

M. G. Finn

Date of birth:	October 23, 1958
Nationality:	American
Position:	Professor of Chemistry, The Scripps Research Institute (USA)
Education:	1976–1980 B.S. in Chemistry, California Institute of Technology 1980–1986 Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry with K.B. Sharpless, “The Mechanism of Titanium-Tartrate Catalyzed Asymmetric Epoxidation”, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) 1986–88 Postdoctoral research with James P. Collman, Stanford University (USA)
Current research interests:	Chemical and genetic engineering of functional virus-like particles; click chemistry, including mechanism and optimization of the copper-catalyzed azide-alkyne cycloaddition reaction; target-templated synthesis of enzyme inhibitors and antiviral agents; bioconjugation and materials chemistry; carbohydrate immunology; new methods of enzyme evolution.
Hobbies:	Playing and listening to jazz and latin music, cooking, theatre, basketball



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I chose chemistry as a career because... I loved working in a lab. I stay because I love thinking about it.

The biggest problem that scientists face is... that too few are in positions of political influence.

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be... Charles Darwin, Louis Pasteur, and Primo Levi.

If I wasn't a scientist, I would be... the proprietor of a jazz club.

The part of my job which I enjoy the most is... talking with the people in my group.

The most groundbreaking discovery in science in the past century has been... the polymerase chain reaction: the scientific world after PCR was simply unimaginable to those practicing science before it.

My favourite author (fiction) is... John Steinbeck, if only because of “thou mayest...”.

My favourite author (science) is... Richard Dawkins.

My favourite book is... “Out of Control” by Kevin Kelly.

My favourite musician/band/composer is... The Spanish Harlem Orchestra, although this changes without notice.



My five top papers:

1. “Click Chemistry: Diverse Chemical Function from a Few Good Reactions”: H. C. Kolb, M. G. Finn, K. B. Sharpless, *Angew. Chem.* **2001**, *113*, 2056–2075; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2001**, *40*, 2004–2021.
2. “Icosahedral Virus Particles as Addressable Nanoscale Building Blocks”: Q. Wang, T. Lin, L. Tang, J. E. Johnson, M. G. Finn, *Angew. Chem.* **2002**, *114*, 477–480; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 459–462—featured on the cover (see above right).
3. “Click Chemistry In situ: Acetylcholinesterase as a Reaction Vessel for the Selective Assembly of a Femtomolar Inhibitor from an Array of Building Blocks”: W. G. Lewis, L. G. Green, F. Grynspan, Z. Radic, P. R. Carlier, P. Taylor, M. G. Finn, K. B. Sharpless, *Angew. Chem.* **2002**, *114*, 1095–1099; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 1053–1057.
4. “Click Chemistry in Materials Synthesis. 1. Adhesive Polymers from Copper-Catalyzed Azide-Alkyne Cycloaddition”: D. D. Díaz, S. Punna, P. Holzer, A. K. McPherson, K. B. Sharpless, V. V. Fokin, M. G. Finn, *J. Polym. Sci. Part A: Polym. Chem.* **2004**, *42*, 4392–4403.
5. “Anti-Carbohydrate Antibodies Elicited by Polyvalent Display on a Viral Scaffold”: E. Kaltgrad, S. Sen Gupta, S. Punna, C.-Y. Huang, A. Chang, C.-H. Wong, M. G. Finn, O. Blixt, *ChemBioChem* **2007**, *8*, 1455–1462.

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th** article since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*:

Q. Zhang, X. Ma, A. Ward, W.-X. Hong, V.-P. Jaakola, R. C. Stevens, M. G. Finn, G. Chang, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 7153–7155; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *37*, 7023–7025.

...and has featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*:

Q. Wang, T. Lin, L. Tang, J. E. Johnson, M. G. Finn, *Angew. Chem.* **2002**, *114*, 477–480; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 459–462 (see above).

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