



Professional Memberships/Fellowships

2011 Member of the Royal Society of Biology



1975
BA in Natural Sciences (Cambridge University)

1979
Awarded a PhD in Plant Biochemistry (Cambridge University)
EMBL Fellow at European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg

1981
MRC Cellular Immunology Unit, Oxford

1985
Appointed Lecturer in Plant Biology Department at the University of Birmingham,
teaching undergraduates and developing research on the cell biology of fungal pathogens of plants

1995
Promoted to Senior Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences
Sabbatical for 6 months at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

2006
Lead for MSci and MSc programmes in the School of Biosciences, Birmingham

2008
Appointed Head of Education, School of Biosciences

2011
Appointed Director of Education, College of Life & Environmental Sciences

2013
Appointed Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

Promoted to Chair in Life Sciences Education

Member of HUBS Executive Committee of Royal Society of Biology

Career

Plan after graduating?

I always wanted to be an academic, inspired by my father who was a lecturer in Engineering.

Did that change? If so, how?

Thirty years after my appointment as a lecturer, I'm still at the University of Birmingham but I feel that I've had two careers. The first was focused on research and teaching but about ten years ago I changed direction and took a route into teaching leadership first at School, then at College and now at University level.

What are your special interests/achievements in education?

My major aim has been to facilitate sharing of good practice in teaching and learning around the University and nationally. Four years ago I began a project trialling the flipped teaching approach to lectures in biology and I have continued to research in this area. In 2012, I undertook a collaborative project with colleagues at OCR and the Universities of Leicester, Cardiff, Bristol & UEA on knowledge retention on transition from 'A' levels to University. I also mentor staff aiming for promotion on the teaching-focused route and in 2014 I set up (with Michael Grove) an in-house University of Birmingham journal 'Education in Practice' to encourage staff to publish educational research.