

Curriculum vitae: William Bialek

Born 14 August, 1960, in Los Angeles, California.

Updated June 7, 2026

Education

University of California at Berkeley. AB (1979) and PhD (1983) in Biophysics.

Primary professional appointments

since 2001: Princeton University. Professor of Physics. John Archibald Wheeler/Battelle Professor (2003–).
Member, Lewis–Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics (associate director 2008–11).
1990–2001: NEC Research Institute. Fellow (1999–2001), Senior Research Scientist (1990–99).
1986–91: University of California at Berkeley. Assistant Professor of Physics and Biophysics.
1984–86: University of California at Santa Barbara, Institute for Theoretical Physics. Postdoctoral fellow.
1983–84: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Faculty of Physics. Postdoctoral fellow.

Honors

2025: Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2021: Simons Fellow in Theoretical Physics and John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow
2018: Max Delbrück Prize in Biological Physics, American Physical Society
2013: Swartz Prize for Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience, Society for Neuroscience
2012: Member, National Academy of Sciences (USA)
2011: Phi Beta Kappa Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching
2006: President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University
1996: Fellow of the American Physical Society
1987–91: Presidential Young Investigator, National Science Foundation
1986–87: Miller Research Fellow and Regents’ Junior Faculty Fellow
1980–84: National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellow and NATO Postdoctoral Fellow
1979–80: Phi Beta Kappa, President’s Undergraduate Fellow, and ARCS Foundation Fellow

Named lectures (selected)

2025: Schrödinger Colloquium, University of Zürich
2024: Ehrenfest Colloquium, Leiden University
2023: Frontiers of Physics Public Lecture, University of Washington
2018: Hoxton Lectures in Physics, University of Virginia
2017: Buhl Lectures in Physics, Carnegie Mellon University; Shui–Chin Physics Lectures, Academia Sinica
2016: Turing Lectures, ICTS Bangalore, Tata Institute for Fundamental Research;
Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar 2016–17
2015: Hans Bethe Lectures, Department of Physics, Cornell University;
HL Welsh Lectures in Physics, University of Toronto
2014: Williams Lecture for the Advancement of Logic and Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania
2013: Abdus Salam Lectures, International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste;
William T. Patten Lectures, Indiana University
2012: Della Pietra Lectures, Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, Stony Brook University;
Hans–Lukas Teuber Lecture in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2011: George Whitfield Lecture in Physics, Pennsylvania State University
2010: Giorgio Careri Memorial Lecture, Dipartimento di Fisica, Sapienza, Università di Roma
2008: JD Crawford Lectures in Physics, University of Pittsburgh
2007: Hendrik de Waard Lecture in Physics, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen;
Benjamin and Anne Pinkel Lecture in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania
2001: Dexter Lectures in Physics, Rochester University
1998: Porter Lectures in Physics, Vanderbilt University
1997: David H. Harris ‘22 Lectures in Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Concurrent appointments (selected)

since 2009: The Graduate Center, City University of New York. Visiting Research Scholar (2024–);
Visiting Presidential Professor of Physics (2009–20).
since 2024: Simons Foundation. Senior Fellow, Simons Society of Fellows.
since 2024: Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Janelia Scholar.
2022–23 & ‘07–09: Rockefeller University. Visiting Professor, Center for Studies in Physics and Biology.
2019: Google. Visiting researcher.
2018: École Normale Supérieure. Professeur Invité.
2005–07: Columbia University. Consultant, Center for Theoretical Neuroscience.
1994–2004: University of California at San Francisco. Visiting Faculty, Center for Theoretical Neurobiology.
1991–2001: Princeton University. Visiting Lecturer in Physics (1991, ‘93, ‘98 & 2000–01).
1991–2015: Marine Biological Laboratory. Lecturer and co-director (1998–2002),
Summer Course on Computational Neuroscience.