



J. J. Vittal

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

"Single Crystals Popping Under UV Light: A Photosensitive Effect Triggered by a [2 + 2] Cycloaddition Reaction": R. Medishetty, A. Husain, Z. Bai, T. Runčevski, R. Dinnebier, P. Naumov, J. J. Vittal, *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, *126*, 6017–6021; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 5907–5911.

This work was also featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*:



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Education:	1972–1975 BSc, University of Madras 1975–1977 MSc, Madurai University 1978–1982 PhD with K. C. Patil, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 1982–1987 Research associate with Philip A. W. Dean and Nicholas C. Payne, University of Western Ontario
Awards:	2007 Outstanding Scientist Award, Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore; 2011 Outstanding Researcher Award, National University of Singapore
Current research interests:	Crystal engineering, coordination polymers, solid-state chemistry, photoreactive solids, X-ray crystallography, nanoscale synthesis of materials, basic crystallization methods, structural transformations, gels and nanofibers, and battery materials
Hobbies:	Reading, listening to Indian music, cooking, and walking

My favorite saying is ... "it is never too late to follow your dreams".

If I were not a scientist, I would be ... a sketch artist.

My biggest motivation is ... when my students inform me about serendipitous results.

Guaranteed to make me laugh is ... an episode of *Mr. Bean*.

The best advice I have ever been given is ... to improve my English, by my wife!

The worst advice I have ever been given was ... to stay away from research.

I can never resist ... South Indian tiffin (i.e., breakfast) and seventies music.

My favorite author (fiction) is ... Sujatha (pseudonym of S. Rangarajan, a Tamil writer).

My favorite food is ... whatever my wife cooks at home.

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be ... Richard Feynman, C. V. Raman, and Linus Pauling.

My favorite place on earth is ... the Taj Mahal in Agra.

I chose chemistry as a career because ... my brother promised me to get me a job in a chemical company after my BSc.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Topochemical Photodimerization in the Coordination Polymer $[(\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2)(\mu\text{-O}_2\text{CCH}_3)\text{Zn}(\mu\text{-bpe})_2]_n$ through Single-Crystal to Single-Crystal Transformation": N. L. Toh, M. Nagarathinam, J. J. Vittal, *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, *117*, 2277–2281; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 2237–2241. (The photochemical [2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction was used to transform the solid-state structure of a coordination polymer.)
2. "Metal–Organic Organopolymeric Hybrid Framework by Reversible [2 + 2] Cycloaddition Reaction": I.-H. Park, A. Chanthapalli, Z. Zhang, S. S. Lee, M. J. Zaworotko, J. J. Vittal, *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, *126*, 424–429; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 414–419. (A hybrid of organic and coordination polymers forms a 3D framework structure.)
3. "[2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction as a tool to monitor the formation of thermodynamically stable ladder coordination polymers": A. Chanthapally, W. T. Oh, J. J. Vittal, *CrystEngComm* **2013**, *15*, 9324–9327. (A mechanochemical structural transformation of a 2D to a 1D coordination polymeric structure.)
4. "Coordination Polymeric Nanofibers and their Field-Emission Properties": S. K. Batabyal, A. M. P. Peedikakkal, S. Ramakrishna, C. H. Sow, J. J. Vittal, *Macromol. Rapid. Commun.* **2009**, *30*, 1356–1361. (1D coordination polymers can be processed into gels and fibers in a similar way to organic polymers.)
5. "Phase Transition Accompanied by Transformation of an Elusive Discrete Cyclic Water Heptamer to a Bicyclic $(\text{H}_2\text{O})_7$ Cluster": M. H. Mir, J. J. Vittal, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 6029–6032; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 5925–5928. (This discrete water aggregate was found to undergo a reversible structural transformation within the MOF cavity.)

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