collective Cell Migration Workshop, Sussex
Sept 2022	27th Thermodynamics Conference, Bath
Aug 2022	Active Matter: the next 25 years, Lorentz Center, Leiden
Sept 2022	Plenary lecture, Italian Soft Days, Bari
May 2022	Plenary lecture, Softcomp, Salerno
April 2022	Plenary lecture, British Applied Mathematics Colloquium

Selected recent invited lectures at Schools:

July 2026	Spanish Summer School on Statistical Physics (XIV GEFENOL-DIFENSC), Alcala
Mar 2026	Topological defects in biological matter, tutorial, APS Global Physics Summit 2026
Oct 2024	School and Workshop on Active Matter, ICTP-SAIFR, Brazil
Aug 2024	Summer School, Non-equilibrium processes in physics and biology, Vienna
July 2024	Boulder School, Self-organizing matter: from animate to the inanimate
Jan 2023	Nordita Condensed Matter PhD Winter School
July 2022	Boulder School, Hydrodynamics Across Scales
Mar 2022	Geilo School, The Physics of Evolving Matter: Memory, Learning and Evolution
June 2021	Complex Fluids and Soft Solids, UMass, Amherst
Sept 2021	Theoretical Methods for Active Matter
July 2021	Advanced School in Soft Condensed Matter - Solutions in the Summer 2021
Mar 2020	ICTP-SAIFR/Bio2020, Brazil

Recent seminars and colloquia:

2026: Colloquium, Kharagpur; Gottingen (on-line); Institute Lecture, IIT Kharagpur; Geneva; Barcelona; Erlangen

2025: BPPB seminar (on-line); Distinguished Seminar, Exeter; Tom Duke Prize Lecture, UCL, Liverpool, St Andrew's, Brisbane

2024: Rutgers (on-line); Springer Nature (on-line); Colloquium, Mumbai

2023: Coventry; University College London; Colloquium, Bristol; Colloquium, Dresden; Colloquium, IIT Madras; Leipzig; colloquium, Chennai

2022: Harvard; Heidelberg; ESPCI, Paris; IIT, Bombay; Cambridge Physics; UCL Centre for Bio-inspired Engineering; University of New Mexico; colloquium, Vienna

2021: Newcastle; Erlangen; Rutgers; Princeton; Varanasi; CECAM Mixed-Gen; Technion; RRI Bangalore; DAMTP Cambridge; Courant NY; Edinburgh; NSCS webinar Israel; Zhejiang

2020: BLCS Annual Training Workshop; Utrecht; CECAM; Amherst; Kent State; UC Merced; Nordita; Georgia Tech (on-line)

Recent major grants (as PI or co-PI):

2024-29	ERC Advanced Grant, €1.6M (funded by UKRI as a Frontier Grant)
2022-26	Physics of Life Interface (UKRI & Wellcome)
2019-23	HORIZON 2020 ITN ActiveMatter (Oxford PI)
2017-20	HORIZON 2020 ITN LUBISS (Oxford PI)
2017-19	Royal Society International Exchange (with Taiwan)
2017-18	BBSRC Priming Food Partnerships: Modelling Digestion (Oxford PI)
2016-18	EU Marie Curie: GelSwimming, 2 year PDRA (Andreas Zoettl)
2015-18	HORIZON 2020 ITN DISTRUC (co-PI)
2015-19	HORIZON 2020, FETOPEN: ABIOMATER (Oxford PI)
2012-17	ERC Advanced Grant

Editorial appointments, etc.(since 2020):

Editorial Board, Physics Review Letters (2026–); Advisory Board, Newton (2024–); APS Outstanding Referee (2021); Board Member, Droplet (2022–); Editorial Board, La Rivista del Nuovo Cimento (2020 –); Oxford Encyclopedia Advisory Board (2018 –); Editorial Board, J. Phys. A (2019 –); Editorial Board (2019 – 20) & Advisory Board (2020 –), Molecular Physics

Graduate supervision:

40 graduate students who have completed their D. Phil.

Former students and post-docs who now hold academic positions include Jan Rozman, (Ljubljana), Diogo Pinto (Lisbon), Arnold Mathijssen (University of Pennsylvania), Tyler Shendruk (Edinburgh), Amin Doostmohammadi (Niels Bohr Institute), Davide Marenduzzo (Edinburgh), Mike Swift (Nottingham), Gareth Alexander (Warwick), Halim Kusumaatmaja (Durham), Enzo Orlandini (Padua), Flavio Seno (Padua), Cristian Micheletti (Trieste), Alexander Wagner (North Dakota), Jorn Dunkel (MIT), Mitya Pushkin (York), Paul Upton (Open University), Sumesh Thampi (IIT Madras), Rodrigo Ledesma (Northumbria), Miha Ravnik (Ljubljana), Bortolo Mognetti (Brussels), Colin Denniston (London, Ontario), Scott Edwards (Shenzhen), Philip Duxbury (Michigan)