



T. Rovis

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** in *Angewandte Chemie* in the last 10 years:

"N-Heterocyclic-Carbene-Catalyzed Asymmetric Oxidative Hetero-Diels–Alder Reactions with Simple Aliphatic Aldehydes": X. Zhao, K. E. Ruhl, T. Rovis, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 12496–12499; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 12330–12333.

Tomislav Rovis

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Education:	1990 BSc, University of Toronto 1998 PhD with Professor Mark Lautens, University of Toronto 1998–2000 NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow with Professor David A. Evans, Harvard University
Awards:	2003 GlaxoSmithKline Scholar; 2004 Amgen Young Investigator; 2005 Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, Monfort Professor; 2009 Roche Excellence in Chemistry Award
Research:	Organocatalysis; metal-catalyzed cycloadditions; C–H activations; metalloenzyme catalysis
Hobbies:	Basketball, cooking, skiing, wine ... not at the same time

My favorite principle is ... Occam's razor.

I am waiting for the day when someone will discover ... real cold fusion.

If I could be any age I would be ... this one. My life is pretty good.

My favorite time of day is ... right before dinner time, when the bottle of wine is open and I'm about to take a sip.

The secret of being a successful scientist is ... passion. After that, everything is easy.

If I had one year of paid leave I would ... do another sabbatical in Paris. Come on, it's Paris!

The most important thing I learned from my students is ... to stay on my toes. The best ones force you to do it (and that's a blast).

When I was eighteen I wanted to be ... a medical doctor. That would have been a mistake.

Chemistry is fun because ... someone pays you to do what you love.

Looking back over my career, I ... think I got incredibly lucky with my first class of graduate students. They set the tone.

Last time I went to the pub ... was during the Carter administration. Who am I kidding?—It was last night!

The most important future applications of my research are ... impossible to predict—that's the beauty and fun of science.

My first experiment was ... putting a plant and a lit candle in a sealed jar to see if the plant could generate enough oxygen to keep the candle lit. It didn't, but it was a great lesson on the importance of relative rates.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Biotinylated Rh(III) Complexes in Engineered Streptavidin for Accelerated Asymmetric C–H Activation": T. K. Hyster, L. Knörr, T. R. Ward, T. Rovis, *Science* **2012**, *338*, 500–503. (A merger of transition-metal and biocatalysis to solve a hard problem.)
2. "Isolable Analogues of the Breslow Intermediate Derived From Chiral Triazolylidene Carbenes": D. A. DiRocco, K. M. Oberg, T. Rovis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 6143–6145. (54 years of looking and this was the first sighting.)
3. "Catalytic Asymmetric α -Acylation of Tertiary Amines Mediated by a Dual Catalysis Mode: N-Heterocyclic Carbene and Photoredox Catalysis": D. A. DiRocco, T. Rovis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, *134*, 8094–8097. (NHC and photoredox catalysts to achieve asymmetric dehydrogenative coupling.)
4. "Alkene-Directed Regioselective Nickel-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling of Cyclic Anhydrides with Diorganozinc Reagents": R. L. Rogers, J. L. Moore, T. Rovis, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 9461–9464; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 9301–9304. (An alkene directs a cross-coupling reaction.)
5. "A Highly Enantioselective Catalytic Intramolecular Stetter Reaction": M. S. Kerr, J. Read de Alaniz, T. Rovis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 10298–10299. (Introduction of our NHC catalyst and first reported highly enantioselective Stetter reaction.)

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201209932