



T. Wirth

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*: “Green Chemistry with Selenium Reagents: Development of Efficient Catalytic Reactions”: D. M. Freudentahl, S. Santoro, S. A. Shahzad, C. Santi, T. Wirth, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 8559–8562; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 8409–8411.

Thomas Wirth

Date of birth:	August 4 th , 1964
Position:	Professor of Organic Chemistry, School of Chemistry, Cardiff University (UK)
Education:	1984–1989 Student of Chemistry, Bonn University (Germany) 1989–1992 PhD in Organic Chemistry with Prof. Siegfried Blechert, Technical University of Berlin (Germany) 1992–1993 Postdoctoral fellow with Prof. Kaoru Fuji, Kyoto University (Japan)
Professional associations:	1994–1999 Habilitation with Prof. Bernd Giese, University of Basel (Switzerland) 1999 Visiting scientist at the University of Toronto (Canada) 2000 Visiting scientist at Chuo University in Tokyo (Japan) 2004 Visiting professor at Osaka University (Japan) 2008 Visiting professor at Osaka Prefecture University (Japan) 2000–Present Cardiff University (UK)
Awards:	1992 Studienabschlußstipendium, Fonds of the German Chemical Industry; 2000 Werner Preis, New Swiss Chemical Society
Current research interests:	Oxidations: hypervalent iodine chemistry; Stereoselective synthesis: development of chiral electrophilic reagents (selenium, iodine) for alkene functionalization; Microreactor technology: access to unusual reaction conditions enabling new chemistry
Hobbies:	Skiing, cycling, performing house and garden improvements

I chose chemistry as a career because ... I like to do experiments myself. Nowadays, this is unfortunately rarely the case.

My biggest inspiration is ... a completely unexpected result from a seemingly straightforward experiment.

If I could be a piece of lab equipment, I would be ... a stirrer bar. I would have more spare time because most chemistry will soon be performed in microreactors, and flasks with stirrer bars are only occasionally used.

My favorite subject at school was ... chemistry!

When I wake up I ... perform extractions with boiling water (i.e., make breakfast for my family).

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be ... Werner Heisenberg, Marie Curie, and Robert B. Woodward.

In one of my first experiments ... I smoked a cigarette within four seconds with the help of a vacuum cleaner. Another experiment left a big black circle on the lawn in the garden.

If I were not a scientist, I would be ... a woodworker.

In ten years time I will be ... hopefully still able to think of new experiments.

My favorite food is ... anything made out of dark chocolate.

My 5 top papers:

1. “Mechanistic Course of the Asymmetric Methoxyseleenylation Reaction”: T. Wirth, G. Fragale, M. Spichy, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 3376–3381.
2. “Selenocyclizations: Control by Coordination and by the Counterion”: S. S. Khokhar, T. Wirth, *Angew. Chem.* **2004**, *116*, 641–643; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, *43*, 631–633.
3. “Enhancement of Reaction Rates by Segmented Fluid Flow in Capillary Scale Reactors”: B. Ahmed, D. Barrow, T. Wirth, *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2006**, *348*, 1043–1048.
4. “Tetrafluoro-IBA and -IBX: Hypervalent Iodine Reagents”: R. D. Richardson, J. M. Zayed, S. Altermann, D. Smith, T. Wirth, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 6649–6652; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 6529–6532.
5. “Fast Synthesis of Benzofluorenes by Selenium-Mediated Carbocyclizations”: S. A. Shahzad, T. Wirth, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 2626–2628; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 2588–2591.

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