

**Meet Dr. Madavi S. Prasad,  
Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2026!**



**Dr. Madavi S. Prasad** earned his PhD from the University of Hyderabad (India) and became an assistant professor at the Central University of Tamil Nadu (India) in 2013. In July 2025, he moved to the University of Delhi to take up his current position of associate professor.

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

**Dr. Prasad:** I am particularly interested in asymmetric synthesis driven by aminocatalysis. My fascination with asymmetric synthesis originated from my initial studies in biochemistry during college. I have learnt that living systems utilize enzymes, specific protein catalysts, to facilitate reactions with outstanding efficiency and precise control over stereochemistry. What captivated me most was how nature is able to selectively form particular enantiomers with such accuracy.

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

**Dr. Prasad:** Current research interests of our group span around asymmetric remote functionalization via chiral amine catalysis using pot-economic protocols.

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

**Dr. Prasad:** The modern role of organic chemistry extends far beyond simply constructing carbon-carbon bonds. It now focuses on attaining a high degree of selectivity, maximizing efficiency, and ensuring sustainable protocols. The future lies in combining these principles with interdisciplinary approaches, such as computational methods and artificial intelligence, to optimize the design of catalysts, substrates, pharmaceuticals, and functional materials, thereby streamlining and speeding the discovery process.

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

**Dr. Prasad:** The major difficulties of young chemists in my field are the meagre availability and high cost of chiral ligands/catalysts/chiral stationary phase and HPLC, the need for high selectivity and reproducibility, the difficulty in scaling up of asymmetric reactions, and the meagre collaboration opportunities (DFT studies and medicinal efficacy studies). There is also a tremendous pressure to publish work, which directly affects the quality.

Tips: We have to have one short-term and one long-term research goal. A short-term goal can provide encouragement, consistent results and publications, and a long-term goal can give a clear pathway or purpose for a scientific breakthrough where progress is delayed.

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

**Dr. Prasad:** Our group's most significant scientific achievement has been developing an amine-catalyzed, pot-economic protocol for constructing the fluorine-incorporated core of aspidosperma alkaloids. This work utilized our in-house methodology for asymmetric remote [4+2]-annulation of pyrrolidine-tethered dienals, enabling a highly efficient and selective approach to the core structure of these complex natural products.

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

**Dr. Prasad:** Outside the lab, I enjoy going to the gym to maintain fitness and self-discipline. I also love travelling, as it helps me relax, stay inspired, and recharge mentally.