



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI

Schrödinger: His life and the theory for atoms and molecules

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**Professor Sir David Clary FRS
(University of Oxford)**

In 1926, Erwin Schrödinger published one of the greatest scientific papers of the 20th century. He invented an equation that calculated accurately the spectrum of the hydrogen atom. But the most significant aspect was that his equation was not only applicable to the hydrogen atom but to all atoms and molecules. In 2023, Schrödinger's equation is the central theory for the whole of chemistry, a great deal of physics and also materials science. It is even having a major impact on molecular biology and drug discovery.

In this lecture, Sir David Clary will describe Schrödinger's great discovery and impact in general and non-mathematical terms. A description will also be given of Schrödinger's extraordinary life story which entangled with his science in more ways than one.

David Clary is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oxford. He was President of Magdalen College, Oxford from 2005-20. He has been elected to many prestigious academies including the Royal Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for his research on molecular quantum mechanics. He was knighted by Queen Elisabeth II in 2016. His book *Schrödinger in Oxford* was published by World Scientific Publishing in 2022.