

## Robert A. Cross

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Born 16.04.57, Duffield, Derbyshire, UK



### EDUCATION

1983 PhD in Protein Biophysics (University of Nottingham)  
1979 BSc in Biochemistry (University of Nottingham)

### POSITIONS

2015- Wellcome ERG on Molecular Basis of Cell Function  
2014- Wellcome Senior Investigator, Warwick Medical School  
2009- Professor of Mechanochemical Cell Biology, Warwick Medical School  
1991 - 2009 Leader, Molecular Motors Group, Marie Curie Research Institute, UK  
1988 - 1991 Research Staff, MRC LMB, Cambridge, UK  
1986 - 1988 MDA Fellow MRC LMB, Cambridge, UK  
1984 - 1986 EMBO Fellow OAW IMB, 5020 Salzburg, Austria

### FELLOWSHIPS

1986 - 1988 MDA Fellow MRC LMB, Hills Rd, Cambridge CB2 2QH  
1984 - 1986 EMBO Fellow OAW IMB, 5020 Salzburg, Austria

### CURRENT SUPPORT

2016 - 2020 **Leverhulme Trust** £256K – with Anne Straube & Marco Polin  
2015 - **BBSRC ALERT14** £0.74M – with Royle (PI), McAinsh/Smith/Cross/Frigerio  
2014 - 2019 **Wellcome Trust** £1.2M *Senior Investigator award*  
2013 - 2017 **WPHCT** £100K *Warwick Open Source Microscope* (<http://WOSMic.org>)  
2013 - 2017 **BBSRC** £0.55M *Chemical Biology of Microtubules* (IPA with Syngenta)

### CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

2017 **Wellcome Mechanobiology at the Shard** (with M. Gautel)  
2013 **BSCB** Spring meeting *Mechanochemical Cell Biology*  
2012 **JSPS** Japan-UK international symposium on *Mechanochemical Cell Biology*  
2008 **MCRI** Spring Workshop *Microtubule Dynamics*  
2005 **EMBO** workshop / Harden Conference *Molecular Motors* Cambridge  
1993 - 2008 **Marie Curie** international workshops on *Molecular Motors*  
1998 **FEBS** Advanced Course at MCRI, *Molecular Motors*  
1993 **EMBO** workshop in Cambridge, UK *Molecular Motors*  
1991 **Wellcome Trust** Frontiers in Science congress *Molecular Motors*  
1990 **EMBO** workshop in Maria Alm, *Smooth Muscle Contraction*

### RECENT INVITATIONS

2016 **Biophysical Society** Vancouver *Engineering Molecular Motors*  
2016 **EMBO** microtubules meeting Heidelberg  
2016 **JSPS** international workshop (Leicester) invited speaker  
2016 **Alpbach** meeting *Myosins and other motors* Session chair

## SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS & CURRENT RESEARCH

My lab studies the mechanisms by which kinesins and microtubules generate force. We also engineer new types of microscope and are currently developing the Warwick Open Source Microscope, a hardware platform for advanced optical microscopy, aiming to benefit the global open microscopy community ([www.wosmic.org](http://www.wosmic.org)). I am the founding director of the Centre for Mechanochemical Cell Biology (CMCB) at Warwick ([www.mechanochemistry.org](http://www.mechanochemistry.org)), a small, focussed grouping of currently 14 PIs who are combining *in vivo* cell biological approaches to molecular motor-driven processes with physical sciences approaches, including *in vitro* reconstitution and mathematical modelling. Within the last 3 years, 4 of the PIs in our centre have won Wellcome Investigator awards.

