Editorial Board Focus: Professor Daniele Leonori (RWTH Aachen 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 Professor Daniele Leonori (RWTH Aachen University, Germany) who joined the Editorial Board of SYNTHESIS with effect of November 2023.

Biographical Sketch

Prof. D. Leonori

Daniele Leonori obtained his PhD at the University of Sheffield (UK) under the supervision of Prof. Iain Coldham and carried out post-doctoral studies at RWTH Aachen University (Germany) and the Max Planck Institute for Colloids and Interfaces (Germany) under the supervision of Profs. Magnus Rueping and Peter Seeberger, respectively. After a Research Officer position at the University of Bristol (UK) under the mentorship of Prof. Varinder Aggarwal FRS, Daniele started his independent career at the University of Manchester (UK) in 2014 where he was promoted to Reader in 2018 and Professor in 2020. In 2022 Daniele and his group moved to the RWTH Aachen University, where he is a W3 Chair of Organic Chemistry. Research in the Leonori group focuses on the development of novel methods exploiting the reactivity of radical and photoexcited species.

INTERVIEW

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

Prof. D. Leonori Organic chemistry is really about discovering new ways to make interesting molecules. Improving the ways we make molecules is fundamental to the discovery, manufacture and evolution of almost all products we encounter in our daily life like drugs, agrochemicals, perfumes… Organic chemistry will always be integral to our wellbeing.

SYNFORM *Tell us more about your current research activities.*

Prof. D. Leonori My group's research activity is mostly based on the development of novel chemical reactions. We are interested in the discovery of new activation modes that allow us to assemble chemical bonds in unprecedented manners.

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

Prof. D. Leonori I think synthetic chemistry will play an increasingly important role to our society. We now face many new challenges in terms of the types of molecules we want to make but also how we make them. Continuous developments in synthesis have strong potential to impact our wellbeing but also address aspects related to sustainability and waste detoxification.

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

Prof. D. Leonori It is too early to say but I think my group has demonstrated several novel concepts for either bond

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formation or cleavage that provide novel and orthogonal opportunities in chemical synthesis.

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

Prof. D. Leonori I will be mostly involved in helping SYNTHESIS in evaluating new research manuscripts.

SYNFORM *How do you describe the value of a resource like SYNTHESIS to the chemistry community?*

Prof. D. Leonori SYNTHESIS is an invaluable resource in organic synthesis where new and modern chemical reactions appear daily. It is also a journal with a fast turnaround of articles so that urgent discoveries can be published in a timely fashion.

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

Prof. D. Leonori I enjoy trying new cooking recipes with my wife and our little daughter. I also like to study astronomy and how it has impacted the development of ancient cultures – my favorite constellation is Orion.

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