

Meet Prof. Bo Zhou, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2026!



Prof. Bo Zhou obtained his PhD in 2019 from Xiamen University (P. R. China). After postdoctoral studies at the University of Chicago (USA), he joined Xiamen University in 2022 as an associate professor.

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

Prof. Zhou: Asymmetric catalysis is the primary field I'm working on. Chirality is a central property in nature, and is fundamentally important for natural products, drugs, and materials. The innovation of novel catalytic asymmetric strategies for the efficient construction of useful molecules is vital for chemistry, biology, and materials science.

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

Prof. Zhou: Currently, I'm focusing on the catalytic asymmetric transformation of alkynes. Alkynes are easily accessible building blocks in chemistry, which can be converted into various compounds with high bond-forming efficiency. The development of new catalytic enantioselective strategies based on alkynes can greatly improve the synthetic efficiency in chirality synthesis.

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

Prof. Zhou: As the most efficient protocol for creating new molecules, organic chemistry is playing an increasingly important role in every field around our life, such as pharmaceuticals, materials, energy, environmental protection, and others.

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

Prof. Zhou: Young upcoming chemists in organic chemistry may encounter challenges such as restricted access to resources and intense competition. Thus, meaningful cooperation with experienced researchers may greatly benefit a young chemist.

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

Prof. Zhou: It is too early to draw conclusions, but my team has discovered several innovative strategies for creating and breaking bonds in an enantioselective manner, opening up new possibilities in chirality synthesis. We are on the way towards important scientific achievements.

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

Prof. Zhou: Outside of the lab, I enjoy travelling and exploring new places to expand my horizons and learn about different cultures.
