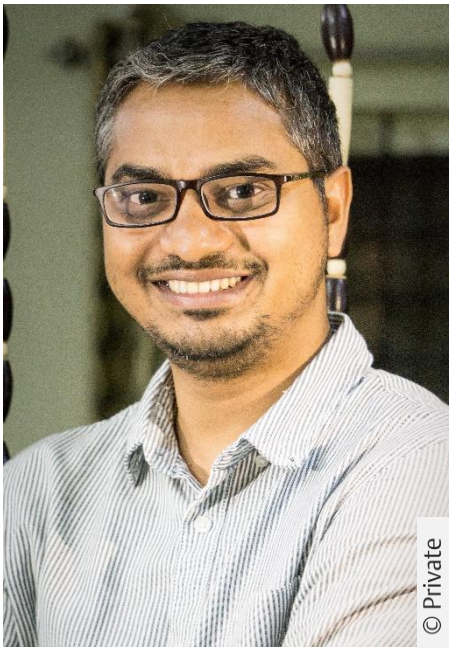
Meet Dr. Veerabhadrarao Kaliginedi, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2025!



Dr. Veerabhadrarao Kaliginedi *is an assistant professor in the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, IISc Bangalore. He obtained his PhD from the University of Bern (Switzerland) in 2013 and pursued postdoctoral studies there until 2016. In 2014, he held a Visiting Postdoc position at Leiden University (The Netherlands). Prior to taking on his current role in 2019, he held another postdoctoral position at the EPFL (Switzerland).*

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

Dr. Kaliginedi: I am interested in physical organic chemistry.

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

Dr. Kaliginedi: My research contains large components exploring the physicochemical properties of molecules at a single molecule level and we are interested in looking at chemical reactions at a single molecule level.

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

Dr. Kaliginedi: Organic chemistry is in an exciting place right now—it's evolving beyond its traditional roots into a powerhouse for innovation. I think its modern role is all about interdisciplinary impact: it's driving advances in materials science (think organic electronics or polymers), medicine (synthetic drugs and biomolecules), and even sustainability (green chemistry and catalysis).

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

Dr. Kaliginedi: Funding is indeed a major hurdle for young chemists, especially in fields like physical organic chemistry where basic research is the focus. The struggle to secure sustainable and consistent funding can feel relentless, particularly when you're just starting out. If government and private sources prioritize the funding support for young researchers, that would be of great help and would make a huge difference.

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

Dr. Kaliginedi: We have developed experimental methodology to probe reactions at the single-molecule level under ambient conditions. These investigations are inherently non-trivial due to the formidable challenges associated with studying single-molecule reactions, i.e., interactions at this level are highly dynamic, and isolating single-molecule events is very challenging.

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

Dr. Kaliginedi: Outside the lab, I love watching movies and playing with my kid.