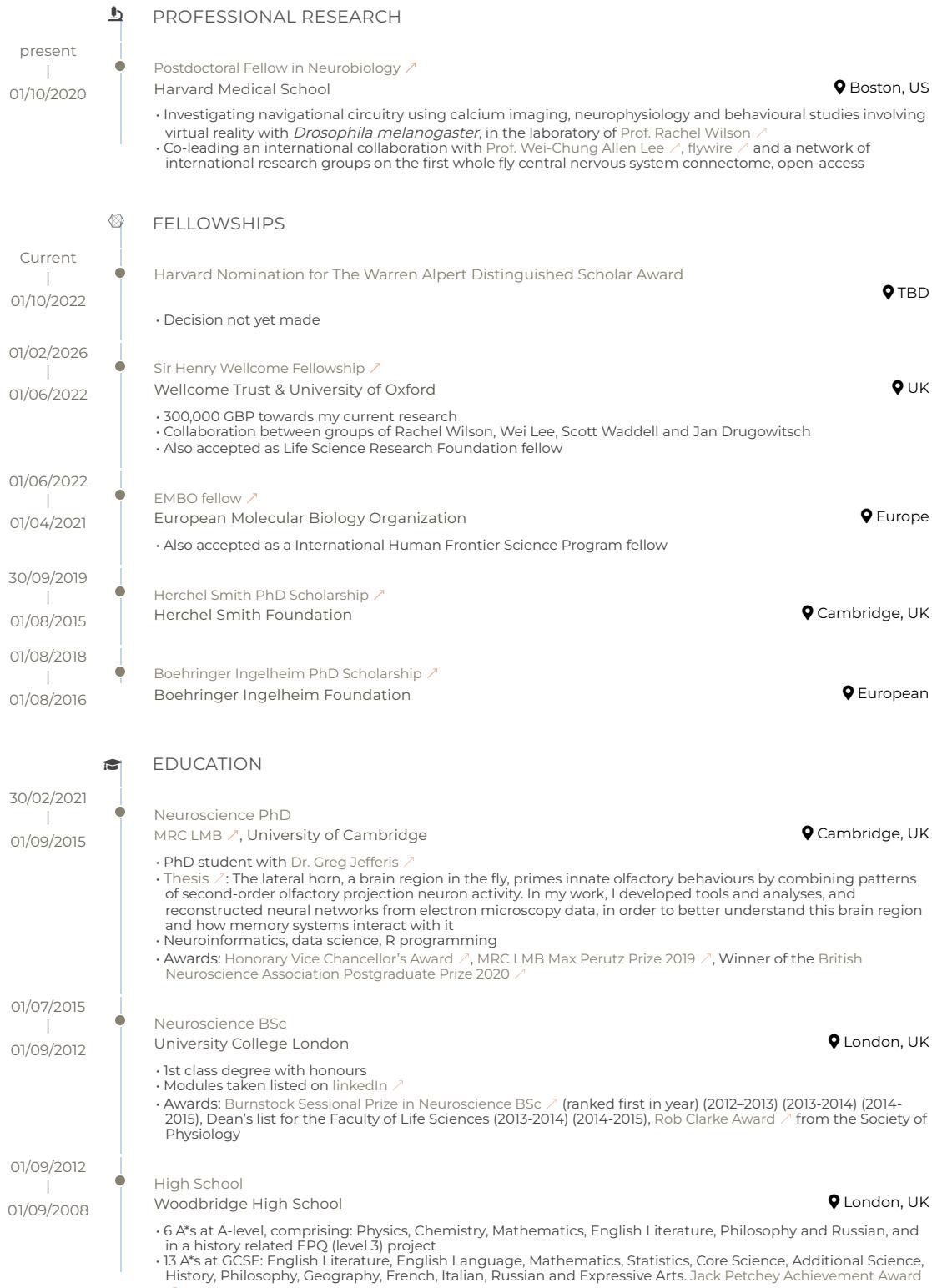


DR. ALEXANDER SHAKEEL BATES

I am a neuroscientist and computational biologist specialising in neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and connectomics of the insect brain. My research focuses on understanding how neural circuits wire and fire to generate complex behaviours, including olfactory processing and animal navigation. I develop open-source tools for neuroanatomical analysis and collaborate internationally on connectomics projects. In the wetlab, I use virtual reality and calcium imaging experiments to interrogate neurobiological circuits in living, behaving flies. I am a UK citizen.

