K. Itami

*The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in Angewandte Chemie*: "Concise Synthesis and Crystal Structure of [12]Cycloparaphenylene": Y. Segawa, S. Miyamoto, H. Omachi, S. Matsuura, P. Šenel, T. Sasamori, N. Tokitoh, K. Itami, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 3302 – 3306; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 3244 – 3248.

Kenichiro Itami

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Education:	1994 Undergraduate studies with Prof. Hisanobu Ogoshi, Kyoto University (Japan) 1997–1998 Exchange student with Prof. Jan E. Bäckvall, Uppsala University (Sweden) 1998 PhD with Prof. Yoshihiko Ito, Kyoto University
Awards:	**2005** The Chemical Society of Japan Award for Young Chemists; **2005** Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award of Encouragement; **2006** Minister Award for Distinguished Young Scientists from MEXT, Japan; **2008** Merck–Banyu Lectureship Award
Current research interests:	The main emphasis of our research is on the development of new synthetic methods, strategies, and concepts to solve challenging synthetic problems, realizing ideal chemical synthesis, and for generating as-yet unexplored molecules of significant interest. Representative projects include 1) new reactions and catalysts for C–H bond transformation, 2) programmed chemical synthesis, 3) biologically active molecules and natural products, 4) optoelectronic materials, and 5) nanocarbon materials.
Hobbies:	Cars, hard rock, and visiting hot springs (onsen)

The biggest problem that scientists face is … the efficient utilization of solar energy.

If I won the lottery, I would … buy as many sports cars of all kinds as possible.

The most important thing I learned from my parents is … "Work hard! Play harder! Dream even more!", which became the slogan of my research group.

If I were not a scientist, I would be … a much better husband and father.

My most exciting discovery to date has been … the finding of amazing similarity in connecting molecules and connecting people; this is what my research and life is all about.

My biggest motivation is … the joy associated with my endeavors toward making molecules and inspiring students.

When I'm frustrated I … get into my car, turn on my favorite music, drive hard, and then jump into a hot spring (onsen).

My favorite pieces of music are by … Guns N' Roses, Van Halen, Queen, Helloween, and Mozart.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Multisubstituted Olefins: Platform Synthesis and Applications to Materials Science and Pharmaceutical Chemistry": K. Itami, J. Yoshida, *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **2006**, *79*, 811 – 824. (We have focused on multisubstituted olefins motivated by synthetic challenges as well as potential applications to many areas.)
2. "Direct C–H Arylation of (Hetero)arenes with Aryl Iodides via Rhodium Catalysis": S. Yanagisawa, T. Sudo, R. Noyori, K. Itami, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 11748 – 11749. (This is the first paper from my time in Nagoya that describes the development of new rhodium catalyst that bear a strongly π-accepting ligand, $P[OCH(CF_3)_2]_3$, for the direct C–H arylation of (hetero)arenes with aryl iodides.)
3. "Programmed Synthesis of Tetraarylthiophenes through Sequential C–H Arylation": S. Yanagisawa, K. Ueda, H. Sekizawa, K. Itami, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 14622 – 14623. (Three years after we reported the above-mentioned initial foray into this area, we developed a general protocol for the programmed synthesis of tetraarylthiophenes through regioselective sequential C–H bond arylations.)
4. "Regioselective Unsymmetrical Tetraallylation of C_{60} through Palladium Catalysis": M. Nambo, A. Wakamiya, S. Yamaguchi, K. Itami, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 15112 – 15113. (This is one of my favorite papers describing a Pd-catalyzed tetraallylation of C_{60} that selectively occurs with an unsymmetrical addition pattern.)
5. "Selective Synthesis of [12]Cycloparaphenylene": H. Takaba, H. Omachi, Y. Yamamoto, J. Bouffard, K. Itami, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 6228 – 6232; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 6112 – 6116. (This is our first paper in the project aiming at a bottom-up organic synthesis of structurally uniform carbon nanotubes. In this paper we established a modular synthesis of cycloparaphenylene, a short segment of armchair carbon nanotubes.)

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