

Meet Prof. Takahiro Sawano, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2024!



Prof. Takahiro Sawano is an Associate Professor at Shimane University (Japan) since 2023. He completed his Master's (2010) and PhD (2013) degrees from Kyoto University (Japan). He then undertook postdoctoral research at the University of North Carolina (USA) and the University of Chicago (USA), and was a Research Assistant Professor at Chubu University (Japan). He was an Assistant Professor at Aoyama Gakuin University (Japan) prior to moving to his current position.

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

Prof. Sawano: I'm interested in catalytic reactions to form useful organic compounds because I like to build things.

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

Prof. Sawano: My recent research focuses on MOF-catalyzed reactions to realize unique selectivity and activity.

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

Prof. Sawano: Organic chemistry is getting complicated by merging other fields of science.

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

Prof. Sawano: I think young chemists have some difficulty in acquiring research funds to start a new laboratory. I also want to know the tip.

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

Prof. Sawano: I have demonstrated the advantages of MOF catalysts over conventional homogeneous catalysts.

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

Prof. Sawano: I sometimes go mountain-climbing to refresh both mind and body.