

## Education

- > BSc Chemistry and Botany – University of Florida
- > MSc Pharmacology – University of Oxford
- > DPhil in Chemical Biology with Prof. Hagan Bayley – University of Oxford



## Current job

Oxford Nanopore Technologies develops next-generation sequencing devices based on nanopores – tiny holes in a membrane which pass a current. As DNA or RNA is ratcheted through the nanopore, the change in the current is used to ‘read’ the genetic code. I am working on making fundamental changes to the platform, including developing new ratchets and alternative ways of sequencing.

## Questions

- > **I chose to study chemistry because** I had a few inspirational teachers in school and found myself most intrigued by things not visible to the naked eye.
- > **I chose this career because** I worked on nanopore technology during my PhD and saw its tremendous potential for sequencing nucleic acids and sensing in general. I also wanted to experience science outside of academia – there are pros and cons to both worlds (academia vs industry), but I think I made the right choice for me.
- > **My favourite thing about my work is** how welcoming and passionate my coworkers are and how excited customers are about the technology. Someone once said ‘I’ve never seen customers tweet so much just because a product is working’. I also love doing research in a setting with varied expertise, from biology to algorithms and chip development.
- > **The main piece of advice I would give someone looking to work outside academia** may sound obvious, but choose a company whose work you believe in. I think that passion will shine through in interviews. Also, there’s this notion that if you leave academia you won’t be able to go back. I hope people pursue research outside of academia if they think it’s right for them, and I hope PIs see this as valuable experience for those who want to return and not as ‘quitting’.
- > **The greatest scientific advance of the last century was** DNA sequencing! I may be biased working for a sequencing company, but portable and affordable sequencing is applicable to fields ranging from personalised medicine and diagnostics to water purity and agriculture.
- > **The biggest challenge facing scientists is** effective communication. To get governments and policy on board with issues such as climate change and vaccines, we need to make sure the public understands the issues and trusts the science. It will be vital to increase the transparency and reproducibility of scientific studies and make results more accessible, e.g. by getting rid of ridiculous paywalls and minimising jargon.
- > **I wish I made more time for** learning French and writing. I want to publish a cheesy novel at some point in my life, maybe even in French.

