

Editorial Board Focus: Professor Shuli You (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, 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 Professor Shuli You (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, P. R. of China) who joined the Editorial Board of Science of Synthesis in January 2018.

Biographical Sketch



Prof. S. You

Shuli You was born in Henan (P. R. of China) and received his BSc in chemistry from Nankai University (P. R. of China) in 1996. He obtained his PhD from Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (SIOC, P. R. of China) in 2001 under the supervision of Prof. Lixin Dai before doing postdoctoral studies with Prof. Jeffery Kelly at The Scripps Research Institute (USA). From 2004, he worked at the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation (USA) as a principal investigator before returning to SIOC as a professor in 2006. He is currently appointed as the director of the State Key Laboratory of Organometallic Chemistry of SIOC. His research interests mainly focus on asymmetric C–H functionalization and catalytic asymmetric dearomatization (CADA) reactions. He is the recipient of AstraZeneca Excellence in Chemistry Award (2011), RSC Merck Award (2015) and Ho Leung Ho Lee Foundation Prize for Scientific and Technological Innovation (2016).

INTERVIEW

SYNFORM Please comment on your role as a member of the Editorial Board of Science of Synthesis.

Prof. S. You It is such a great honor for me to join the Editorial Board of Science of Synthesis. This unique reference work covers all methods of organic synthesis offering full-text descriptions of organic transformations together with validated experimental procedures. Other notable features include that the entire content is available online, and is entirely searchable based on the structures, substructures and reaction types. I am very excited about my new role and look forward to contributing to the growth of Science of Synthesis.

SYNFORM How do you describe the value of a product such as Science of Synthesis to the chemistry community?

Prof. S. You Comprehensive. Extracted, validated, reliable references.

SYNFORM What do you think about the modern role and prospects of synthetic chemistry, in particular its importance in and for the pharmaceutical industry?

Prof. S. You Synthetic chemistry continues to grow and warrant the successful development of pharmaceutical industry. The new ways for disconnecting chemical bonds and forming new ones will provide better synthetic routes with shorter time and less waste. The access to novel molecular scaffolds and chemical structures enabled by the development of synthetic chemistry will expand the chemical space for the pharmaceutical industry as well.

SYNFORM *What is the focus of your current research activities?*

Prof. S. You My current research mainly focuses on the development of novel strategies and methods for asymmetric catalysis. These include enantioselective C–H bond direct functionalization processes and catalytic asymmetric de-aromatization (CADA) reactions. Catalytic reactions featuring high efficiency (in terms of yield, selectivity, atom economy, etc.) are the ultimate goal of this laboratory, with the hope to provide useful methods for the total synthesis of natural products and other functional molecules.

SYNFORM *You are a leading researcher with regard to green chemistry. Could you tell us more about how important you perceive this particular topic to be?*

Prof. S. You There is no doubt that green chemistry is becoming a more and more important consideration for synthetic organic chemists. As organic chemists, while we are aiming to develop methodologies that could expand our synthetic ability for delivering novel functional molecules, we are also considering the principals to make the new methods and syntheses greener. When we develop new synthetic methods, we pay particular attention to the utilization of readily available substrates and non-toxic reagents, the development of highly efficient catalysts and mild conditions, and obtaining high yields in combination with high selectivity and atom-economy.

