H. Xia

Haiping Xia

Date of birth: February 9, 1964
Position: Professor, Department of Chemistry, Xiamen University
E-mail: hpxia@xmu.edu.cn
Homepage: http://chem.xmu.edu.cn/group/hpxia
Education: 1983 BSc, Xiamen University
1986 MSc with Prof. Ronghua Pan, Xiamen University
2002 PhD with Prof. Huilin Wan, Xiamen University
Awards: **2013** Top 10 Scientific and Technological Achievements from Chinese Universities
Research: Synthesis and application of metallaaromatic compounds
Hobbies: Sports, traveling, reading books

*The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** in Angewandte Chemie in the last 10 years:*
"A Metal-Bridged Tricyclic Aromatic System: Synthesis of Osmium Polycyclic Aromatic Complexes": C. Zhu, Q. Zhu, J. Fan, J. Zhu, X. He, X.-Y. Cao, H. Xia, *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, *126*, 6436–6350; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 6232–6236.

My favorite places on earth are … Xiamen, Hong Kong, and Guangzhou.

I would have liked to have discovered … revolutionary new materials or catalysts.

The biggest problem that scientists face is … a lack of time.

The most exciting thing about my research is … metallapentalyne chemistry.

My greatest achievement has been … the synthesis of a series of brand-new organometallic structures.

My favorite author is … Louis Cha (pseudonym Jin Yong).

My top three films of all time are … *Titanic*, *Ghost*, and *Divine Eagle, Gallant Knight* (a Chinese movie).

My favorite drink is … Coca Cola.

The most significant scientific advance of the last 100 years has been … computers and mobile phones. I cannot even imagine what life would be like without them.

My favorite area of research is … synthetic chemistry, which makes me feel like I am an architect of the molecular world.

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be … Erich Hückel, Robert Burns Woodward, and Sir Isaac Newton.

I chose chemistry as a career because … when I was a boy, the only teacher I listened to was my chemistry teacher. But I have never regretted that.

My most exciting discovery to date has been … the conversion of antiaromaticity into aromaticity by the introduction of transition metals.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Stabilizing antiaromatic and strained five-membered rings by a transition metal": C. Zhu, S. Li, M. Luo, X. Zhou, Y. Niu, M. Lin, J. Zhu, Z. Cao, X. Lu, T. Wen, Z. Xie, P. von R. Schleyer, H. Xia, *Nat. Chem.* **2013**, *5*, 698–703. (The incorporation of transition-metal moieties not only relieves considerable ring strain, but also results in aromatic stabilization.)
2. "Synthesis of Five-Membered Osmacycloallenes and Conversion into Six-Membered Osmacycloallenes": T. Wang, J. Zhu, F. Han, H. Zhang, H. Xia, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 13603–13606; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 13361–13364. (Highly stable, unusual five-membered metallacycloallene systems were synthesized under mild conditions.)
3. "Key Intermediates of Iodine-Mediated Electrophilic Cyclization: Isolation and Characterization": T. Wang, H. Zhang, F. Han, L. Long, Z. Lin, H. Xia, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 9421–9425; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 9251–9255. (The isolation and characterization of the key intermediates in the title reaction was achieved by introducing metallabenzenes as the starting materials.)
4. "The Chemistry of Aromatic Osmacycles": X.-Y. Cao, Q. Zhao, Z. Lin, H. Xia, *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2014**, *47*, 341–354. (This Account highlights our contributions to osmaaromatics, focusing particularly on their synthesis, reactivity, and stability resulting from aromaticity and phosphonium substituents.)
5. "Planar Möbius aromatic pentalenes incorporating 16 and 18 valence electron osmiums": C. Zhu, M. Luo, Q. Zhu, P. von R. Schleyer, J. I-C. Wu, X. Lu, H. Xia, *Nat. Commun.* **2014**, *5*, 3265. (These results widen the scope of Möbius aromaticity and open prospects for the generalization of planar Möbius aromatic chemistry.)

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201406196