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David has an undergraduate degree and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He was a Fulbright-Hayes Scholar and Research Associate at the University of Chicago and a Research Fellow at Clare College Cambridge, before coming to UCL in 1983 as a Royal Society University Research Fellow. He was one of the first to establish the now major field of *computational mineral physics*, and has published over 240 research papers. He was awarded the Schlumberger Medal of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain in 1999; the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society of London in 2002; and in 2006 he was awarded the Louis Néel Medal of the European Geosciences Union for “establishing the importance of computational mineral physics in Earth sciences and for outstanding contributions to the physics of the Earth's core”. He is a Member of the Academia Europaea and an Elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and of the Mineralogical Society of America. He has been an editor of “*Earth and Planetary Science Letters*” (2005-8); President of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (2004-6); and was a member of the HEFCE RAE2008 sub-panel on Earth and Environmental Sciences. He is a Trustee of the Royal Institution and is Chair of Governors of the UCL Academy School, Camden.