## SCIENTIFIC BIOSKETCH

I did my PhD at Nottingham University and then moved to Salzburg as an EMBO fellow, to work with Vic Small and Apolinary Sobieszek on the structure and mechanisms of smooth muscle. I discovered that a C-terminal sequence of myosin II is essential for its self-assembly and that the self-assembly of myosin II molecules is dynamically controlled via nucleotide trapping in their active sites. In 1986 I moved to MRC-LMB as an MDG fellow and, with John Kendrick Jones, Clive Bagshaw and Mike Geeves, worked out an explicit mechanism for myosin II self-assembly. In 1991 I moved to start my own lab at Marie Curie Cancer Research. With Linda Amos and Keiko Hirose at LMB, we obtained the first EM views of microtubule-bound kinesin (Nature, 1995). Subsequently, we discovered that at high load, kinesins can walk processively backwards (Nature, 2005), that ATP binding controls their walking action (Science, 2007), that their force generation mechanism generates torque (Nature Chemical Biology, 2005) and that kinesins can sort and parallelise microtubules (Nature Cell Biology, 2009). In 2010, I moved to Warwick University, to co-found the CMCB, a new interdisciplinary centre for mechanochemical cell biology. During the last 5 years, we have shown that kinesin motors are electrostatically steered (PLOS Biology, 2011), that microtubule seams are hotspots of instability (Nature Communications, 2014), that kinesin can be programmed using DNA (Nature Nanotechnology, 2015) and that kinesin-5 has a proximity sensing mechanism that reverses its stepping direction (PNAS, 2016). Most recently, we have shown that kinesin binding radically changes the conformation and mechanics of GDP-microtubules (<https://t.co/BeHNbkQaVG>). I am a Wellcome Senior Investigator and a member of the Wellcome Expert Review Group in the Molecular Basis of Cell Function.

## PUBLICATIONS

Google scholar <https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?hl=en&user=iaVZaQAAAAJ>

- (103) Huang, J., Chew, T. G., Gu, Y., Palani, S., Kamnev, A., Martin, D. S., et al. (2016))  
**Curvature-induced expulsion of actomyosin bundles during cytokinetic ring contraction**  
eLife, 5, 84. <http://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.21383>
- (102) M. Britto, A. Goulet, S. Rizvi, O. von Loeffelholz, C. A. Moores, and R. A. Cross (2016)  
**Schizosaccharomyces pombe kinesin-5 switches direction using a steric blocking mechanism**  
PNAS DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1611581113
- (101) Cross, R.A. (2016)  
**Review: Mechanochemistry of the kinesin-1 ATPase**  
Biopolymers **105**, 476-482
- (100) Andrecka, J., Ortega-Arroyo, J., Lewis, K., Cross, R.A., Kukura, P. (2016)  
**Label-Free Imaging of Microtubules with Subnanometer Precision using Interferometric Scattering Microscopy**  
Biophysical Journal **110**, 214-217
- (99) Hussmann, F., Drummond, D.R., Peet, D.R., Martin, D.S., Cross, R.A. (2016)  
**Alp7/TACC-Alp14/TOG generates long-lived, fast-growing MTs by an unconventional mechanism**  
Scientific Reports **6**, 1
- (98) Cross, R.A. (2015)  
**Mechanisms of action of Eg5 inhibitors**  
in *Kinesins and Cancer* (ed. Kozielski, F.) Springer, ISBN 978-94-017-9732-0
- (97) Wollman A.J., Sanchez-Cano, C., Carstairs, H.M.J., Cross, R.A. & Turberfield A.J. (2015)  
**Transport and self-organization across different length scales powered by motor proteins and programmed by DNA**  
Nature Nanotechnology **9**, 44–47
- (96) Cross, R.A. & McAinsh, A.D (2014)  
**Prime movers: mechanisms of mitotic kinesins**  
Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology **15**, 257–271 doi:10.1038/nrm3768
- (95) Katsuki, M., Drummond, D.R. & Cross R.A. (2014)  
**Ectopic A-lattice seams destabilise microtubules**  
Nature Communications **5**, doi:10.1038/ncomms4094
- (94) Klejnot, M., Falnikar, A., Ulaganathan, V., Cross, R.A., Baas, P.W., Kozielski, F. (2013)  
**Structural and biochemical differences between two motor proteins involved in bipolar spindle formation, Eg5 and Kif15**  
Acta Crystallographica Section D: Biological Crystallography **70** (1), 123-133
- (93) Carter N.J., Cross R.A. (2012)  
**Kinesin backsteps.**  
Biochem Soc Trans. **40** 400-3.
- (92) Erent M., Drummond D.R., Cross R.A. (2012)  
**S. pombe kinesins-8 promote both nucleation and catastrophe of microtubules**  
PLoS One. **7**(2): e30738
- (91) Grant B.J., Gheorghe D.M., Zheng W., Alonso M., Huber G., Dlugosz M., McCammon J.A., Cross R.A. (2011)  
**Electrostatically biased binding of kinesin to microtubules.**  
PLoS Biology **9**(11): e1001207
- (90) Drummond D.R., Kain S., Newcombe A., Hoey C., Katsuki M., Cross R.A. (2011)  
**Purification of Tubulin from the Fission Yeast Schizosaccharomyces pombe.**  
Methods in Molecular Biology, **777** 29-55

