Prof. Nicholas Hud was born in Los Angeles, California. He received his B.S. degree from Loyola Marymount University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis. He was an NIH postdoctoral fellow in biophysics at UCLA. Prof. Hud joined the faculty of Georgia Tech in 1999 and was named Regents' Professor in 2016. For the first part of his independent career, Prof. Hud's research focused on understanding the packaging of DNA in vitro and in living cells. His research is now primarily focused on questions related to the origins of nucleic acids and polypeptides.