Meet Prof. Qingquan Lu, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2026!


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Prof. Qingquan Lu *is a full professor at Wuhan University (P. R. China). He received his PhD from Wuhan University (P. R. China) in 2014, then became a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Münster (Germany) from 2015 to 2018 and Washington University (USA) from 2018 to 2019. He began his independent career at Wuhan University (P. R. China) in 2019.*

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

Prof. Lu: I'm most passionate about organic electrochemistry, especially in the development of paired redox catalysis and photoelectrochemical strategies for inert bond functionalization. Organic electrochemistry uses electrons as clean reagents, avoiding stoichiometric oxidants or reductants, which aligns with green chemistry and sustainable synthesis. It drives pharmaceutical synthesis, functional materials, and intelligent synthetic chemistry. This integration of fundamental innovation and practical application drives my research enthusiasm.

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

Prof. Lu: Our research interests center on asymmetric paired electrocatalysis. We are dedicated to the development of new catalysts, the design of novel catalytic systems, and the exploration of new catalytic reactions that enable us to create chemical bonds in unique ways, with a particular emphasis on their application in the synthesis of chiral drug molecules and high-value fine chemicals.

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

Prof. Lu: I believe organic chemistry is the foundation of many disciplines. Its contemporary role lies in developing efficient, selective, and sustainable synthetic methodologies to address global challenges such as energy shortage, environmental pollution, and drug demand. Looking ahead, organic chemistry will increasingly integrate electrochemistry, photochemistry and artificial intelligence. It will shift toward greener synthesis, precise molecular fabrication, and intelligent reaction optimization, continuously driving innovations in pharmaceuticals, advanced materials, and life science. Therefore, its importance and prospects are both fundamental and far-reaching.

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

Prof. Lu: In my view, the biggest difficulty lies in finding problems that interest you and identifying the right starting point. I believe persistence is very important – never give up. Keep exploring simple, efficient, and practical synthetic systems, so that in the long run, you can develop your own distinctive research direction.

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

Prof. Lu: Based on confined electrocatalysis driven by electric field control, I put forward and systematically developed "paired oxidative and reductive catalysis", which integrates oxidative catalysis and reductive catalysis in an undivided cell, enabling high-value catalytic conversion of alkanes and alkyl alcohols, etc. This catalytic system fills a research gap in the field of paired electrocatalysis.

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

Prof. Lu: Outside of the lab, I enjoy playing badminton and cycling in my spare time. These two sports not only help me relax and relieve research pressure, but also keep me physically fit and mentally focused.