

“The avian interferon system and its evasion by avian viruses”

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Steve studied for his BSc and DPhil at Oxford between 1975 and 1983, before working at Harvard as a post-doc between 1983 and 1987. He was a principal investigator at the ICRF (now the Cancer Research UK) laboratories in London between 1987 and 1994, then moved to St. George's, University of London, where he has remained and is currently Professor of Molecular Bioscience in the Institute for Infection and Immunity.

He is interested in the means by which viruses evade innate immunity and how this impacts on the virus' host range and pathogenicity. He is especially interested in the interferon system, having worked on this since 1983. His lab has two main focuses: (i) How are specific viruses (for example, paramyxoviruses) detected by the host and what steps do these viruses take to prevent overstimulation of the host recognition systems? (ii) How does the interferon system of birds differ from that of mammals and how can our knowledge of this be used to enhance our ability to identify and propagate avian viruses.