Jim Rose is currently Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of London, having been Professor and Head of Department of Geography at Birkbeck and Royal Holloway Colleges of that University. He is currently an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway University of London, a Life Member of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and a Visiting Research Associate of the British Geological Survey, Honorary Life Member of British (QRA), German (DEUQUA) and International (INQUA) Quaternary Research Associations, an Honorary Member of the Geologists' Association, Senior Fellow of the Geological Society of London and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He has chartered status in Geography (CGeog) and Geology (CGeol).

During his career he has acted as member of the UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Chairman of the NERC Radiocarbon Committee. He has also acted as a member of the Natural England Science Advisory Committee. Within the academy he has acted as member and deputy chairman of the UK and the Netherlands Universities Research Assessment Panels in Geography and Earth Sciences respectively. He has been appointed to the role of President of the Quaternary Research Association, Leader of the British Delegation to the XIII INQUA Congress, Beijing, member of Council of the Royal Geographical Society, the Geologists' Association and an auditor for the status of Chartered Geologist (CGeol.) on behalf of the Geological Society of London.

As a result of his research contributions he has been awarded the Murchison Award and Victoria Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, the Coke Medal of the Geological Society of London and the Foulerton Award of the Geologists' Association. Outside the academy he has acted as Chairman of a geological charity within the area of the UNESCO Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, which has, during and following his tenure, received The Queen's Award for Volunteering, the W.H. Worth Award of the Geological Society and the Geographical Award of the Royal Geographical Society.

His research interests cover a wide range of Quaternary science and process geomorphology and sedimentology: (glacial sediments and bedforms, palaeohydrology, palaeopedology, displaced shorelines, glacial stratigraphy of the British Isles, Early and Middle Pleistocene stratigraphy of Eastern and Midland England, and Northern Europe region, climate and environmental change through the Last interglacial/ Last glacial in Europe, environmental change and Human occupance of Britain). Highlights of this research include the introduction of the bedform concept to glacial geomorphology, recognition of the scale of river activity in relation to short-term climate change in Europe and Borneo, introduction of palaeosols to the British Quaternary stratigraphy and a major revision of the Early and Middle Pleistocene stratigraphy of Britain. An outcome of his work on early Middle Pleistocene landscapes is the discovery of the Bytham River (the largest river in England prior to lowland glaciation) and the recognition of the presence of Humans on the British land area over 750,000 years ago. Most recently he has been working to on the designation of Quaternary landscapes through a process-based stratigraphy so that information can be provided for end-users such as engineers, utilities, and local authorities who need to manage that landscape.

He was Editor of Quaternary Newsletter from 1978-1981, Editor-in-Chief of Quaternary Science Reviews from 1994 until 2008 and the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association from 2009 to 2017. He is, or has been, on the editorial boards of a number of other international and national journals including Journal of Quaternary Science, Boreas, Quaternary Research Journal (E & G), Geologie en Mijnbouw (Netherlands Journal of Geosciences), Quaestiones Geographicae (Polish Journal of Quaternary Science), Quaternary Research, Quaternary International and Journal of the Geological Society. He has published nearly 500 academic papers, of which 172 are in refereed outlets, and edited over 60 volumes. In addition he has been involved in the organisation and direction of nearly 50 field and discussion meetings.