

Editorial Board Focus: Prof. Dr. Tanja Gulder (Saarland University, Germany)

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. Dr. Tanja Gulder (Saarland University, Germany) who joined the Editorial Board of SYNLETT with effect of July 2024.

Biographical Sketch



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Prof. Dr. T. Gulder

Tanja Gulder is the Chair of Organic Chemistry at Saarland University, Germany and is heading the Synthesis of Natural-Product Derived Drugs group at the Helmholtz Center of Pharmaceutical Research Saarland (HIPS). Her laboratory is dedicated to biomimetic catalysis (enzyme mimicking), focusing on halogenations and deuterations and their application in synthesizing natural products, anti-

infectives, and diagnostics. Tanja Gulder studied chemistry at the University of Wuerzburg, Germany, where she received her diploma in 2004. After earning her Ph.D. with distinction under the supervision of Prof. G. Bringmann in 2008, she pursued postdoctoral studies with Prof. P. S. Baran at The Scripps Research Institute (La Jolla, CA, USA). After returning to Germany, she started her independent career in 2011, supported by a Liebig fellowship of the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie at RWTH Aachen. 2014 she moved to TU Muenchen, Germany, and was appointed Heisenberg-Professor of Biomimetic Catalysis in 2018. From 2020 to 2023, she was a Full Professor in Organic Chemistry at Leipzig University, Germany.

She received the Emmy-Noether grant, the prestigious support for exceptionally qualified early career scientists by the German Research Foundation. In 2023, she was elected as an ordinary member of the Saxonian Academy of Science. She was awarded the Publication Award Fluorine Chemistry Prize of the German Chemical Society for her significant contributions to developing transition-metal catalysis for transforming organic molecules to prepare value-added materials by site-selective functionalization, with impact on the agrochemical and pharmaceutical industries. In 2024, she joins SYNLETT as Associate Editor.

INTERVIEW

SYNFORM *What fascinates you most about organic chemistry and synthesis?*

Prof. Dr. T. Gulder The creativity and complexity of building structurally complex molecules from simple substances is not just a scientific pursuit for me but a passion. The ability to design and construct molecules with specific, often complex structures with a particular function is like solving a complex puzzle, and this challenge is what drives my enthusiasm for organic chemistry and synthesis.

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

Prof. Dr. T. Gulder Organic chemistry, despite its long history, remains a field of endless discovery and innovation. It creates new tools that push the pharmaceutical, agrochemical, and material industries, impacting other scientific disciplines and everyone's lives. This significant impact comes with great responsibilities. One of the main aims of modern organic synthesis is to rethink chemical feedstocks, processes, and products concerning environmental safety and sustainability. This makes organic chemistry a perpetually exciting and rewarding science area, offering endless exploration opportunities and a promising future.

SYNFORM *Please comment on your role as a member of the Editorial Board of SYNLETT.*

Prof. Dr. T. Gulder As I am new on the SYNLETT Editorial Board, I am still figuring out my specific role. Besides the daily business of handling manuscripts, I started to develop on the first thematic issue for the journal, which may be devoted to enzymes in organic reactions, an emerging field in organic synthesis.

SYNFORM Finally, on a personal note, what do you do in your free time?

Prof. Dr. T. Gulder In my free time, I like to read books, do gardening, and cook together with my family. My most favorite thing is to spend time with my daughter and my husband outside.

