

Editorial Board Focus: Prof. Hongli Bao (Fujian Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter, CAS, P. R. of China)

Background and Purpose. 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. Hongli Bao (Fujian Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter, CAS, P. R. of China) who joined the Editorial Board of SYNTHESIS with effect of January 2022.

Biographical Sketch



Prof. H. Bao

Hongli Bao graduated from a joint program of the University of Science and Technology of China and the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry and received her PhD in 2008, with Professor Kuiling Ding as mentor. She then moved to the USA and worked in Professor Uttam Tambar's lab in The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center from 2009 to 2013 as a postdoctoral researcher. After four years there, she moved to Fuzhou at the end of 2013 where she is now a group leader and Professor of the Structure of Matter, at the Fujian Institute of Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Her research interests include radical chemistry, asymmetric catalysis, and reactions and synthesis under extremely challenging conditions.

INTERVIEW

SYNFORM *How do you describe the value of a product such as SYNTHESIS to the chemistry community?*

Prof. H. Bao One of my good friends said that the name of SYNTHESIS is similar to *Science* and *Nature*: pithy, powerful, and elegant. I agree with him. SYNTHESIS is one of my favorite journals, and in the last 52 years it has published so many classic organic reactions. It will continue to publish good work from this field and serve the chemistry community powerfully.

SYNFORM *What do you think about the modern role and prospects of synthetic chemistry?*

Prof. H. Bao Synthetic chemistry is the foundation of many disciplines, including materials science, pharmacology, and the life sciences. It is fundamentally important in the further development of science and technology. Some people may think that synthetic chemistry is a tool for other scientific disciplines, but I believe synthetic chemistry could still be the engine for advances in science and technology, because it is the most creative discipline.

SYNFORM *What is the focus of your current research activities?*

Prof. H. Bao We are exploring the boundaries of some radical reactions. Solving difficult and important problems is our interest, and we try to find answers to the questions that no one could answer previously.

SYNFORM *What would you consider your most important scientific achievement to date and why?*

Prof. H. Bao Our most important work to date is the development of important radical reactions under extreme conditions. One way to understand the term 'free radical' is that it is a free, reactive chemical intermediate that is not easy to control. One of our goals is to control its reactivity under extremely challenging conditions, and to some extent, we have achieved this goal. A further goal is to utilize the 'freedom' of radicals to develop 'miracle reactions'. We are pursuing this goal and expect to disclose our results soon.

Mattes Fank