

Meet Dr. Srirama Murthy Akondi, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2025!



Dr. Srirama Murthy Akondi obtained his PhD in organic chemistry from the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), India. He then pursued postdoctoral research at Emory University, USA. In 2019, he joined CSIR-IICT as a scientist, and he is currently a senior scientist.

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

Dr. Akondi: I am particularly interested in the field of catalysis, with a focus on catalytic systems that operate under mild and sustainable conditions. Such systems enable efficient transformations while minimizing energy consumption, waste generation, and the use of hazardous reagents.

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

Dr. Akondi: We primarily focus on the development of new synthetic methods via single-electron-transfer mechanisms, utilizing visible-light and earth-abundant metal catalysis. Our key areas of interest include alkene functionalization and radical cascade cyclizations. Alkene difunctionalization enables the direct transformation of readily available feedstock materials into valuable molecules by introducing two functional groups across the double bond in a single step. Radical cascade cyclization reactions facilitate the rapid construction of complex molecular architectures in a single transformation, offering an efficient route to structurally intricate compounds.

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

Dr. Akondi: Modern organic chemistry is about innovation and sustainability. We're moving away from traditional methods to create more efficient and environmentally friendly processes. My work in visible-light photochemistry and earth-abundant metal catalysis reflects this, allowing us to build molecules in a cleaner and more sustainable way.

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

Dr. Akondi: One of the key challenges for early-career researchers is attracting talented and skilled human resources. However, consistent efforts in developing a new research area and publishing high-quality work can help overcome this difficulty by enhancing visibility and establishing credibility in the field.

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

Dr. Akondi: I consider our work published in *Green Chemistry*, titled “Visible-light-promoted photocatalyst- and additive-free intermolecular trifluoromethyl-thio (seleno)cyanation of alkenes,” to be an important scientific achievement. This study enables the introduction of two valuable functionalities across a double bond under mild and sustainable conditions, contributing to the development of greener synthetic methodologies.

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

Dr. Akondi: Outside the lab, I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, and playing cricket.
