M. Inoue

*The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in Angewandte Chemie*: "Functional Analysis of Synthetic Substructures of Polytheonamide B: A Transmembrane Channel-Forming Peptide": S. Matsuoka, N. Shinohara, T. Takahashi, M. Iida, M. Inoue, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 4981 – 4985; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 4879 – 4883.

Masayuki Inoue

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Education:	1989–1993 BSc in Chemistry, The University of Tokyo (Japan) 1993–1998 PhD with Professor Kazuo Tachibana, The University of Tokyo (Japan) 1998–2000 Postdoc with Professor Samuel J. Danishefsky, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York (USA)
Awards:	**2004** First Merck-Banyu Lectureship Award; **2004** The Chemical Society of Japan Award for Young Chemists; **2007** Novartis Chemistry Lectureship; **2008** Asian Core Program Lectureship Award; **2009** 5th JSPS Prize
Current research interests:	Development of new synthetic methodologies for total synthesis; total synthesis of highly oxygenated polycyclic natural products; total synthesis and functional analysis of ion-channel-forming molecules; synthesis of new artificial molecules by modification of natural-product templates
Hobbies:	Cycling, reading novels

What I look for first in a publication is … architecturally beautiful structures.

My favorite piece of research is … R. B. Woodward's total synthesis of reserpine.

I like refereeing because … I can be a part of the efforts in formulating the forefront of contemporary chemistry.

The most important thing I learned from my parents is … integrity.

My best investment was … choosing Profs. Tachibana, Danishefsky, and Hirama as my mentors.

The most exciting thing about my research is … to apply simple strategies to build complex molecules.

The best advice I have ever been given is … "The difference between persistence and stubbornness is success" (S. J. Danishefsky).

A good work day begins with … getting on a not-so-crowded commuter train.

My favorite authors (fiction) are … Haruki Murakami and Paul Auster.

My top three films of all time are … Manhattan (W. Allen), Pulp Fiction (Q. Tarantino), and Magnolia (P. T. Anderson).

My 5 top papers:

1. "Total Synthesis of Ciguatoxin and 51-HydroxyCTX3C": M. Inoue, K. Miyazaki, Y. Ishihara, A. Tatami, Y. Ohnuma, Y. Kawada, K. Komano, S. Yamashita, N. Lee, M. Hirama, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 9352 – 9354. (Two ciguatoxins were synthesized in a highly convergent fashion from the two halves of the molecules by using direct construction of the O,S-acetals and chemo- and stereoselective radical cyclization.)
2. "Total Synthesis and Bioactivity of an Unnatural Enantiomer of Merrilactone A: Development of an Enantioselective Desymmetrization Strategy": M. Inoue, N. Lee, S. Kasuya, T. Sato, M. Hirama, M. Moriyama, Y. Fukuyama, *J. Org. Chem.* **2007**, *72*, 3065 – 3075. (A novel desymmetrization strategy was developed: a single enantioselective transannular aldol reaction of eight-membered *meso*-diketone established the absolute stereochemistries of four chiral carbon atoms of merrilactone A.)
3. "Total Synthesis of the C-1027 Chromophore Core. Extremely Facile Enediyne Formation via SmI_2-Mediated 1,2-Elimination": M. Inoue, I. Ohashi, T. Kawaguchi, M. Hirama, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 1801 – 1803; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 1777 – 1779. (The newly developed extremely facile olefination enabled construction of the extremely reactive nine-membered enediyne portion of the C-1027 chromophore.)
4. "Total Synthesis of the Large Non-Ribosomal Peptide Polytheonamide B": M. Inoue, N. Shinohara, S. Tanabe, T. Takahashi, K. Okura, H. Ito, Y. Mizoguchi, M. Iida, N. Lee, S. Matsuoka, *Nature Chem.* **2010**, *2*, 280 – 285. (This paper reports the first total synthesis of polytheonamide B, an exceptionally cytotoxic natural product and the largest non-ribosomal peptide currently known (48 amino acids, 5000 Da).)
5. "Functional Analysis of Synthetic Substructures of Polytheonamide B: A Transmembrane Channel-Forming Peptide": S. Matsuoka, N. Shinohara, T. Takahashi, M. Iida, M. Inoue, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 4981 – 4985; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 4879 – 4883. (This paper reports the synthesis of nine substructures of ion channel-forming polytheonamide B and their intriguing structure – function relationships.)

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