



S.-Y. Liu

Shih-Yuan Liu

Date of birth:	May 4, 1975
Position:	Professor of Chemistry, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts (USA)
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Education:	1994–1997 Diplom (awarded in 1998), Vienna University of Technology 1997–1998 Exchange student, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 1998–2003 PhD with Gregory C. Fu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) 2003–2006 Postdoctoral associate with Daniel G. Nocera, MIT
Awards:	2012 Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry Award for Early Excellence; 2012 Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award; 2014 Organometallics Young Investigator Fellow
Current research interests:	Synthetic organic/organometallic chemistry, basic science of BN/CC isosterism, BN heterocycles, hydrogen-storage materials, boron-containing pharmacophores
Hobbies:	Salsa/ballroom dancing, food and travel, chess, pool billiards, table tennis

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

“Monobenzofused 1,4-Azaborines: Synthesis, Characterization, and Discovery of a Unique Coordination Mode”: S. Xu, F. Haefner, B. Li, L. N. Zakharov, S.-Y. Liu, *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 6913–6917; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 6795–6799.

In a spare hour, I ... like to read the news.

My favorite quote is ... “Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.” (Samuel Beckett)

My biggest inspiration is ... nature and its infinitely complex inner workings.

The secret of being a successful scientist is ... to be creative, diligent, organized, meticulous, and to be a good communicator.

The best advice I have received with regard to my career is ... “go take a technical and scientific writing class”.

My most enlightening revelation to date has been ... that the difference between “success” and “failure” in chemistry is only 3 kcal mol⁻¹.

My motto is ... “Chem ● is ● try and Imagination”.

The natural talent I would like to be gifted with is ... eloquence in speech.

Young people should study chemistry because ... it is one of the best creative outlets.

My favorite drink is ... freshly squeezed orange juice.

My favorite musicians are ... the cast of the American television series *Glee*.

My 5 top papers:

1. “A Hybrid Organic/Inorganic Benzene”: A. J. V. Marwitz, M. H. Matus, L. N. Zakharov, D. A. Dixon, S.-Y. Liu, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, 121, 991–995; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 973–977. (The first report of the isolation and full characterization of the long-sought title molecule.)
2. “Boron in Disguise: The Parent ‘Fused’ BN Indole”: E. R. Abbey, L. N. Zakharov, S.-Y. Liu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 133, 11508–11511. (Synthesis and characterization of the parent compound of a new BN isostere family of indoles.)
3. “A Single-Component Liquid-Phase Hydrogen Storage Material”: W. Luo, P. G. Campbell, L. N. Zakharov, S.-Y. Liu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 133, 19326–19329. (The discovery of a liquid-phase chemical hydrogen storage material with exothermic hydrogen release.)
4. “A 1,3-Dihydro-1,3-azaborine Debuts”: S. Xu, L. N. Zakharov, S.-Y. Liu, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 133, 20152–20155. (First report of the elusive 1,3-BN isostere of benzene.)
5. “BN/CC Isosteric Compounds as Enzyme Inhibitors: *N*- and *B*-Ethyl-1,2-azaborine Inhibit Ethylbenzene Hydroxylation as Nonconvertible Substrate Analogues”: D. H. Knack, J. L. Marshall, G. P. Harlow, A. Dudzik, M. Szaleniec, S.-Y. Liu, J. Heider, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, 125, 2660–2662; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 2599–2601. (Collaborative work demonstrating the distinct behavior of 1,2-azaborines versus arenes in a biological context.)

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The work of S.-Y. Liu has been featured on the back cover of *Angewandte Chemie*:

“Recent Advances in Azaborine Chemistry”: P. G. Campbell, A. J. V. Marwitz, S.-Y. Liu, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, 124, 6178–6197; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, 51, 6074–6092.