



M. Willis

The author presented on this page published more than **10 articles** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*, most recently:

"An Alkyne Hydroacylation Route to Highly Substituted Furans": P. Lenden, D. A. Entwistle, M. C. Willis, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, 123, 10845–10848; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 50, 10657–10660.

Michael Willis

Date of birth:	December 31, 1970
Position:	University Lecturer and Fellow of Lincoln College, University of Oxford (UK)
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Education:	1992 BSc, Imperial College, University of London (UK) 1995 PhD with Prof. Steven V. Ley, University of Cambridge (UK) 1995–1997 Postdoctoral fellow with Prof. David A. Evans, Harvard University (USA)
Awards:	2011 OBC Lecture; 2008 AstraZeneca Award in Organic Chemistry
Current research interests:	We are interested in all aspects of catalysis relevant to organic synthesis. One area of current interest is the activation of aldehydes and their use in nonconventional transformations such as hydroacylation reactions. We are also interested in developing strategies and methods to exploit sulfur dioxide in catalysis and synthesis.
Hobbies:	Wine, photography, cycling, West Ham United FC

My favorite reaction is ... the Robinson synthesis of tropinone.

I am waiting for the day when someone will discover ... the 30-hour day.

The biggest challenge facing scientists is ... communicating effectively to policy makers, and convincing them that fundamental scientific research is essential (no matter if it doesn't deliver a short-term impact).

My favorite book is ... the complete Sherlock Holmes.

Young people should study chemistry because ... it's intellectually challenging, scientifically rigorous, creative, and impacts almost all aspects of everyday life.

My favorite painter is ... Roy Lichtenstein.

My first experiment was ... writing with "lemon juice" invisible ink.

My favorite time of day is ... early mornings. The calm before the storm ...

My favorite way to spend a holiday is ... with my family with plenty of good food and wine.

The secret of being a successful scientist is ... belief in your ideas, and persistence. Having fantastic co-workers helps a lot too.

My favorite scholarly author is ... Richard Feynman.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Rhodium-Catalyzed Branched-Selective Alkyne Hydroacylation: A Ligand-Controlled Regioselectivity Switch": C. González-Rodríguez, R. J. Pawley, A. B. Chaplin, A. L. Thompson, A. S. Weller, M. C. Willis, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, 123, 5240–5244; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 50, 5134–5138. (Here we show that catalyst choice can control the regioselectivity of intermolecular alkyne hydroacylation reactions.)
2. "Palladium-Catalyzed Aminosulfonylation of Aryl Halides": B. Nguyen, E. J. Emmett, M. C. Willis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, 132, 16372–16373. (Our first report on the use of sulfur dioxide in catalysis.)
3. "Catalytic Enantioselective Intermolecular Hydroacylation: Rhodium-Catalyzed Combination of β -S-Aldehydes and 1,3-Disubstituted Allenes": J. D. Osborne, H. E. Randell-Sly, G. S. Currie, A. R. Cowley, M. C. Willis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 17232–17233. (The first examples of highly enantioselective intermolecular hydroacylation reactions.)
4. "Palladium-Catalyzed Tandem Alkenyl and Aryl C–N Bond Formation: A Cascade N-Annulation Route to 1-Functionalized Indoles": M. C. Willis, G. N. Brace, I. P. Holmes, *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, 117, 407–410; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, 44, 403–406. (In this paper, we report the first use of our particular difunctionalized heterocycle precursor.)
5. "Chelation-Controlled Intermolecular Hydroacylation: The Direct Addition of Alkyl Aldehydes to Functionalized Alkenes": M. C. Willis, S. J. McNally, P. J. Beswick, *Angew. Chem.* **2004**, 116, 344–347; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, 43, 340–343. (This was our first report on the use of S-chelating aldehydes in hydroacylation chemistry.)

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