

## Editorial Board Focus: Professor Tian-Sheng Mei (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, P. R. of China)

**Background and Purpose.** From time to time, SYNFORM portrays 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 Tian-Sheng Mei (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, P. R. of China) who joined the Editorial Board of *SynOpen* with effect of 1 October 2022.

### Biographical Sketch



Prof. T.-S. Mei

**Tian-Sheng Mei** received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Lanzhou University (P. R. of China) in 2001. The following four years he studied at Lanzhou University as a graduate student (with Prof. Yu-Lin Li) before joining the group Yin-Quan Yu at Brandeis University (USA) for his M.S. degree (2007). Together with the Yu group he then moved to The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla (USA) and received his Ph.D. in 2012. After a postdoctoral stay from 2012–2014 in the group of Matthew Sigman at the University of Utah (USA) he returned to China and was appointed as Professor at the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry at the end of 2014. His main research focus is on transition-metal-catalyzed electrosynthesis reactions including C–H and C–X functionalization, asymmetric synthesis, and the activation of small molecules. He has published more than 60 papers with over 9000 citations. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for his work in organometallic electrochemical synthesis, including the Thieme Chemistry Journals Award in 2016, the Bayer Investigator in 2020, and the Distinguished Lectureship Award of the CSJ Asian International Symposium in 2020. As of October 1, 2022, he became an Editorial Board member of *SynOpen*.

### INTERVIEW

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

**Prof. T.-S. Mei** I am responsible for taking part in developing topics, inviting manuscripts for the journal, managing individual manuscripts, and overseeing outreach activities in East Asia.

**SYNFORM** How do you describe the value of an open access resource such as *SynOpen* to the chemistry community?

**Prof. T.-S. Mei** As Prof. Laurence M. Harwood said, *SynOpen* has a strap line of “**fast, fair, and flexible**”. I totally agree with him. Select Crowd Review has allowed for the manuscripts to be reviewed not only quickly, but and also fairly. As a wholly online journal, *SynOpen* is flexible in the type, format, and content of articles, including Letters, Papers, Reviews, Short Reviews, Graphical Reviews, Practical Synthetic Procedures, and Spotlights.

**SYNFORM** What is the focus of your current research activities?

**Prof. T.-S. Mei** My current research activities focus on transition-metal-catalyzed electrosynthesis reactions including C–H and C–X functionalization, asymmetric synthesis, and the activation of small molecules.

**SYNFORM** You are a leading researcher with regard to electrosynthesis reactions and transformations using transition metals. Could you tell us more about how important you perceive this particular topic to be?

**Prof. T.-S. Mei** Electrochemical synthesis is not only a sustainable alternative compared to conventional approaches via replacing stoichiometric chemical oxidants or reductants in organic synthesis, but also it shows huge potential to adjust and control the reactions for its tunability of the potential and electric current. The merger of transition-metal catalysis and electrochemistry provides a particularly promising means to realize high chemoselectivity, regioselectivity, and stereo-selectivity within an electrochemical process. Three specific advantages for employing transition metals as molecular electrocatalysts are: (1) The redox potential of the transition-metal catalyst may be tuned by ligands; (2) Modification of the ligand can dictate the reaction stereoselectivity (and chemoselectivity and regioselectivity); and (3) Well-established metal-catalyzed methodologies provide a rigorous foundation for the development of new variants.

