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David Brown was born in Sydney, Australia in 1964. He completed university studies at the University of Sydney in 1989, obtaining a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. After working in New York, Goettingen and Cambridge University he moved to the University of Bath in 2001. Since 2005 he has been Professor of Biochemistry.

His research interests focus on neurodegenerative diseases, and particularly prion disease. His work was instrumental in demonstrating that the prion protein is a metalloprotein. While his work on metal binding to proteins continues to be a main interest, his more recent work has focused on the genetic regulation of proteins associated with neurodegenerative disorders.

David Brown has over 150 peer-reviewed publications and is the editor or co-author of three text-books related to neurodegenerative diseases. He is also an editorial board member for 4 international journals including the Journal of Neurochemistry.