

Editorial Board Focus: Prof. Irene Izzo (Università degli Studi di Salerno, Italy)

Background and Purpose. From time to time, SYNFORM portraits Thieme Chemistry Editorial Board or Editorial Advisory Board members who answer several questions regarding their research interests and revealing their impressions and views on the developments in organic chemistry as a general research field. This Editorial Board Focus presents Prof. Irene Izzo (Università degli Studi di Salerno, Italy) who joined the Associate Board of *SynOpen* with effect of January 2023.

Biographical Sketch



Prof. I. Izzo

Irene Izzo received a Magna Cum Laude degree in chemistry in 1994 and a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Salerno (Italy) in 1998 (Dissertation title: "Synthesis of Biologically Active Marine Steroids and Cholestane Analogs." Thesis supervisor: Prof. Guido Sodano). In 1998 she received a post-doctoral fellowship, working at University "Louis Pasteur" of Strasbourg (France) in the Laboratoire de Stéréochimie (E.C.P.M.), tutored by Prof. Guy Solladié. Since March 2007 she has been an associate professor at the Department of Chemistry and Biology "A. Zambelli" of the University of Salerno. In 2008–2009 she was a visiting scientist at the Institute for Research in Biomedicine of Barcelona (Spain) in the group of Prof. Fernando Albericio. Since the academic year 2013–2014 she has been teaching in the second year of the "Chemistry and BioTechnology" (ChemBioTech Master) at the University of Strasbourg (France), organized by the École européenne de chimie, polymères et matériaux (ECPM) and the Strasbourg School for Biotechnology (ESBS), a course devoted to the Solid-Phase Synthesis of Biomacromolecules. She has also been Erasmus Departmental Coordinator since 2014. In 2018 she received the national Italian habilitation as full professor. Her field of research is the total synthesis and semisynthesis of bioactive natural products (mainly marine steroids and cyclopeptides) and their analogues. She is also involved in the synthesis of artificial ion channels and peptidomimetics, in particular cyclic peptoids. She is author of more than 90 articles, 4 book chapters and more than 90 communications to national and international congresses.

INTERVIEW

SYNFORM *You are a leading researcher in the field of organic synthesis. Could you tell us more about the importance of that field and your current research activities?*

Prof. I. Izzo The art of organic synthesis has been the basis for the scientific developments of the 21st century in several research fields: medicine, materials science and biology. Constantly we should be able to face new challenges to improve the quality of life in a global world and to make a fairer and more sustainable life for all citizens of our planet. Organic synthesis, in combination with other fields of chemistry, physics, engineering, biology and medicine, will be a fundamental tool in this context. I am interested in total synthesis of natural products (in prevalence of marine origin) and their analogues and in the design and synthesis of peptidomimetics with a macrocyclic structure (cyclic peptoids). Our aim is to obtain compounds which could be useful as bioactive agents, as environmentally safe catalysts, and as molecular scaffolds in materials science.

SYNFORM *Please comment on your role as an Associate Editor of SynOpen.*

Prof. I. Izzo I will involve women and young researchers as authors, promoting their contribution in a "fast, fair, and flexible" open access in different topics of organic synthesis.

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

Prof. I. Izzo I believe that to be a good scientist, you must open your mind to the social and cultural aspects of life, learning from cultures far from ourselves. That's why I love traveling and reading. Moreover, I am continually searching for the beauty of the world around us and I try to capture it with photography and drawing.

Mattia Fenu