total cites h index i10 index peer reviews

4312 21 24 25



Media

- ✉ alexander_bates @hms.harvard.edu ↗
- ☁ @asbates.bsky.social ↗
- 🐦 as_bates ↗
- 👤 alexanderbates ↗
- 🔗 asbates.com ↗
- 👤 linkedIn ↗
- 🔗 google scholar ↗
- >ID 0000-0002-1195-0445 ↗
- R⁺ researchgate ↗
- P GQQ-6852-2022 ↗

Skills

- QR R
- QP python
- QF MATLAB
- QG github
- PG git
- QM markdown
- QI illustrator
- QD InDesign
- QC communication
- CT text editing
- QJ journalistic writing
- QK creative writing
- QO open access

Software

- natverse ↗
- neuromorpho ↗
- nat.ggplot ↗
- neuronbridger ↗
- neuprint ↗
- hemibrainr ↗
- mouselightr ↗
- insectbrainr ↗
- cranr ↗
- bancr ↗
- influencer ↗
- ConnectomeInfluenceCalculator ↗

Referees

- PHD Supervisor: Dr. Gregory Jefferis, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, jefferis@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk ↗
- Current Supervisor: Prof. Rachel Wilson, Harvard Medical School, Rachel_Wilson@hms.harvard.edu ↗
- Key Collaborator: Prof. Wei-Chung Allen Lee, Harvard Medical School, Wei-Chung_Lee@hms.harvard.edu ↗
- BSc Tutor at UCL: Dr. Marco Beato, UCL Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology, m.beato@ucl.ac.uk ↗
- Supervisee: Serene Dhawan, Princeton, PhD student, serenedhawan@gmail.com ↗

