

**IAN M HODGE**  
**Mini Biography**

I was born and raised in Auckland, New Zealand. I inherited my Type A personality from my mother and have an older and a younger brother and a sister (youngest of all). I attended Kelston Boys High School and was dux (valedictorian) in my class. I obtained a BSc in Chemistry and an MSc in Physical Chemistry from the University of Auckland (A++ grade for my MSc thesis). I then worked for about two years at a government laboratory (DSIR = Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, either called something else now or is extinct). As a result of correspondence about my MSc thesis with C. Austen Angell at Purdue University I entered Purdue in 1969 and obtained a PhD in Physical Chemistry in 1974. Employment opportunities in the US were poor at that time so I decided to find out more about my Scottish heritage and accepted a post-doc at the University of Aberdeen (famous as the University that Maxwell left to head up the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge). But I discovered that my Scottish heritage was populated by a family of thugs (Earls of Argyle) and quickly lost interest in it. One of the papers I co-authored in Aberdeen in about 1975 still gets cited and as of 2020 has about 750 citations and counting – amazing. After a short period of culture shock I thoroughly enjoyed Scotland, especially hill-walking in the Cairngorms, but the economic situation in Britain was impossible (an official inflation rate of 30% but 100% for me). I had always had an interest in polymer science and accepted another post-doc at McGill University in Montreal in 1976 for studying ionomers (ion containing polymers). I loved Montreal despite the circus of the 1976 Olympic Games (the French have a sense of style that Anglo-Saxons cannot touch) and was devastated when my Professor there did not renew my post-doc for the usual second year. I therefore decided to quit Science but fortunately Austen Angell intervened and offered me a temporary post-doc at Purdue. I missed the US when I was in Montreal and decided to apply for a US job when I returned to Purdue. I got one at B F Goodrich Research Labs (now extinct) in Cleveland OH, and was pleasantly surprised at the high quality of life in Cuyahoga County. My preferred type of music is classical and I thoroughly enjoyed the famous Cleveland Orchestra (probably the best in the world at the time). I also met and married Kathy there in 1983 – a marriage made in heaven (she died in 2017). The environment at the BFG Labs deteriorated rapidly but I was fortunate to obtain a position in the Kodak Research Laboratories, one of the best industrial labs in the world. Kodak did not survive the transition to digital imaging and I was laid off when I was about 52 – not a good age for finding a new job. But Lady Luck intervened and in response to my onslaught of CVs' I got a job offer as an adjunct in the Physics Department at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The pay was lousy and there were no benefits but Kathy was by then employed by the local PBS station WXXI (AM, FM, TV) and we used her benefits to survive. Then Lady Luck intervened again – the Physics Department at RIT introduced an experimental Lecturer position that, after a two year probationary period, would provide full benefits but with no prospect of tenure. Two of us were chosen as the guinea pigs and we both passed the two year probationary period (the other person left after the probationary period however). After about ten years, in 2012), I had to retire to take care of Kathy, whose health had taken a nose dive (she died about five years later). The Head of the Physics Department sent me a very nice sympathy email – a very much appreciated and unexpected courtesy.