

Meet Dr. Clément Ghiazza, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2026!



Dr. Clément Ghiazza completed his PhD from the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (France) in 2019. In 2020, he moved to the Max Planck Institut für Kohlenforschung in Mülheim an der Ruhr (Germany) as an Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow. Since October 2022, Clément has held a permanent CNRS researcher position at the Institut Lavoisier de Versailles (France).

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

Dr. Ghiazza: Heterocyclic chemistry is especially compelling because each ring system possesses distinct properties and reactivity. Moreover, these molecular motifs are ubiquitous in bioactive compounds, making their synthesis particularly relevant for practical applications.

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

Dr. Ghiazza: Currently, the group primarily focuses on nitrogen-insertion reactions to access unconventional heterocycles, as well as on enantioselective catalysis using either transition metals or organocatalytic approaches.

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

Dr. Ghiazza: There is always room for improvement – we can continually make processes more sustainable and more efficient. Moreover, we have only explored a small fraction of chemical space; who knows what lies beyond its current boundaries?

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

Dr. Ghiazza: Finding a permanent position can be challenging. I see each setback as feedback to refine the next application. Securing funding to develop our research is another crucial aspect, especially when one is not yet experienced in this process. I strongly recommend sharing and discussing proposals with trusted colleagues. Last but not least, managing students becomes pivotal when starting an independent career. It is important to invest time in recruiting the right candidate; in fact, it is often better to wait for the right person than to hire someone you are not fully convinced about.

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

Dr. Ghiazza: Definitely my first research paper as a corresponding author. No matter how successful you were during your PhD or postdoc, becoming a PI means you are largely on your own in developing and pursuing your ideas. I was very nervous when I submitted my first manuscript, but when it was finally published, I was very proud and it felt like a true validation.

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

Dr. Ghiazza: I would describe myself as a passionate chemist, although I admit it can sometimes be difficult to disconnect from work. Outside the lab, I enjoy simple things such as spending time with my wife and daughter, playing music, reading, and climbing. It can take time to realize that these moments are far more valuable than any result in the lab; but once you do, they bring a deeper sense of fulfillment.
