

Charles Harris

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge

PhD in AI for Drug Discovery and Structural Biology

Oct. 2021 – Present

Cambridge, UK

- **Research:** Focus on molecular design, protein dynamics and discovering new biology with self-supervised learning
- **Supervisors:** [Prof Sir Tom Blundell](#), [Prof Pietro Liò](#), [Prof Andres Floto](#)
- **Funding:** Cambridge Centre for AI in Medicine ([CCAIm](#)) Studentship, sponsored by [AstraZeneca](#) and [GSK](#)

Imperial College London

*MSc in Bioinformatics and Theoretical Systems Biology - **Distinction - 76.5%***

Oct. 2020 – Sept. 2021

London, UK

- **Supervisors:** [Prof Michael Bronstein](#) (Imperial, Twitter), [Prof Bruno Correia](#) (EPFL), [Prof Michael Sternberg](#)

Imperial College London

BSc in Biochemistry - 2:1

Oct. 2017 – Sept. 2020

London, UK

SELECTED PROJECTS

MSc Project 3 - Distinction (76.9%) - Paper

Graph generative models for structure-based drug design

Supervisors: Prof Michael Bronstein, Prof Bruno Correia

Jun. 2021 – Sept. 2021

- Developed a molecular graph generation procedure which improves previous work by conditioning multiple stages of the generative procedure with an attention mechanism between the molecule and protein pocket (using [dMaSIF](#))

MSc Project 2 - Distinction (81.5%) - Website

Self-supervised learning of interpretable protein dynamics

Supervisors: Prof Michael Bronstein, Prof Bruno Correia

Apr. 2021 – Jun. 2021

- Created a novel message-passing layer for protein graphs that learns interpretable protein dynamics

MSc Project 1 - Distinction (74.5%) - Paper

Prediction of the effect of missense variants involved in ligand binding

Supervisor: Prof Michael Sternberg

Jan. 2021 – April. 2021

Graphein - Contributor - Repository - Paper Under Review

Graphein aims to democratise access to biological data for geometric deep learning models

PREPRINTS

Graphein - a Python Library for Geometric Deep Learning and Network Analysis on Protein Structures and Interaction Networks. A. R. Jamasb, R. Viñas Torné, E. J. Ma, **C. Harris**, K. Huang, D. Hall, P. Lió, T. L. Blundell.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Deep Learning: PyTorch, PyTorch Geometric, NetworkX, Tensorflow/Keras, some experience with JAX/Jraph

Computing: Linux, SQL, GPU machines, computing clusters

Statistics: Proficient in R, Probability, Likelihood statistics, Bayesian statistics, Linear regression, Classification

Structural Biology: Deep understanding of protein structure. Highly proficient in PyMol. Highly experienced in structure prediction (AlphaFold2, Phyre2) Experience with building atomic models in Coot and NMR analysis in CCPNmr

Chemoinformatics/drug design: RDKit, Conventional docking (AutoDock, SWISSDOCK)

Biochemistry and molecular biology: Strong background in and understanding of common lab data collect techniques

Bioinformatics: Genome assembly and annotation, RNA-seq data analysis, Sequence alignment, Protein function and structure prediction, NGS data analysis in R and Artemis

Systems biology/MatLab: ODEs, Master equations, Gillespie simulations, Dynamical systems

COMMUNICATION

Chair and Founder - 1st Cambridge AI in Drug Discovery Conference

Organised for late February 2022. Hearing from top academics and business leaders

[Link](#)
Feb. 2022

Guest - iGEM Synthetic Biology Podcast

Discussed AlphaFold2, my research and the impact of computation and AI on biology in general

[Link](#)
Aug. 2021

Chair and Founder - 1st Imperial AI in Drug Discovery Conference

Sold over 1,400 tickets

[Handbook](#)
Feb. 2021

- Moderated two panel discussions (first one with 4 CEOs/Founders of AI in Drug Discovery companies and second with Prof Sir Tom Blundell, Prof Michael Bronstein and Dr Andreas Bender)

SUPERVISING

Part III Computer Science Tripos Project

Self-supervised learning of ligand-binding

Oct. 2021 – Present

MPhil Computer Science Project

AI for reconstruction of ligand-induced conformational rearrangement from Cryo-EM

Jan. 2020 – Present

Visiting Masters Project

AI for enzyme kinetics predictions using multi-modal representations

Jan. 2022 – Present

ADVISORY POSITIONS

Advisor - Cambridge University International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Team

Dec. 2021 - Present

Advisor - Imperial College International Directed Evolution Competition (iDEC) Team

Jun. 2021 - Oct. 2021

Mentor/Organiser - Catalyse Competition - [SynBioUK](#)

Dec. 2020 - Present

TEACHING

Representation Learning on Graphs/Networks - Part III/MPhil CS, University of Cambridge

Jan. 2022 - Mar. 2022

Bioinformatics - Part II Computer Science Tripos, University of Cambridge

Nov. 2021 - Dec. 2021

AWARDS

CCAIM PhD Studentship - University of Cambridge

Oct. 2021

Associateship - Royal College of Science

Jul. 2020

Gold - UK Chemistry Olympiad

Jun. 2017

David Lean Scholar - Leighton Park School

Sep. 2015

VOLUNTEERING

Events and Conference Officer

Cambridge University Artificial Intelligence Society

Oct. 2021 – Present

- Chair and organiser for the 'Cambridge AI in Drug Discovery Conference' planned for 2022

Chair and Founder

Imperial College Computational Biology Society

[Twitter](#) - [Instagram](#)
Oct. 2019 – Aug. 2021

- Organised regular webinar schedule with top companies and academics in computational biology (including DeepMind (Dr Petar Velikovic), BenevolentAI, Nvidia, LabGenius)
- Organised six workshops to teach biologist computational and coding skills
- Quickly grew the Society to over 340 members and developed a strong social media presence

- Showed strong leadership, organisational and team building skills by creating an effective team (20+ volunteers)

Trustee

Antony McGreevey Charitable Trust

Oct. 2021 – Present

- Focusing on awarding grants to charities that tackle the problems of Dyslexia for those from disadvantaged backgrounds

Ambassador

Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity

Oct. 2019 – Present

REFERENCES - all are past and present supervisors

Prof Sir Tom Blundell FRS - University of Cambridge

tom@cryst.bioc.cam.ac.uk

Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry, Former President - BBSRC, Biochemical Society

Prof Peitro Lio - University of Cambridge

pl219@cam.ac.uk

Professor of Computational Biology. Member - Artificial Intelligence Group and CCAIM

Prof Michael Bronstein - Imperial College London, Twitter

m.bronstein@imperial.ac.uk

Chair of Machine Learning at Imperial, Head of Graph Learning Research at Twitter

Prof Bruno Correia - EPFL

bruno.correia@epfl.ch

Head - Laboratory of Protein Design and Immunoengineering

OTHER SKILLS

Languages: Mandarin (A at GCSE Level)

Interests: Glider pilot, Hockey, Running, Drone photography, Science communication