

## Meet Dr. Nilanjana Majumdar, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2025!



**Dr. Nilanjana Majumdar** started her chemistry journey from Visva-Bharati University in West Bengal, India, where she completed her undergraduate education with a first class first in BSc. In 2003, she went to IIT Kharagpur to pursue her Master's degree in chemistry. For her PhD, she moved to Michigan State University (USA) in 2006. After graduation in 2012, she moved to Tokyo, Japan for her first postdoctoral experience and, after three years there, moved to the Max-Planck Institut für Kohlenforschung, Germany for a one-year postdoctoral stay. In April 2018, she joined CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow, India as Senior Scientist in Medicinal & Process Chemistry Division. In 2022, she was promoted to the position of Principal Scientist.

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

**Dr. Majumdar:** I am interested in catalysis, in fact, fascinated by the cutting-edge research that reveals the immense power of catalysis in organic chemistry. It intrigues me to understand what we can accomplish, how far we can go with catalysis and what's in store for our future to lift the science using catalysis.

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

**Dr. Majumdar:** The major focus of our research activity is on asymmetric catalysis. Asymmetric catalysis is not only of great practical importance, but it is also very challenging.

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

**Dr. Majumdar:** Organic chemistry has a wide range of applications in modern life, including food, medicine, hygiene, paint, energy, and agrochemicals, among many other areas. Organic chemistry applications expand the possibilities in the most essential areas of therapeutics, sustainability, and environmental preservation to improve the world as a whole, especially with ongoing advancements in basic research.

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

**Dr. Majumdar:** The chemists of today are incredibly intelligent, well-versed, and productive. I believe that everyone can overcome any obstacle if they set their minds to it.

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

**Dr. Majumdar:** The most important scientific achievement to date for me was to discover and develop an unknown reaction successfully for the first time in my independent academic career. In PhD and postdoctoral pursuits, we work in well-equipped labs on research ideas generally provided by the research supervisors. However, when I could develop an idea on my own, in my own set-up laboratory, by training my students all by myself, that gave me a great sense of satisfaction and a certain amount of confidence.

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

**Dr. Majumdar:** Outside the lab, I enjoy listening to music, painting and love a good fun walk with my dog.

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