- (89) Kaseda, K., McAinsh, A.D. & Cross, R.A.(2011)  
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- (88) Cross, R.A., McAinsh, A.D. & Straube A. (2011)  
**Mechanochemical Cell Biology**  
Semin Cell Dev Biol. 2011 Dec 22(9):913-5
- (87) Katsuki M., Muto E., Cross R.A. (2011)  
**Preparation of dual-color polarity-marked fluorescent microtubule seeds**  
Methods in Molecular Biology, **777** 117-26
- (86) Cross, R.A. (2010)  
**Kinesin-14: the roots of reversal**  
BMC Biology **8** 107
- (85) Katsuki,M., Drummond, D.R., Osei, M. & Cross, R.A. (2009)  
**Mal3 masks catastrophe events in Schizosaccharomyces pombe microtubules by inhibiting shrinkage and promoting rescue**  
Journal of Biological Chemistry. **23** 29246-50
- (84) Braun, M., Drummond,D.R., Cross, R.A. & McAinsh, A.D. (2009)  
**Klp2 organises microtubules into parallel bundles by an ATP-dependent sorting mechanism**  
Nature Cell Biol. **11** 724-30
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**Mal3, the S. pombe homologue of EB1, changes the microtubule lattice**  
Nature Struc. Mol. Biol.**15** 1102-8
- (82) Cross R.A. (2008)  
**Single molecule for the people (review of Single molecule techniques, a laboratory manual eds Selvin & Ha)**  
Nature Cell Biol. **10** 1014
- (81) Dunn, S., Morrison, E., Liverpool,T., Molina-Paris, C., Cross, R., Alonso, M. & Peckham, M. (2008)  
**Differential trafficking of kinesin-1 (Kif5c) on tyrosinated and detyrosinated microtubules in live cells**  
J.Cell Sci **121** 1085-95
- (80) Kaseda,K., Crevel, I., Hirose, K., Cross, R. (2008)  
**Single-headed mode of kinesin-5**  
EMBO Reports 9 761-76
- (79) Alonso,M. Drummond,D. Kain,S. Hoeng,J. Amos,L. & Cross,R.A. (2007)  
**An ATP-gate controls tubulin binding by the tethered head of kinesin-1**  
Science **316** 120-123
- (78) Grant, B., McCammon,A., Caves, L.S. & Cross, R.A. (2007)  
**Multivariate analysis of conserved sequence-structure relationships in kinesins: coupling of the active site and a tubulin-binding subdomain**  
J.Mol.Biol. **368** 1231-1248
- (77) Moores, C.A., Perderiset,M., Kappeler,C., Kain,S., Drummond, D., Perkins,S.J., Chelly, J., Cross, R.A., Houdusse,A. & Francis,F. (2006)  
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EMBO J **25** 4448-4457
- (76) Cross R.A. (2006)  
**Myosin's mechanical ratchet**  
PNAS **103** 8911-8912
- (75) Carter N.J. & Cross R.A. (2006)  
**Kinesin's moonwalk**

(74) Yajima J. & Cross R.A. (2005)

