

Meet Dr. Louis C. Morrill, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2024!



Dr. Louis C. Morrill obtained his Mchem degree (2010) and PhD (2014) from the University of St. Andrews (UK). After postdoctoral research at the University of California–Berkeley (USA), he returned to the UK in 2015 to begin his independent research career at Cardiff University (UK). In 2024, he took up his current position as Reader in Organic Chemistry at the University of Bath (UK).

Thieme: Which field of organic chemistry are you interested in the most and why?

Dr. Morrill: Organic electrochemistry, because it is a new area of research for our group, and it challenges me to keep learning new things.

Thieme: Following that, what is the focus of your current research activity?

Dr. Morrill: Our research group is fundamentally interested in the development of new, more sustainable, synthetic methodologies in organic chemistry. We are particularly interested in using organic electrochemistry, main group catalysis, and 1st row transition-metal catalysis to achieve this overarching aim.

Thieme: What do you think about the modern role and prospects of organic chemistry?

Dr. Morrill: I think that it is an exciting time to be an organic chemist. Building upon previous advances, we can now use the entire spectrum of tools available to us to push further and advance upon what is currently possible. This includes developing new reactions in addition to improving the efficiency, selectivity and/or sustainability of existing processes.

Thieme: Which difficulties are there for young upcoming chemists in your field? Do you have any tips?

Dr. Morrill: Academic research in organic chemistry is perhaps the most competitive that it has ever been, with countless research groups all over the world making important contributions on a daily basis. As such, it's important for us to clearly define our research problems/targets such that they are interesting to us, whilst also being important in a broader context, and then investigate fully. In an increasingly competitive publishing environment, it is important to become specialists in the right areas.

Thieme: What is your most important scientific achievement to date and why?

Dr. Morrill: Helping to train the various undergraduate project students, PhD students, and postdoctoral researchers who have spent time in our group. Seeing those researchers enjoy their time in the group, enjoy their research, improve as scientists, and then use that experience to achieve their future goals, will always be my important scientific achievement.

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

Dr. Morrill: I love to play squash, which is a great workout! I also have a lot of fun exploring the countryside with our tiny campervan (Ford Transit Connect)!
