



A. Alexakis

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

"Enantioselective One-Pot Organocatalytic Michael Addition/Gold-Catalyzed Tandem Acetalization/Cyclization": S. Belot, K. A. Vogt, C. Besnard, N. Krause, A. Alexakis, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, 121, 9085–9088; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 8923–8926.

Alexandre Alexakis

Date of birth:	July 22nd, 1949
Position:	Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of Geneva (Switzerland)
Education:	1967–1970 Ms in Biochemistry, University of Paris 6 (France) 1970–1975 PhD with Prof. J. F. Normant, University of Paris 6 1976–1977 Postdoc with Prof. G. H. Posner, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (USA)
Awards:	1994 Silver Medal of the CNRS, 2002 Novartis Lectureship Award
Current research interests:	Asymmetric synthesis and methodologies by using both metal (particularly copper reagents) and nonmetallic catalysts (organocatalysis); Chiral bases and chiral protonation reagents; Development of new reactions and new methodologies for organic synthesis; Design of new chiral ligands, particularly the ones derived from C2 symmetrical diamines and diols; Application to the synthesis of natural products
Hobbies:	Reading history books and listening to classical music

My biggest motivation is ... curiosity.

The most significant advance in chemistry in the last hundred years has been ... catalysis, any catalysis.

My favorite subject at school was ... history.

When I was eighteen I wanted to be ... a biochemist.

My first experiment was ... in the kitchen of my parents.

The most exciting thing about my research is ... having a group of young students.

In my spare time I ... read history books and listening to music.

In ten years time I will be ... retired!

The part of my job which I enjoy the most is ... teaching.

A good work day begins with ... a good cup of coffee.

My favorite food is ... grilled octopus.

My favorite book is ... Thucydides.

My favorite musicians and composers are ... David Oistrakh and Sviatoslav Richter (musicians) and Brahms, Satie, Poulenc, and Prokofiev (composers).

My favorite piece of music is ... Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 23, Andante".

My worst habit is ... smoking.

The biggest problem that chemists face is ... explaining chemistry to nonchemists.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Enantioselective Copper-Catalyzed Conjugate Addition to Trisubstituted Cyclohexenones: Construction of Stereogenic Quaternary Centers": M. d'Augustin, L. Palais, A. Alexakis *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, 117, 1400–1402; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, 44, 1376–1378.
2. "A Highly Effective Phosphoramidite Ligand for the Asymmetric Allylic Substitution": K. Tissot-Croset, D. Polet, A. Alexakis *Angew. Chem.* **2004**, 116, 2480–2482; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, 43, 2426–2428.
3. "Diamine-Catalyzed Asymmetric Michael Additions of Aldehydes and Ketones to Nitrostyrene": A. Alexakis, O. Andrey *Org. Lett.* **2002**, 4, 3611–3614.
4. "Chiral Phosphorus Ligands for the Asymmetric Conjugate Addition of Organocopper Reagents": A. Alexakis, J. Frutos, P. Mangeney, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **1993**, 4, 2427–2430.
5. "Dérivés Organocuvieux Vinyliques. VII. Addition de l'Acétylène sur des Cuprates Lithiens: Synthèse d'Homo et d'Hétéro-Vinyl-Cuprates (Z)": A. Alexakis, J. F. Normant, J. Villiéras *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1976**, 17, 3461–3462.

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201000195