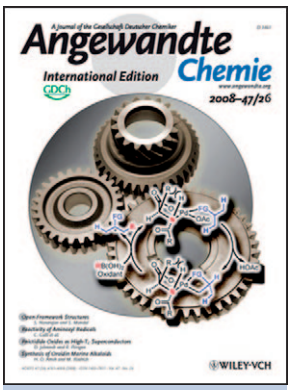
J.-Q. Yu

*The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in Angewandte Chemie:* "Bystanding F^+ Oxidants Enable Selective Reductive Elimination from High-Valent Metal Centers in Catalysis": K. M. Engle, T.-S. Mei, X. Wang, J.-Q. Yu, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 1514–1528; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 1478–1491.



The work of J.-Q. Yu has been featured on the cover of Angewandte Chemie: "Pd^{II}-Catalyzed Enantioselective Activation of $C(sp^2)$–H and $C(sp^3)$–H Bonds Using Monoprotected Amino Acids as Chiral Ligands": B.-F. Shi, N. Maugel, Y.-H. Zhang, J.-Q. Yu, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 4960–4964; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 4882–4886.

Jin-Quan Yu

Date of birth:	January 10, 1966
Position:	Professor of Chemistry
E-mail:	yu200@scripps.edu
Homepage:	http://www.scripps.edu/chem/yu/
Education:	1982–1987 BSc in Chemistry, East China Normal University, Shanghai (China) 1988–1990 MSc with Professor Shude Xiao, Guangzhou Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou (China) 1994–1999 PhD with Dr. J. B. Spencer, University of Cambridge (UK) 2001 Postdoc with Professor E. J. Corey, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts (USA)
Awards:	**2008** Sloan Research Fellowship; **2008** Amgen Young Investigator Award; **2008** Eli Lilly Grantee Award; **2010** Novartis Young Investigator Award; **2011** 7th Hirata Memorial Lectureship Award, Nagoya University
Current research interests:	Development of practical directing groups and novel ligands for enantio- and position-selective C–H activation reactions; application of these reactions as new retrosynthetic disconnections in total synthesis and drug discovery
Hobbies:	Soccer, badminton, classical Chinese music

What I look for first in a publication is … a surprising phenomenon.

The most important thing I learned from my parents is … not to give up.

In my opinion, the word "scientist" means … someone who seeks to understand any phenomenon using either established logic or developing new logic through experiments.

My favorite place on earth would be … a soccer field, where my son Tony and I are dribbling the ball together.

I chose chemistry as a career because … I feel more comfortable with molecules than equations.

My best investment was … hands-on training of my first couple of students.

My worst nightmare came true when … my first two independent papers were rejected in 2004, which almost changed the direction of my research.

My biggest motivation is … to develop reactions that will be scaled up to multi-ton scale in industry.

The best advice I have ever been given is … that "99.9% of reactions remain to be discovered".

I can never resist … asking a question if I don't understand something.

The downside of my job is … the lack of sufficient funding to exploit risky ideas.

The most amusing chemistry adventure in my career was … to perform high-molarity-driven C–H activation in a diamond cell under 100000 atm pressure at Brandeis University with Professor Iu-Yam Chan and Professor Li Deng.

My favorite food is … Chinese New Year noodles cooked by my mother.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Palladium-Catalyzed Asymmetric Iodination of Unactivated C–H Bonds under Mild Conditions": R. Giri, X. Chen, J.-Q. Yu, *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, *117*, 2150–2153; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 2112–2115. (Established a generally applicable stereomodel for catalytic asymmetric $C(sp^3)$–H activations using chiral auxiliaries.)
2. "Palladium-Catalyzed Alkylation of Aryl C–H Bonds with sp^3 Organotin Reagents Using Benzoquinone as a Crucial Promoter": X. Chen, J.-J. Li, X.-S. Hao, C. E. Goodhue, J.-Q. Yu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 78–79. (Established for the first time the viability of Pd^{II}-catalyzed C–H/R–M cross-coupling).
3. "Cu(II)-Catalyzed Functionalizations of Aryl C–H Bonds Using O_2 as an Oxidant": X. Chen, X.-S. Hao, C. E. Goodhue, J.-Q. Yu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 6790–6791. (Demonstrated the potential of Cu^{II} catalysts for C–H functionalization reactions).
4. "Pd^{II}-Catalyzed Enantioselective Activation of $C(sp^2)$–H and $C(sp^3)$–H Bonds Using Monoprotected Amino Acids as Chiral Ligands": B.-F. Shi, N. Maugel, Y.-H. Zhang, J.-Q. Yu, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 4960–4964; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 4882–4886. (Established the first class of chiral ligands for enantioselective palladation of prochiral C–H bonds).
5. "Pd(II)-Catalyzed Olefination of Electron-Deficient Arenes Using 2,6-Dialkylpyridine Ligands": Y.-H. Zhang, B.-F. Shi, J.-Q. Yu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 5072–5074. (Demonstrated a ligand capable of promoting a nondirected Pd^{II}-catalyzed C–H activation reaction).

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