



K. Kumar

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

"The Asymmetric Hetero-Diels–Alder Reaction in the Syntheses of Biologically Relevant Compounds": V. Eschenbrenner-Lux, K. Kumar, H. Waldmann, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 11146–11157; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, *126*, 11326–11337.

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Current research interests:	Annulation and cycloaddition reactions; cascade reactions; nucleophilic and coinage-metal catalysis; chemical biology of small molecules

The secret of being a successful scientist is ... to pursue excellence and not success.

The natural talent I would like to be gifted with is ... penning Urdu poetry.

My favorite quote is ... (among many) "A prejudiced eye is blind; a heart full of conclusions is dead" (Osho).

If I could be any age I would be ... 21, when a blend of innocence, youth, and overflowing energy makes you live and rule your own beautiful world.

I advise my students to ... enjoy their work so much that a Friday does not look better than a Monday.

My favorite way to spend a holiday is ... still not known to me and for sure needs to be explored.

If I had one year of paid leave I would ... definitely take some work home.

My favorite composer is ... anyone whose music puts life to words and stirs my soul ... to name a few among many whose melodies I have grown up with are Madan Mohan as well as Jagjit Singh and Khayyam.

Chemistry, in particular organic synthesis, is fun because ... unlike say painting, your creation can be exactly reproduced by others.

The best advice I have ever been given is ... that a publication is a consequence but never a goal of any research (by my PhD supervisor).

My favorite food is ... Kadahi Paneer (a north Indian dish; spicy cottage cheese cooked with some mixed vegetables, garlic, ginger, onions, cinnamon and cashews) with chilled beer.

The most important thing I learned from my parents is... not to compromise your goodness just because of the lack of its appreciation.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Reagent-controlled domino synthesis of skeletally-diverse compound collections": H. Waldmann, M. Kühn, W. Liu, K. Kumar, *Chem. Commun.* **2008**, 1211–1213. (Divergent domino reactions on common substrates produced different ring systems.)
2. "Branching Cascades: A Concise Synthetic Strategy Targeting Diverse and Complex Molecular Frameworks": W. Liu, V. Khedkar, B. Baskar, M. Schürmann, K. Kumar, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 6900–6905; *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 7032–7037. (Introduced the branching-cascade strategy to build a compound library rich in scaffold diversity.)
3. "Natural product-inspired cascade synthesis yields modulators of centrosome integrity": H. Dücker et al., *Nature Chem. Biol.* **2012**, *8*, 179–184. (The longest known cascade reaction sequence leading to centro-countins—the tetrahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizines.)
4. "Stereoselective Cascade Double-Annulations Provide Diversely Ring-Fused Tetracyclic Benzopyrones": B. Baskar, K. Wittstein, M. G. Sankar, V. Khedkar, M. Schürmann, K. Kumar, *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 5924–5927. (A cascade-reaction-based strategy that introduces fused carbo- and heterocycles and a number of chiral centers to the privileged benzopyrone scaffold.)
5. "A Bioinspired Catalytic Oxygenase Cascade to Generate Complex Oxindoles": Y. Wang, J. O. Bauer, C. Strohm, K. Kumar, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, *53*, 7514–7518; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, *126*, 7644–7648. (Molecular oxygen adds to a substrate to form a functional group that is subsequently transformed into a complex ring system in a one-pot method.)

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