

## Meet Prof. Manar Shoshani, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2024!



**Prof. Manar Shoshani** obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Windsor (Canada) prior to carrying out postdoctoral research at the California Institute of Technology (USA). He became an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (USA) in 2021, and moved to the University of Kansas (USA) in 2024.

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

**Prof. Shoshani:** Organometallic chemistry! The perennial intersection of organic and inorganic chemistry draws in great minds from both sides as one of the oldest and strongest collaborative efforts!

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

**Prof. Shoshani:** Our group focuses on developing new molecular motifs geared to engender new reactivity and facilitate cooperative bond cleavages and bond formations. The progress we make here will contribute to our overarching goals of developing new methodologies for sustainable catalytic transformations. We've got a lot of fun ideas which we are currently carrying out and excited to share over the next few years!

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

**Prof. Shoshani:** Good question! Organic chemistry's vast usage has really only been finding more utility thanks to the growth and standardized usage of tools that elevate its impact – including flow, HTE, electro-chemistry, and others! I am certainly excited to see how the next few years and decades further change the landscape.

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

**Prof. Shoshani:** Young chemists striving to run their own research group face a myriad of challenges that can seem impossible to overcome. The best advice that I can give is to harness your creativity and lean on the community. I don't think I have met a more supportive group of people than the folks in the organometallic community. I only hope to contribute to that level of support for the next generation of scientists!

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

**Prof. Shoshani:** Starting my own independent career has been a truly amazing experience. It's allowed me to harness in the training I've received and adopt new directions that I think are exciting! Our early work demonstrating the use of heterometallic bridges to active hydride ligands stands out as an achievement I've been particularly proud of, but stay tuned for more!

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

**Prof. Shoshani:** I enjoy biking, hiking, and hoops! I used to play basketball with my PhD advisor over lunch periods, I incorporated it into my PDF, and still play when I can.

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