title	author	journal	year	cites
Information flow, cell types and stereotypy in a full olfactory connectome ↗	P Schlegel, AS Bates, T Stürner, SR Jagannathan, N Drummond, J Hsu, ...	Elife	2021	157
Complete connectomic reconstruction of olfactory projection neurons in the fly brain ↗	AS Bates, P Schlegel, RJV Roberts, N Drummond, IFM Tamimi, ...	Curr. Biology	2020	207
The natverse, a versatile toolbox for combining and analysing neuroanatomical data ↗	AS Bates, JD Manton, SR Jagannathan, M Costa, P Schlegel, T Rohlfing, ...	Elife	2020	206
Analysis and optimization of equitable US cancer clinical trial center access by travel time ↗	H Lee, AS Bates, S Callier, M Chan, N Chambwe, A Marshall, MB Terry, ...	JAMA oncology	2024	14
Functional and anatomical specificity in a higher olfactory centre ↗	S Frechter, AS Bates, S Tootoonian, MJ Dolan, J Manton, AR Jamasb, ...	eLife	2019	115
Neural circuit mechanisms for steering control in walking Drosophila ↗	A Rayshubskiy, SL Holtz, AS Bates, QX Vanderbeck, LS Capdevila, ...	Elife	2025	101
Quantitative Attributions with Counterfactuals ↗	DY Adjavon, N Eckstein, AS Bates, GSXE Jefferis, J Funke	bioRxiv	2024	0
Whole-brain annotation and multi-connectome cell typing of Drosophila ↗	P Schlegel, Y Yin, AS Bates, S Dorkenwald, K Eichler, P Brooks, DS Han, ...	Nature	2024	333
Discriminative attribution from paired images ↗	N Eckstein, H Bukhari, AS Bates, GSXE Jefferis, J Funke	Euro. Conf. on Computer Vision	2022	8
BActrace, a tool for retrograde tracing of neuronal circuits in Drosophila ↗	S Cachero, M Gkantia, AS Bates, S Frechter, L Blackie, A McCarthy, ...	Nature methods	2020	45
Neurogenetic dissection of the Drosophila lateral horn reveals major outputs, diverse behavioural functions, and interactions with the mushroom body ↗	MJ Dolan, S Frechter, AS Bates, C Dan, P Huoviala, RJ Roberts, ...	Elife	2019	167
Communication from learned to innate olfactory processing centers is required for memory retrieval in Drosophila ↗	MJ Dolan, G Belliard-Guerin, AS Bates, S Frechter, A Lampin-Saint-Amaux, ...	Neuron	2018	117
Automated reconstruction of a serial-section EM Drosophila brain with flood-filling networks and local realignment ↗	PH Li, LF Lindsey, M Januszewski, Z Zheng, AS Bates, I Taisz, M Tyka, ...	bioRxiv	2019	105
Sexual dimorphism in the complete connectome of the Drosophila male central nervous system ↗	S Berg, IR Beckett, M Costa, P Schlegel, M Januszewski, EC Marin, ...	bioRxiv	2025	4
Comparative connectomics of Drosophila descending and ascending neurons ↗	T Stürner, P Brooks, L Serratosa Capdevila, BJ Morris, A Javier, S Fang, ...	Nature	2025	35
A Drosophila computational brain model reveals sensorimotor processing ↗	PK Shiu, GR Sterne, N Spiller, R Franconville, A Sandoval, J Zhou, ...	Nature	2024	76
Network statistics of the whole-brain connectome of Drosophila ↗	A Lin, R Yang, S Dorkenwald, A Matsliah, AR Sterling, P Schlegel, S Yu, ...	Nature	2024	110
Neuronal wiring diagram of an adult brain ↗	S Dorkenwald, A Matsliah, AR Sterling, P Schlegel, SC Yu, CE McKellar, ...	Nature	2024	479
The connectome of the adult Drosophila mushroom body provides insights into function ↗	F Li, JW Lindsey, EC Marin, N Otto, M Dreher, G Dempsey, I Stark, ...	Elife	2020	381
A connectome and analysis of the adult Drosophila central brain ↗	LK Scheffer, CS Xu, M Januszewski, Z Lu, S Takemura, KJ Hayworth, ...	eLife	2020	1113
Connectomics analysis reveals first-, second-, and third-order thermosensory and hygrosensory neurons in the adult Drosophila brain ↗	EC Marin, L Büld, M Theiss, T Sarkissian, RJV Roberts, R Turnbull, ...	Curr. Biology	2020	105
Input connectivity reveals additional heterogeneity of dopaminergic reinforcement in Drosophila ↗	N Otto, MW Pleijzier, IC Morgan, AJ Edmondson-Stait, KJ Heinz, I Stark, ...	Curr. Biology	2020	80
Neural circuit basis of aversive odour processing in Drosophila from sensory input to descending output ↗	P Huoviala, MJ Dolan, FM Love, P Myers, S Frechter, S Namiiki, ...	bioRxiv	2018	48
Combinatorial encoding of odors in the mosquito antennal lobe ↗	P Singh, S Goyal, S Gupta, S Garg, A Tiwari, V Rajput, AS Bates, ...	Nature Comm.	2023	17



REVIEWS

title	author	journal	year	cites
Systems neuroscience: Auditory processing at synaptic resolution ↗	AS Bates, G Jefferis	Curr. Biology	2022	1
Neuronal cell types in the fly: single-cell anatomy meets single-cell genomics ↗	AS Bates, J Janssens, GS Jefferis, S Aerts	Curr. opinion in neurobiology	2019	72

Peer Review

journal reviews
COSYNE (abstracts)
PLoS Comp. Bio.
eLife
Nature Comm.

