



D. Milstein

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*:
 “Direct Synthesis of Imines from Alcohols and Amines with Liberation of H₂”: B. Gnanaprakasam, J. Zhang, D. Milstein, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, 122, 1510–1513; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, 49, 1468–1471.

David Milstein

Date of birth:	June 4, 1947
Position:	Professor of Chemistry and Head of the Kimmel Center for Molecular Design, the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot (Israel)
Education:	1965–1968 BSc, Hebrew University, Jerusalem (Israel) 1969 MSc, Hebrew University, Jerusalem 1973–1976 PhD with Prof. Blum, Hebrew University, Jerusalem 1977–1978 Postdoc with Prof. Stille, Colorado State University, Colorado (USA)
Professional associations:	1979–1986 DuPont Co., CR&D dept, USA 1987–Present Weizmann Institute of Science
Awards:	2002 Kolthoff Award, 2006 Israel Chemical Society Prize, 2007 ACS Organometallic Chemistry Award, 2006–Present Member of the German Academy of Science Leopoldina
Current research interests:	Development of fundamental organometallic chemistry and its application to the design of new processes catalyzed by transition-metal complexes. Special emphasis is placed on fundamentally new reactions for sustainable chemical synthesis and renewable energy resources
Hobbies:	Swimming, hiking, gardening, classical music

The biggest problem that scientists face is ... funding and public recognition of the importance of basic research.

If I could be anyone for a day, I would be ... the finance minister of our country. This would be a marvelous opportunity to be very generous towards the universities in our country.

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be ... Aristotle, Newton, and Einstein. I am sure that a lively discussion would arise, although accommodating the different food preferences might be challenging.

The three things I would take to a desert island would be ... a boat and fishing pole, several CDs including Beethoven's nine symphonies, and my laptop (solar powered and satellite connected).

I chose chemistry as a career because ... of an enthusiastic, old-fashioned chemistry teacher who didn't care much about orbitals, but could get the class excited with vivid, thought-provoking experiments. Intrigued, I tried some experiments on my own, which, surprisingly, worked. The love and dedication of the teacher to chemistry was inspirational.

If I were not scientist, I would be ... a ship skipper. I love the sea, which can be relaxing, very challenging, and unpredictable. Sometimes like chemistry.

The secret of being a successful scientist is ... to concentrate on issues that you believe can make a difference, rather than follow “low-barrier” directions. Resist being influenced by fashions and buzzwords.

The best advice I have ever been given is ... always be optimistic. Israel's president, Shimon Peres, who is known for his optimism, recently said “optimistic and pessimistic people die in the same way, but live very differently.”

The worst advice I have ever been given was ... avoid taking risks in life; it is better to be safe than sorry (and I am not talking about safety).

The most significant advance in chemistry in the last hundred years has been ... the formulation of the nature of the chemical bond by L. Pauling, G. N. Lewis, E. Hückel, and others.

My 5 top papers:

1. “Activation of a Carbon-Carbon Bond in Solution by Transition-Metal Insertion”: M. Gozin, A. Weisman, Y. Ben-David, D. Milstein, *Nature*, **1993**, 364, 699–701.
2. “Catalytic Activation of Carbon-Fluorine Bonds by a Soluble Transition-Metal Complex”: M. Aizenberg, D. Milstein, *Science*, **1994**, 265, 359–361.
3. “Direct Synthesis of Amides from Alcohols and Amines with Liberation of H₂”: C. Gunanathan, Y. Ben-David, D. Milstein, *Science*, **2007**, 317, 790–792.
4. “Evidence for a Terminal Pt(IV)-Oxo Complex Exhibiting Diverse Reactivity”: E. Poverenov, I. Efremenko, A. I. Frenkel, Y. Ben-David, L. J. W. Shimon, G. Leituss, L. Konstantinovski, J. M. L. Martin, D. Milstein, *Nature*, **2008**, 455, 1093–1096.
5. “Consecutive Thermal H₂ and Light-Induced O₂ Evolution from Water Promoted by a Metal Complex”: S. W. Kohl, L. Weiner, L. Schwartsburd, L. Konstantinovski, L. J. W. Shimon, Y. Ben David, M. A. Iron, D. Milstein, *Science* **2009**, 324, 74–77.

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