**A torque component in the kinesin-1 power stroke**

Nature Chemical Biology **1** 338-341

(73) Carter N.J. & Cross R.A. (2005)

**Mechanics of the kinesin step**

Nature **435** 308-12

(72) Cross R.A. (2005)

**Intracellular transport**

Encyclopaedia of the Life Sciences <http://www.els.net> Wiley

(71) Carter N.J. & Cross R.A. (2005)

**Microtubule Motility Assays**

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**The kinetic mechanism of kinesin**

Trends in Biochemical Sciences **89** 301-309

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**Monastrol stabilizes an attached low-friction state of Eg5**

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**What kinesin does at roadblocks: the coordination mechanism for molecular walking**

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(67) Eickel V. Drummond D. Kendrick-Jones J. & Cross R.A. (2004)

**Kinesin heads fused to hinge-free myosin tails drive efficient motility**

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**Dynein's gearbox (Dispatch)**

Current Biology **14** R355-R356

(65) Cross R.A. (2004)

**Kinesin's interesting limp (Dispatch)**

Current Biology **14** R158-R159

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**Interaction of the mitotic inhibitor monastrol with human kinesin Eg5**

Biochemistry **42** 338-49

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**Multiphoton versus confocal high resolution z-sectioning of eGFP microtubules. Increased multiphoton photobleaching within the focal plane can be compensated using a Pockels cell and dual widefield detectors**

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**Direct long-term observation of kinesin processivity at zero load**

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**Kif1d is a fast nonprocessive kinesin that demonstrates novel K-loop-dependent mechanochemistry**  
EMBO J. **20** 5101-5113
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**Kinesin's string variable (dispatch)**  
Current Biology **11** R147-R149
- (57) Hirose K., Henningsen, U., Schliwa M., Toyoshima C., Shimizu T., Alonso M., Cross R.A. and Amos L.A. (2000)  
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**Directing Direction (News & Views)**  
Nature **406** 839-840
- (55) Drummond, D.R. & Cross R.A. (2000)  
**Dynamics of interphase microtubules in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe***  
Current Biology **10** 766-775
- (54) Cross, R.A. & Carter, N.J. (2000)  
**Molecular Motors: a primer**  
Current Biology **10** R177-179
- (53) Anderson K. & Cross R.A. (2000)  
**Contact dynamics in keratocyte motility**  
Current Biology **10** 253-260
- (52) Cross R.A. (2000)  
**Molecular Motors: Kinesin's dynamically dockable neck**  
Current Biology **10** R124-R126
- (51) Carter N. & Cross R.A. (2000)  
**An improved microscope for bead and surface based motility assays**  
Methods in Molecular Biology **164** 73-89
- (50) Cross R.A., Crevel I., Carter, N.J., Alonso, M.C., Hirose, K., and Amos, L.A. (2000)  
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**Walking Talking heads (dispatch)**  
Current Biology **9** R854-R856
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**Coupled chemical and mechanical steps in a processive *Neurospora* kinesin**  
EMBO J **18** 5863-5872
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**Kinesin: the tail unfolds (minireview)**

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**Congruent docking of dimeric kinesin and ncd into 3D Cryo-electron microscopy maps of microtubule-motor-ADP complexes**  
Mol Biol Cell **10** 2063-2074
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**Intracellular Transport**  
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- (43) Mazumdar M. and Cross, R.A. (1998)  
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EMBO J **17** 945-951
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J Mol Biol **273** 160-170
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**The Natural Economy of Kinesin**  
Current Biology **7** R631-633
- (37) Cross, R.A. (1997)  
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- (23) Cross R.A. & Kendrick-Jones J. (1992)  
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**Molecular Motors**  
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- (20) Cross, R.A. and Engel, A. (1991)  
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**How phosphorylation controls the self-assembly of vertebrate smooth and non- muscle myosins**  
Biochem Soc Trans **16** 501-503
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**Salt dependent dimerisation of caldesmon**  
FEBS Letters **219** 306-310
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**Solubility-determining domain of smooth muscle myosin rod**  
FEBS Lett. **200** 355-360
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