

Meet Dr. Daniele Mazzarella, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2026!



Dr. Daniele Mazzarella is a tenure-track assistant professor at the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”. After a stint at Nippon Kayaku Co. Ltd in Tokyo through the Vulcanus in Japan Fellowship, he pursued his PhD at ICIQ (Spain). Following his doctorate, he held a Marie Curie Individual Fellowship at the University of Amsterdam. In November 2022, Daniele joined the University of Padova as assistant professor, and in November 2024 took up his current position.

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

Dr. Mazzarella: I am particularly interested in the development of new synthetic methodologies. These approaches often enable novel disconnections, thereby expanding the range of accessible molecular architectures and opening up new possibilities in synthesis.

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

Dr. Mazzarella: My current research focuses on merging organocatalysis with electrochemistry, an underdeveloped area where many new transformations are within reach. Both strategies provide inherently more sustainable approaches to chemical synthesis, making their combination especially attractive.

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

Dr. Mazzarella: Organic chemistry plays a central role in both the discovery of new molecules and the development of more sustainable ways to access existing ones. Moving forward, I believe the field will increasingly focus on balancing innovation with environmental responsibility.

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

Dr. Mazzarella: One of the main challenges is identifying a distinct research niche in an already highly competitive field. My advice would be to engage continuously with the scientific literature: understanding what others are doing is essential in order to identify unexplored directions and develop original ideas.

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

Dr. Mazzearella: I consider my most important achievement to be establishing a small research group here at the University of Rome Tor Vergata and seeing my students grow more skilled and confident every day. Being able to share the knowledge and lessons I gained from my mentors, as well as from my colleagues, with them is deeply rewarding. To me, this represents the essence of academic life.

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

Dr. Mazzearella: Outside the lab, I enjoy spending time with my family. We recently welcomed a baby, so most of my time beyond research is happily dedicated to him. In the little time that remains, I enjoy good food, reading manga, and travelling.
