

Meet Dr. Gabriele Laudadio, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2026!



Dr. Gabriele Laudadio received his PhD in 2020 from Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands). He then briefly served as a postdoctoral fellow and group leader at the University of Amsterdam. In 2021, he joined the Scripps Research Institute (USA) as a Hewitt Foundation Fellow. Currently, he is a university assistant (principal investigator) at the University of Graz (Austria) and a key researcher at the Research Center Pharmaceutical Engineering GmbH (RCPE).

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

Dr. Laudadio: Since the beginning of my academic career, I have been fascinated by the idea of controlling radicals to discover reactivity, providing innovative ways to generate molecules. In particular, I like the concept of integrating new technologies such as electrochemistry and flow chemistry to unlock fundamentally new chemical behavior.

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

Dr. Laudadio: The focus of my research is the development of innovative electrochemical synthetic methodologies. As an organic chemist, I am dedicated to the understanding of chemical reactivity, leveraging the unique capabilities of electrochemistry to trigger unusual and exciting transformations. But reactivity is nothing without control: one priority of my group is to translate our discoveries to any reaction scale, from very small-scale to high-scale regimes. The integration of enabling tools such as machine learning and flow reactor technology helps us to bridge the gap between innovation and application, providing not only useful solutions, but also sustainable alternatives for the future of organic synthesis.

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

Dr. Laudadio: I believe organic chemistry plays a fundamental role in our society. From pharmaceuticals to materials and polymers, everything that we touch and see nowadays is somehow related to the ability of forging bonds. For sure, the world is changing fast, just think about the awareness of fossil fuel stock and the shift to biomass-derived materials. The advent of different technologies is also propelling profound reevaluations in the way we conceive science. But I see these changes more like an opportunity: how can we contribute to creating the chemistry of the future? As scientists, we should try to embrace the change and use it to augment our perception to understand chemistry better. If we will (cautiously) learn to merge technology with organic synthesis, the future cannot be anything but bright.

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

Dr. Laudadio: The beginning of an independent academic career is not easy. Nowadays, leading a research group goes far beyond simple research. The difficulties one may encounter are several: budgeting, mentoring, balancing time, and adjusting to department dynamics are the most relevant. My recommendation is to endure and believe in the idea of chemistry you have in your mind: science is about being stubborn and gathering data. Of course, most of the time a compromise needs to be reached to guarantee the well-being of the group. In this sense, a game-changer for me was to learn that, at a certain point in the academic career, you switch from a 100 m dash to a marathon. This put all the journey in a different perspective. Another piece of advice is that, as researchers, we research. Therefore, we are allowed to make mistakes, to 'fail'. But in reality, we always learn something from the negative results we obtain along the way.

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

Dr. Laudadio: The greatest achievement so far is to establish research lines. As I said, chasing dreams is important in science. Seeing these intuitions growing fills me with pride and fulfillment. For sure the best part is to share these achievements with my students, who are the people that make it happen.

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

Dr. Laudadio: When I am not in the lab, I spend most of my spare time with my son. I like to play with him a lot, I learn from him how to see the world in a different way. I also love to play table tennis, volleyball, or football. Otherwise, I read classics.