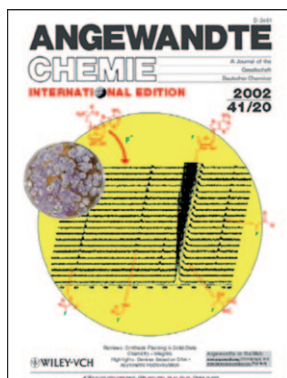




D. O'Hagan

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*: "Halomethane biosynthesis: Structure of a SAM-dependent halide methyltransferase from *Arabidopsis thaliana*": J. W. Schmidberger, A. B. James, R. Edwards, J. H. Naismith, D. O'Hagan, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *49*, 3728–3730; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 3646–3648.



D. O'Hagan has been featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*: "Cell-Free Biosynthesis of Fluoroacetate and 4-Fluorothreonine in *Streptomyces cattleya*": C. Schaffrath, S. L. Cobb, D. O'Hagan, *Angew. Chem.* **2002**, *114*, 4069–4071; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 3913–3915.

## David O'Hagan

<b>Date of birth:</b>	September 29, 1961
<b>Position:</b>	Professor and Head of Organic Chemistry, School of Chemistry and Centre for Biomolecular Sciences, University of St Andrews (UK)
<b>Education:</b>	1978–1982 BSc University of Glasgow (UK) 1982–1985 PhD University of Southampton with Prof. J. A. Robinson 1985–1986 Postdoc with Prof. Heinz G. Floss, Ohio State University (USA) 1986–2000 Department of Chemistry, University of Durham (UK) 2000–present School of Chemistry, University of St Andrews
<b>Awards:</b>	<b>2004</b> Elected Fellow Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE), <b>2005</b> RSC Malcolm Campbell Memorial Prize and Medal, <b>2006</b> RSC Tilden Lectureship and Medal, <b>2009</b> RSC Natural Product Reports Award
<b>Current research interests:</b>	Synthesis and properties of fluorinated compounds, with a special emphasis on understanding and predicting the influence of introducing fluorine into organic molecules; exploration and biosynthesis of rare fluorinated natural products and isolation and characterization of a bacterial enzyme (fluorinase) that catalyses C–F bond formation; use of $^{18}\text{F}$ isotope for PET imaging
<b>Hobbies:</b>	Golf, Munro (Scottish mountains over 3000 feet) climbing, and reading biographies

**When I was eighteen I wanted to ...** to play football for Scotland.

**The greatest scientific advance of the last 50 years ...** is the way biology is becoming a molecular science (chemistry).

**My favorite piece of research is ...** the elucidation of the DNA double helix (1953). When I am in Cambridge I always try to get to "The Eagle" pub where Watson and Crick rushed in and shouted that they had found the secret of life.

**The three qualities that make a good scientist are ...** intellectual versatility, talented co-workers, and maintaining funding.

**If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be ...** Charles Darwin, Sir Robert Robinson (British organic chemist, Nobel prize 1947), and Henri Moissan (French scientist who isolated elemental fluorine, Nobel prize 1906).

**And I would ask them ...** "Did you have any idea how far reaching your insights would be?" I expect the answers would be "Oh God!", "Yes", and "No", in that order.

**My biggest inspiration is ...** successful colleagues and students. I enjoy observing how they develop their science, motivate themselves, the passion they exude, and how they tick. There are many ways to succeed and I try to learn from them all the time. Watching Sir Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, is also an inspiration.

**The secret of being a successful scientist is ...** to create and sustain an enthusiastic laboratory, to recruit young talented scientists and allow them freedom to express themselves technically and intellectually against an awareness of the international standard. To me it is like football; the team can achieve moments of unexpected creativity if they are skilled, empowered and have a passion to win.

### My 5 top papers:

1. "Biochemistry: Biosynthesis of an Organofluorine Molecule": D. O'Hagan, C. Schaffrath, S. L. Cobb, J. T. G. Hamilton, C. D. Murphy, *Nature* **2002**, *416*, 279.
2. "Crystal Structure and Mechanism of a Bacterial Fluorinating Enzyme": C. Dong, F. Huang, H. Deng, C. Schaffrath, J. B. Spencer, D. O'Hagan, J. H. Naismith, *Nature* **2004**, *427*, 561–565.
3. "Identification of a PLP-Dependent Threonine Transaldolase: A Novel Enzyme Involved in 4-Fluorothreonine Biosynthesis in *Streptomyces cattleya*": C. D. Murphy, D. O'Hagan, C. Schaffrath, *Angew. Chem.* **2001**, *113*, 4611–4613; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2001**, *40*, 4479–4481.
4. "S-Adenosyl-L-methionine:Hydroxide Adenosyltransferase: A SAM Enzyme?": H. Deng, C. H. Botting, J. T. G. Hamilton, R. J. M. Russell, D. O'Hagan, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 5437–5441; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 5357–5361.
5. "Synthesis and Structure of Stereoisomeric Multivincinal Hexafluoroalkanes": L. Hunter, P. Kirsch, A. M. Z. Slawin, D. O'Hagan, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 5565–5568; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 5457–5460.

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