Mark studied in Oxford and Harvard before beginning his independent academic career at the University of Southampton where he was awarded a Chair in Combinatorial Chemistry and founded the UK Combinatorial Centre of Excellence.

In 2005 he took up a position in Edinburgh in Chemical Biology.

In 2023 he moved to Queen Mary University of London to take up a new position in Therapeutic Innovation, helping to build a new Institute in Precision Healthcare.

The main focus of his group is the development and application of chemistry-based tools and technologies to allow the manipulation, control and understanding of specific biological processes and functions and to address biological and medical questions, problems and needs.

With his team he published over 400 papers, he has an H-factor of >70, has filed >25 patents and spun out many companies (8 in total – DestiNA Genomics/Ilika Technologies/Biocapativa and Edinburgh Molecular Imaging)

Perhaps most importantly, and what I am most proud of, is that more than 100 PhD students have successfully completed their PhD's from the group, with successful careers in a huge variety of areas.