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The speaker received his academic education in England. He has obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Master degrees in Structural Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics from the Universities of London and Manchester. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Bristol.

He has been responsible of the Biotechnology Programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization since 1996. Previously he was the Science Coordinator of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. He has published extensively, particularly in the field of biosafety where he's developed the first computer-based decision support system for the risk assessment of GMOs. He held visiting professor appointments in a number of Universities and is currently conducting bioinformatics research related to gene lethality at the University of Manchester, UK.