

## Editorial Board Focus: Prof. Dr. Ognjen S. Miljanic (University of Houston, USA)

**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. Dr. Ognjen S. Miljanic (University of Houston, USA) who joined the Editorial Board of Organic Materials with effect of January 2023.

### Biographical Sketch



Prof. Dr. O.S. Miljanic

**Ognjen S. Miljanic** was born in Belgrade, then Yugoslavia, in 1978. He attended the University of Belgrade, from which he graduated in 2000 with a Diploma in Chemistry. In the same year, he moved to California (USA) to pursue his PhD at UC Berkeley with Prof. Peter Vollhardt. After graduating from Berkeley in 2005, he moved to UCLA (USA) for postdoctoral work with Prof. Fraser Stoddart. Since 2008, he has been a faculty member at the University of Houston (USA), where he is currently a Professor of Chemistry. Ognjen's research interests are in the field of porous molecular crystals, dynamic combinatorial chemistry, and macrocyclic chemistry. He has published over 90 papers and a textbook on Introduction to Energy and Sustainability (Wiley, 2021), and has given more than 120 invited lectures at universities and conferences in 28 countries. For his work, he has been honored with a National Science Foundation CAREER award, a Cottrell Scholar award, and an Alexander von Humboldt fellowship for advanced researchers, among other distinctions. He lives in Houston with his three children.

common ideas. As the journal is quite new, there is a lot of excitement as we jointly bring in new authors and their excellent contributions. In addition, it is just personally rewarding to be a member of the Thieme Chemistry family. My first paper was published in SYNLETT some 20 years ago – it is still among the most highly cited ones!

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

**Prof. Dr. O.S. Miljanic** I started my training as an organic chemist, before becoming more and more interested in the materials side of things. Building organic materials allows the use of the immense versatility of organic chemistry – with its continuously expanding arsenal of reactions and an almost limitless diversity of structures – to tackle virtually any technological problem of modern society. Our group has been particularly interested in building porous organic materials, which are based on small molecules that self-assemble into structures with numerous microscopic voids. We use these materials to capture greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, hydrofluorocarbons, and various fluorinated anesthetics.

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

**Prof. Dr. O.S. Miljanic** I think that my hobbies are quite diverse, much like my research interests. I enjoy cooking (and eating!), playing water polo, dancing Argentine tango, and traveling the world. As my kids are getting older, I get to share some of these hobbies with them, which is truly a blessing!

*Ognjen S. Miljanic*

### INTERVIEW

**SYNFORM** *Please comment on your role as a member of the Editorial Board of Organic Materials.*

**Prof. Dr. O.S. Miljanic** Being an Associate Editor of Organic Materials is a wonderful opportunity to influence the community and have these like-minded researchers coalesce around