Editorial Board Focus: Prof. Martin Banwell (Institute for Advanced and Applied Chemical Synthesis, P. R. of China)

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 Prof. Martin Banwell (Institute for Advanced and Applied Chemical Synthesis, P. R. of China) who joined the Associate Board of *SynOpen* with effect of January 2023.

Biographical Sketch

Prof. M. Banwell

Martin Banwell is an internationally renowned expert in organic chemistry. He is now the Dean of Institute for Advanced and Applied Chemical Synthesis (IAACS, P. R. of China) as well as a Master/PhD tutor, and his main study is the total synthesis of active natural products and research and development of new drugs. He was elected as an academician of the Australian Academy of Sciences in 2004, and he is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Royal Australian Chemical Society, as well as an honorary fellow of the Royal New Zealand Chemical Society. He was a highest-level (Level-E2) tenure-track professor at the Australian National University. In 2018, he was awarded the Officer Medal by the Australian Federal Government, the highest level award for Australian citizens, for his contributions to scientific research. In 2021, he was awarded the Chinese Government Friendship award by Prime Minister Keqiang Li. Till now, he has published almost 400 SCI papers in journals like *Nature Chemistry*, *Accounts of Chemical Research*, and *Organic Letters*, and has been authorized for 13 international patents.

INTERVIEW

SYNFORM *You are a leading researcher in the field of organic synthesis. Could you tell us more about the importance of that field and your current research activities?*

Prof. M. Banwell I am an organic chemist focused on the total synthesis of biologically active natural products that can serve as leads for the development of new therapeutic agents. In a number of instances our studies also address the supply problems associated with developing natural products as drug entities.

SYNFORM *Please comment on your role as an Associate Editor of SynOpen.*

Prof. M. Banwell I am still fleshing out my role as a new Associate Editor of *SynOpen* but obviously wish to work to encourage my colleagues to submit papers to the journal and so make it all the more successful. I also anticipate developing a plan for a special issue of the journal devoted to marine natural products chemistry, especially as this applies to such activities in the South China Sea and the South Pacific.

SYNFORM *Could you tell us something about yourself outside the lab, such as your hobbies or extra-work interests?*

Prof. M. Banwell I have recently been involved in establishing a new research institute based at Jinan University in Southern China that is concerned with chemical synthesis in its manifold forms – this entirely new entity is called the Institute for Advanced and Applied Chemical Synthesis or IAACS and will soon move into a dedicated new building on the Zhuhai campus of the University. While my research can be all-consuming at times, I am a keen swimmer, hiker, skier (downhill), traveler and bookworm.

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