

Meet Prof. Thierry Ollevier, Our New Editor-in-Chief at SynOpen!



Prof. Ollevier is Editor-in-Chief of SYNOPEN since early 2023. His research at Université Laval in Québec (Canada) focuses on the development of green synthetic organic chemistry within the areas of asymmetric catalysis, chiral iron complexes, diazoalkane and diazirine chemistry and bismuth chemistry.

Prof. Ollevier obtained his PhD in Chemistry in 1997 from the University of Namur (Belgium). Following his PhD, he spent 3 years as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University (USA) and at the Université de Montréal (Canada). In 2001, he moved to the Université Laval as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor (2006) and then Full Professor (since 2010).

SynOpen: What fascinates you most about organic synthesis?

Prof. Ollevier: Very importantly to me, organic synthesis does not only bring synthetic methods, but also creativity, art, and elegance. Fascination grows with familiarity: it is particularly true in organic chemistry, which requires long investments before enjoying its profound nature. Molecular aesthetics is the basic motivation before any possible prospect of application. Organic synthesis is a very active and key research field because it provides new synthetic methods and access to complex molecules. It offers new synthetic tools and is directly beneficial to other disciplines and modern society.

SynOpen: What do you think about the prospects of organic synthesis?

Prof. Ollevier: Organic synthesis brings new methods to synthesize molecules, and thus offers new tools to pharmaceutical, agrochemical and materials industries. However, despite major achievements obtained over the years, major synthetic challenges still remain to tackle. Synthetic organic chemists strive to set new standards in terms of practicality and efficiency. The future is open for organic synthesis, while its prospects for development widen, in terms of both fundamentals and applications.

SynOpen: What should be the role of publishers over the next 10 years?

Prof. Ollevier: Publishers should approach the authors to seek better mutual understanding. This approach embraces SynOpen motto: Fast, Fair, and Flexible. Importantly, articles should not only deliver scientific content but also both be rigorously and aesthetically presented to catch the reader's attention. Publishers and authors should become together very sensitive to the attractiveness of a publication. Publications should definitively exhibit beauty. Another big challenge for publishers is to render science as accessible and useful as possible worldwide while keeping high scientific standards.

SynOpen: What advice would you give to young chemists about how to handle stress and pressure during their PhD?

Prof. Ollevier: If you are a hard worker, thoughtful, and passionate, you will be successful. There will be joys and frustrations during the PhD. I would tell the young chemist to test her/his growing chemical intuition by daring experiments and interpretations. Pressure will sublimate to self-motivation and bring you a lot of intellectual satisfaction. Maintaining a proper work-life balance by pursuing other interests will also allow you to unwind.

SynOpen: Given the chance you meet any chemist (living or dead), who would it be and what would you ask him or her?

Prof. Ollevier: I would like to meet Robert W. Woodward because his intellectual and chemical contributions to science were huge but also because of his rhetorical style in writing. Pliny the Elder, as a Roman author, naturalist, and fine scribe of his environment was also a brilliant scientist. Asking more details about his creativity and inspiration in synthesis from the first one, and about his metal classification in *Naturalis Historia* from the latter would be an immense joy. Also, both were poets.

SynOpen: As Editor in Chief of SynOpen, you certainly have a vision for the journal, could you share it, please?

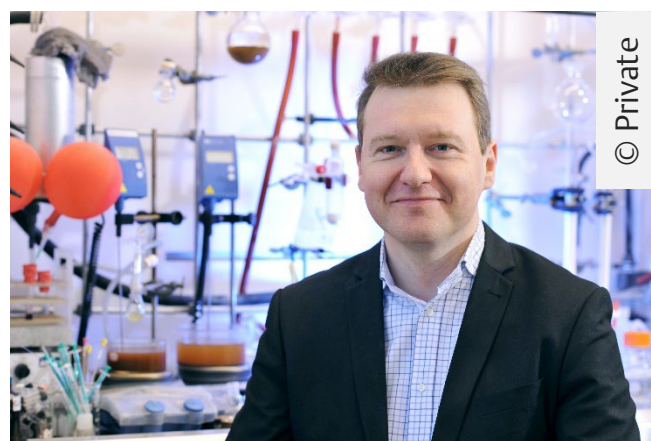
Prof. Ollevier: SynOpen is not only the open access sister journal to Synthesis and Synlett. It is an international journal providing variety of publication formats based on the authors' needs, such as the unique Graphical Reviews and Spotlights, in addition to the more classical formats. SynOpen is a fast-growing journal, and we are all excited and await SynOpen's very first impact factor this summer 2023.

SynOpen: As Editor in Chief, what are your recommendations to those who want to publish their results (in SynOpen, of course 😊)?

Prof. Ollevier: An author should publish his results while focusing on substantial advancement or new insight being reported. The potential reader should readily get a clear understanding of the new elements brought by the manuscript. It is a highly valuable asset for a chemist to be able to formulate his ideas in a readable manner. Importantly, the content should be clear to the author himself before being clear to the reader, whilst taking care to not oversimplify or hide tricky-to-explain information.

SynOpen: What do you do in your free time?

Prof. Ollevier: I love reading books about history. I have a passion for archaeology of ancient Rome and Greece. Culture, refinement, and elegance have a strong meaning to me.



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