

Meet Dr. Vinaykumar Kanchupalli, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2025!



Dr. Vinaykumar Kanchupalli pursued doctoral studies at IISER Bhopal (India). After obtaining his degree, he conducted postdoctoral research at Loyola University Chicago (USA) and at IIT Bombay (India). In early 2019, he began his independent research career at NIPER-Hyderabad (India) as a DST Inspire Faculty and later served as a SERB Research Scientist at the same institute. In 2024, he joined the School of Chemistry at the University of Hyderabad (India) as an assistant professor.

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

Dr. Kanchupalli: Carbene chemistry is one of the most interesting fields for me in organic chemistry, because carbenes serve as versatile intermediates in diverse synthetic transformations and continuously open new directions for researchers. From classical rearrangement reactions to modern skeletal rearrangement strategies, carbenes play a significant role in advancing organic synthesis.

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

Dr. Kanchupalli: Currently, our group is focused on transition-metal-catalyzed C–H functionalizations, hydroallylations, and ring-strain release strategies.

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

Dr. Kanchupalli: Modern organic chemists are not just about synthesizing molecules, and they have to focus on more sustainable methodologies with the ultimate goal of addressing global challenges.

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

Dr. Kanchupalli: Young organic chemists often face challenges in securing research funding. I hope this issue can be resolved through collaboration with colleagues from interdisciplinary fields.

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

Dr. Kanchupalli: We developed diverse chemo- and regiodivergent annulations from the same starting materials under similar reaction conditions by leveraging tunable selectivity. The selectivity was controlled by varying the substrate, solvent, or additives. Achieving a single catalytic system capable of facilitating multiple transformations with common substrates through minor modifications in reaction conditions represents a significant milestone in catalysis research. This tunable reactivity not only modulates the reaction pathway, but also enhances the structural diversity of the synthesized products.

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

Dr. Kanchupalli: My hobbies are solving mathematical puzzles and watching or playing cricket. Moreover, I enjoy spending time with my two kids, who bring me immense joy after a long day at work.
