Editorial Board Focus: Professor Thierry Ollevier (Université Laval, Canada)

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 Thierry Ollevier (Université Laval, Canada) who joined the Editorial Board of *SynOpen* with effect of January 2023.

Biographical Sketch

Prof. T. Ollevier

Thierry Ollevier was born in Brussels (Belgium) and obtained his B.Sc. (1991) and Ph.D. (1997) at the Université of Namur (Belgium). He was a post-doctorate fellow at the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium) under I. E. Markó (1997), a NATO post-doctorate fellow at Stanford University (USA) under B. M. Trost (1998–2000), then post-doctorate fellow at the Université de Montréal (Canada) under A. B. Charette (2000–2001). After an Assistant Professor appointment (2001) at Université Laval (Québec, Canada), he became first an Associate Professor (2006) and is now a Full Professor. Current research in his group aims at designing novel catalysts, developing catalytic reactions and applying these methods to chemical synthesis. He is active in the areas of iron catalysis, ligand design, asymmetric catalysis, fluorine chemistry, diazo and diazirine chemistry, flow chemistry, and bismuth chemistry. He has published more than 80 papers and 35 encyclopedia articles and book chapters. He served as an Associate Editor of *RSC Advances* from 2015 to 2022 and was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2016). After five years serving as an Advisory Board member of *SynOpen*, he was appointed as Editor-in-Chief of *SynOpen* in January 2023.

INTERVIEW

SYNFORM *Please comment on your role as Editor-in-Chief of SynOpen.*

Prof. T. Ollevier As the Editor-in-Chief, I am very ably supported by a great Executive Board. In addition to the Executive Board, we are establishing an Associate Board that brings a wide range of expertise and diversity to the team. Finally, we have a very dynamic group of Advisory Board Members who provide valuable help and efficiently promote *SynOpen* worldwide. Both the Associate and the Advisory Board members are actively committed to supporting *SynOpen* and Thieme.

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

Prof. T. Ollevier *SynOpen* is a sister journal to SYNTHESIS and SYNLETT. It is an open access, international journal reporting current research results in the chemical sciences since 2017. As many of you might know already, the scope of the journal covers mainly, but not exclusively, the areas of synthesis, catalysis, organometallic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, photochemistry, sustainable chemistry, polymers and materials synthesis. *SynOpen* employs the unique crowd-sourced peer-review system called "Select Crowd Review", providing a very rapid peer-review service to its authors with first decisions as fast as 72 hours. The journal offers the opportunity to publish both experimental and theoretical studies, and is geared towards publishing high-quality work that deserves to be considered for publication in an open access format. Numerous studies have shown that publishing open access offers huge benefits, from increased citation, faster impact, and compliance with open access mandates. Science should be as accessible and useful as possible worldwide, and

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the more scientists you reach the stronger science can be. Open access provides chemists with increased international exposure and citations. Authors within the chemistry community working on interdisciplinary areas, when publishing in *SynOpen*, can choose between a variety of publications formats based on their needs. The journal welcomes articles such as: Graphical Reviews, Reviews and Short Reviews, Spotlights, Papers, Letters, Practical Synthetic Procedure (PSP). Graphical Reviews and Spotlights are unique formats proposed in *SynOpen*. We are all excited and await *SynOpen's* very first impact factor this summer.

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

Prof. T. Ollevier Organic chemistry is a very active and key research field and will continue to be. It brings new synthetic methods and access to complex molecules, and thus offering new tools to pharmaceutical, agrochemical and materials industries. However, despite major achievements over the years, significant synthetic challenges remain to be tackled. Synthetic organic chemists continue to set new standards in terms of practicality, efficiency, and elegance. The present role of organic chemistry is of paramount importance as it is directly beneficial to other disciplines and society.

SYNFORM *You are a leading researcher with regard to organic catalysis and green chemistry. Could you tell us more about the importance of that field and your current research activities?*

Prof. T. Ollevier The objective of our research is the development of new synthetic methods, with emphasis on catalytic and enantioselective procedures for the simple preparation of biologically and commercially important molecules. Indeed, all our programs target advancements in green chemistry, which is an area of major strategic and industrial importance, i.e. green metals or metal-free reactions to replace noble metal catalysis. In this regard, our current research activities deal with the development of green synthetic methods. Our research group is active in the areas of iron catalysis, ligand design, fluorine chemistry, and asymmetric catalysis. More recently, the chemistry of diazoalkanes and diazirines, either using green metals or metal-free photochemical processes in continuous flow, has emerged as an important part of our research program. Special attention was also paid to bismuth chemistry and other green synthetic transformations.

SYNFORM *What would you consider your most important scientific achievement to date and why?*

Prof. T. Ollevier My most important achievement to date was the development of new methodologies in iron catalysis. As part of our ongoing interest in asymmetric Fe-catalyzed reactions, we developed the use of efficient chiral C_2-symmetric 2,2′-bipyridine diol ligands possessing, for example, an adamantyl or a CF_3 group in their core structure. These studies include broader structural diversity of chiral ligands to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms of a selection of Fe-catalyzed asymmetric reactions. Catalytic asymmetric processes using chiral iron complexes are indispensable for producing enantiomerically enriched compounds in organic synthesis, providing more economical and efficient processes.

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