

Markus Kalesse

Date of birth:	March 19, 1961
Position:	Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of Hannover
E-mail:	Markus.Kalesse@oci.uni-hannover.de
Homepage:	http://www.kalesse.uni-hannover.de
Education:	1988 Degree in chemistry, University of Hannover 1991 PhD with Prof. Dieter Schinzer, University of Hannover 1991–1992 Postdoctoral positions with Prof. Steven D. Burke and Prof. Laura L. Kiessling, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Awards:	2004–2005 Novartis Lectureship
Research:	Natural product chemistry, stereoselective synthesis, medicinal chemistry
Hobbies:	Playing soccer, running, bouldering



M. Kalesse

The best advice I have ever been given is ... “Don’t panic!”

I can never resist ... good food.

I lose track of time when ... I hang out (the big problem of doing nothing is you never know when you’re done).

Guaranteed to make me laugh is ... SpongeBob, in particular the Spanish version (La Caracola Magica: ... “Nada” ...).

I celebrate success with ... one bottle of Champagne for each chiral center we build up (if there are not too many).

I would have liked to have discovered ... the Diels–Alder and Wittig reactions.

My favorite song is ... Wolfgang Ambros singing Bob Dylan’s “Allan Wia A Stan”.

My favorite quotes are ... from Vince Lombardi. In particular: “It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get up”, “Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit”, “People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society”.

The biggest problem that scientists face is ... their own ego.

My favorite place on earth is ... home.

I chose chemistry as a career because ... I figured that I was not smart enough for physics and with biology you will never get a job.

My best investment was ... to buy new skis for me and my family.

My not-so-secret passion is ... to play soccer and to have a couple of beers afterwards (of course, just to compensate for the loss of water, minerals, and carbohydrates).

If I were not a scientist, I would be ... a painter.

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

“Synthesis and Pharmacology of Proteasome Inhibitors”: A. Rentsch, D. Landsberg, T. Brodmann, L. Bülow, A.-K. Girbig, M. Kalesse, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, 125, 5560–5599; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 5450–5488.

My 5 top papers:

1. “Total Synthesis of (+)-Ratjadone”: M. Christmann, U. Bhatt, M. Quitschalle, E. Claus, M. Kalesse, *Angew. Chem.* **2000**, 112, 4535–4538; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2000**, 39, 4364–4366. (Our first total synthesis.)
2. “Intramolecular Stereoselective Protonation of Aldehyde-Derived Enolates”: A. Kena Diba, C. Noll, M. Richter, M. T. Gieseler, M. Kalesse, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, 122, 8545–8547; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, 49, 8367–8369. (The practical use of the asymmetric protonation of aldehyde-derived enolates in total synthesis.)
3. “Chivosazole A—Elucidation of the Absolute and Relative Configuration”: D. Janssen, D. Albert, R. Jansen, R. Müller, M. Kalesse, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, 119, 4985–4988; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 46, 4898–4901. (Structure elucidation by using genetic information on polyketide synthases.)
4. “Total Synthesis of Chivosazole F”: T. Brodmann, D. Janssen, M. Kalesse, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, 132, 13610–13611. (Proof that our genetic structure determination was correct.)
5. “The Total Synthesis of (+)-Tedanolide”: G. Ehrlich, J. Hassfeld, U. Eggert, M. Kalesse, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 14038–14039. (A challenging molecule and a lot of competition.)

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