SELECTED TALKS

2026	4th Asia-Pacific Drosophila Neuroscience Conference (APDNC4) · Invited speaker	Shenzhen, China
2025	CSHL Neurobiology of Drosophila · Invited speaker	Cold Spring Harbor, NY
2025	FlyWire Townhall · Invited speaker	Princeton, NJ
2024	HMS Neurobiology Department Talk · Invited speaker	Boston, MA
2024	CSHL Neuronal Circuits · Invited speaker	Cold Spring Harbor, NY
2019	ECRO meeting European Chemoreception Research Organization · Invited speaker	Trieste, Italy
2018	Boehringer Ingelheim Meeting Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds · Invited speaker	Hirschegg, Austria



	OTHER	
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting Scholar Janelia Research Campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked in FlyEM, Dr. Gerry Rubin's Group ↗ Worked on the hemibrain connectome 	📍 Ashburn, US
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paris Spring School in Neuroscience Techniques Paris Descartes University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A course in ↗ Optical Imaging and Electrophysiological Recording in Neuroscience 	📍 Paris, France
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting Scholar Janelia Research Campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with Dr. Albert Cardona's Group ↗ Worked on the L1 larval connectome 	📍 Ashburn, US
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Queensland Winter Scholarship University of Queensland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked on tectal activity in zebrafish larvae, light sheet imaging, Dr. Ethan Scott's Group ↗ 	📍 Brisbane, Australia
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amgen Scholarship ↗ Dept. Zoology, University of Cambridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked on neuronal structural plasticity in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> larvae, Dr. Landgraf's group ↗ 	📍 Cambridge, UK
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCL iGEM 2013 ↗ team member University College London <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team member, cloning, cell culture, project planning Gold medallist 	📍 London, UK
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer student in the biomolecular modelling laboratory Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Placement with Dr. Tammy Cheng ↗, python programming 	📍 London, UK
	DATA AND CODE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Dataset: BANC Adult Fly Brain Connectome Harvard Dataverse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOI: 10.7910/DVN/8TFFGB ↗ Complete synaptic-resolution connectome of an adult female <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> brain and ventral nerve cord 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Source Contributions: natverse GitHub Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 repositories as contributor Top downloads: nat (82,965), nat.ncbiblast (39,035) Projects: nat ↗, nat.ncbiblast ↗, fabseg ↗, natverse ↗, nat.examples ↗, rcatmaid ↗, mouselightr ↗, elmr ↗, hemibrainr ↗, flycircuit ↗, neupintr ↗, nat.ggplot ↗, fishatlas ↗, nat.h5reg ↗, neuromorphr ↗, neuronbridge ↗, influencer ↗, drvid ↗, natverse_hugo ↗, insectbrainr ↗ 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Source Contributions: wilson-lab GitHub Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 repositories as contributor Projects: design-files ↗, nat-tech ↗, panels-matlab ↗ 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Source Contributions: htem GitHub Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 repositories as contributor Projects: BANC-project ↗ 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Source Contributions: flyconnectome GitHub Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 repositories as contributor Projects: 2020hemibrain_examples ↗, bancr ↗, hemibrain_olf_data ↗, crantr ↗ 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zenodo Dataset: Connectome Influence Calculator Zenodo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.1769383 ↗ Downloads: 16 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zenodo Dataset: Supplementary data to accompany Information flow, cell types and stereotypy in a full olfactory connectome Zenodo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4383228 ↗ Downloads: 551 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zenodo Dataset: Supplemental Files for Eckstein and Bates et al., Cell (2024) Zenodo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.10593546 ↗ Downloads: 954 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zenodo Dataset: BAtrace a new tool for retrograde tracing of neuronal circuits Zenodo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3797211 ↗ Downloads: 1,491 	Updated on 04/12/2025