

## Prof Benjamin G. Davis

*Professor of Chemistry,  
Fellow and Tutor in Organic Chemistry, Pembroke College*



Ben Davis got his B.A. (1993) and D.Phil. (1996) from the University of Oxford. During this time he learnt the beauty of carbohydrate chemistry under the supervision of Professor George Fleet. He then spent 2 years as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Professor Bryan Jones at the University of Toronto, exploring protein chemistry and biocatalysis.

In 1998 he returned to the U.K. to take up a lectureship at the University of Durham. In the autumn of 2001 he moved to the Dyson Perrins Laboratory, University of Oxford and received a fellowship at [Pembroke College](#), Oxford. He was promoted to Full Professor in 2005.

His group's research centres on the chemical understanding and exploitation of biomolecular function (Synthetic Biology, Chemical Biology and Chemical Medicine), with an emphasis on carbohydrates and proteins. In particular, the group's interests encompass synthesis and methodology; target biomolecule synthesis; inhibitor/probe/substrate design; biocatalysis; enzyme & biomolecule mechanism; biosynthetic pathway determination; protein engineering; drug delivery; molecular biology; structural biology; cell biology; glycobiology; molecular imaging and *in vivo* biology.

This work has been recognised by [Prizes and Awards](#) and named [Lecturerships](#).

He sits (has sat) on the Editorial / Editorial Advisory Boards of *Carbohydrate Research* (2005-2012), *Chemical Biology and Drug Design* (2006-), *Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry* (2006-2011), the *Biochemical Journal* (Advisory Board 2002-2005, Editorial Board 2009-2016), *Chemical Science* (2010-2012, 2015-) and *ChemBioChem* (2011-).

He was the Editor-in-Chief of *Bioorganic Chemistry* (2011-2013) and an Associate Editor of *Chemical Science* (2012-14). He is the Editor-in-Chief of *Current Opinion in Chemical Biology* (2011-) and a Senior Editor for *ACS Central Science* (2014-).

In 2005 he was elected the UK representative and Secretary (2005-2013) of the European Carbohydrate Organisation and from 2011-2014 the President of the RSC Chemical Biology Division.

Ben Davis was co-founder of [Glycoform](#), a biotechnology company that from 2002-2011 investigated the therapeutic potential of synthetic glycoproteins and of [Oxford Contrast](#) a company investigating the use of molecular imaging for brain disease. In 2003 he was named among the top young innovators in the world by *Technology Review*, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)'s magazine of innovation in the [TR35](#) awards and was a finalist in the BBSRC Innovator of the Year competition in 2010.

He was elected to the [Royal Society](#) in 2015.

#### Prizes and Awards

1999 Royal Society of Chemistry *Meldola* Prize and Medal  
2001 Royal Society of Chemistry *Carbohydrate Award* sponsored by Syngenta  
2001 AstraZeneca Strategic Research Award  
2001 DTI Smart Award  
2001 Mizutani Foundation for Glycoscience Award  
2002 *Philip Leverhulme* Prize  
2005 Royal Society *Mullard* Prize and Medal  
2005 Royal Society of Chemistry *Corday-Morgan* Medal  
2006 International Association for Protein Structure Analysis and Proteomics Young Investigator Award  
2008 *Wain* Medal for Chemical Biology  
2008 American Chemical Society *Horace S. Isbell* Award in Carbohydrate Chemistry  
2009 Elsevier Carbohydrate Research Award for Creativity in Carbohydrate Chemistry  
2009 Royal Society of Chemistry *Norman Heatley* Award  
2009 Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award  
2010 Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan, (SSOCJ) Lectureship Award  
2012 Royal Society of Chemistry *Bio-organic* Chemistry Award  
2012 Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award for Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry  
2015 Elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society  
2016 International Carbohydrate Society *Whistler* Award  
2017 American Chemical Society *Ronald Breslow* Award in Biomimetic Chemistry  
2017 *Prix Paul Ehrlich* of the Société de Chimie Thérapeutique (SCT)  
2017 Elected as a Member of the *Academia Europaea*

#### Lecturerships and Professorships

2006 Doctorate Lectureship of the University of Santiago de Compostela  
2008 *Cornforth* Lectureship of the University of Sydney  
2009 Novartis Chemistry Lectureship  
2009 *Carico* Lectureship of the University of Milan  
2009 *Jones* Lectureship of the University of Toronto  
2010 Invited Visiting Professorship at the Sorbonne, Paris (UPMC-ParisVI)  
2011 *Hirst* Lectureship of the University of St Andrews  
2011 *Boehringer Ingelheim* Lectureship of the University of Alberta  
2012 *Ginsberg* Lectureship of the Technion

2012 *Bristol-Myers-Squibb* Lectureship in Organic Chemistry of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2013 *Liversidge* Lectureship of the University of Sydney  
2013 *Peter Gallagher* Lectureship of the Griffiths Glycomics Institute  
2014 *Bender* Lectures of Northwestern University  
2015 Sloan-Kettering Institute *Gin* Lectureship  
2015 Stanford University *Johnson* Symposium  
2017 CSIC Barcelona *Félix Serratosa* Lectureship  
2017 *Ferrier* Lectures of Victoria University of Wellington