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B.S. in Mech. Eng. from USTC and joined the first CUSPEA (the China-US Physics Examination) group studying statistical physics in USA in 1981. After getting PhD from Rutgers University in 1987 under Prof. Joe Lebowitz, became a postdoctoral fellow at the Courant Institute of Mathematics at NYU under Prof. Jerry Percus and Prof. Peter Lax until becoming a Genome Research Junior Fellow at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, NY in 1991. He started a Bioinformatics - Computational Biology Lab and eventually became a full professor of Watson School of Biological Sciences at CSHL and adjunct professor at SUNY Stony Brook (2002-2010). Then, he moved to The University of Texas at Dallas as the Cecil H. and Ida Green Distinguished Chair Professor in Department of Biological Sciences and the director of Center for Systems Biology. He was a guest professor of Tsinghua University (2003-2021), a visiting chair professor of HKU (2010-2016) and a visiting scholar of Fudan U (2023-now).