

**Meet Prof. Yu-Mei Lin,
Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2025!**



Prof. Yu-Mei Lin obtained her PhD in 2010 from Xiamen University, P. R. China. She then moved to Germany as a Humboldt Alexander postdoctoral fellow at Philipps-Universität Marburg until 2012. Upon returning to China, she took up a position as associate professor at Xiamen University, and was promoted to her current role as professor in 2023.

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

Prof. Lin: I am particularly interested in visible-light photocatalysis for its sustainable, environmentally friendly approach to chemical synthesis. It uses clean light to generate high-energy radicals that enable the activation and transformation of inert bonds under mild conditions, offering new reaction pathways distinct from traditional methods.

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

Prof. Lin: My current research focuses on the development of efficient 3d metal photocatalysts, specifically manganese-based catalysts. Our aim is to harness their versatile oxidation states to explore new catalytic patterns in organic synthesis under mild conditions.

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

Prof. Lin: Organic chemists are like nature's toy designers. We're cracking the molecular puzzle to create substances that improve people's lives, making technologies more efficient, sustainable, and beneficial for society's well-being.

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

Prof. Lin: As organic chemistry rapidly evolves, young chemists encounter significant challenges in continuously updating their skills to match the pace of technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced spectroscopy. To address these challenges, it is crucial for young chemists to adopt a mindset of continuous learning and seeking collaborations across disciplines to solve complex chemical problems.

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

Prof. Lin: My most significant scientific achievement to date is the pioneering development of manganese-complex-based photoredox catalysts (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2024**, 146, 24515). This work underscores the potential of first-row transition metals, particularly manganese complexes, as sustainable and cost-effective alternatives to precious metal catalysts.

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

Prof. Lin: I enjoy walking and traveling outside of work. These outdoor activities not only keep me healthy but also give me a chance to clear my mind and recharge.
