

Editorial Board Focus: Professor Rubén Martín (Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ), Spain)

Background and Purpose. From time to time, SYNFORM portraits Thieme Chemistry Editorial Board or Editorial Advisory Board members who answer several questions regarding their research interests and revealing their impressions and views on the developments in organic chemistry as a general research field. This Editorial Board Focus presents Professor Rubén Martín (Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ), Spain) who joins the Editorial Board of SYNLETT with effect of January 1, 2018 as a new member.

Biographical Sketch



Prof. R. Martín

Rubén Martín received his PhD in 2003 from the University of Barcelona (Spain) under the supervision of Professor Antoni Riera. He moved in 2004 to the Max-Planck Institut für Kohlenforschung (MPI, Germany) as a Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow, working with Professor Alois Fürstner and then in 2005 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, USA) as a Postdoctoral Fellow working with Professor Stephen L. Buchwald. In 2008, he moved back to Spain and was appointed as Assistant Professor at the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ), and since 2013 he has held the position of Catalan Institution of Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) Research Professor in the same institution.

He has received several awards since beginning his independent research career: in 2008, he received the Ramon y Cajal Award and in 2010 the Sigma Aldrich RSEQ Young Research Investigator Award. In 2011, he received both the Thieme Chemistry Journals Award and the Eli Lilly Young Research Investigator Award. He was awarded the RSEQ Excellent Research Award in 2015, and two further awards in 2017: the Marcial Moreno Lectureship Award and the OM-COS Award. In 2018, he will undertake duties as a Genetech Lecturer, Pharmaron Lecturer and Bristol-Meyers Squibb Lecturer.

INTERVIEW

SYNFORM *What do you think about the modern role and prospects of organic synthesis?*

Prof. R. Martín As chemists, we should be providing creative solutions to challenging problems while making them look easy.

SYNFORM *Let us know more about your research activities in general and what the focus of your group's current research is?*

Prof. R. Martín Our research is focused on the discovery of synthetically useful organometallic methodologies, with a particular emphasis on the implementation of earth-abundant nickel catalysts for the functionalization of particularly strong sigma bonds. In particular, we have designed new nickel-catalyzed reductive carboxylation techniques of organic matter with abundant and inexpensive carbon dioxide as C1 synthon, representing a straightforward route for preparing carboxylic acids from simple precursors under mild conditions and in a user-friendly manner. Our group has also designed new nickel-catalyzed transformations via the activation of strong C–O bonds, contributing to the prolific use of simple phenol derivatives as organic halide surrogates, while providing new vistas from a both methodological and mechanistic standpoint.

SYNFORM *What is your most important scientific achievement to date and why?*

Prof. R. Martín Beyond any reasonable doubt, to find balance between my work and my family, and to make my students love the projects as much as I do while seeing them

mature through the years. From a scientific standpoint, our most important scientific achievements have been on the ability to promote C–C bond-forming reactions via catalytic fixation of CO₂ into organic matter en route to carboxylic acids as well as the design of catalytic technologies for functionalizing strong sigma C–O bonds derived from simple phenol derivatives.

Handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Matteo Fagnoli".