



R. A. Widenhoefer

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

“Gold-Catalyzed Intermolecular Anti-Markovnikov Hydroamination of Alkylidenecyclopropanes”: J. C. Timmerman, B. D. Robertson, R. A. Widenhoefer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 2251; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 2279.

## Ross A. Widenhoefer

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<b>Education:</b>	1989, BA, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota 1994 PhD with Charles P. Casey, University of Wisconsin–Madison 1994–1997 Postdoc with Prof. Stephen L. Buchwald, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
<b>Awards:</b>	<b>2000</b> Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship; <b>2000</b> DuPont Young Professor Award; <b>2001</b> Camille Dreyfus Teacher–Scholar Award; <b>2002</b> GlaxoSmithKline Chemistry Scholar Award; <b>2004</b> Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan (SSOCJ) Lectureship Award; <b>2006</b> Johnson & Johnson Focused Funding Award
<b>Research:</b>	Organic methods and synthesis, homogeneous catalysis, organometallic reaction mechanisms
<b>Hobbies:</b>	Hiking, running, all things mechanical regarding vintage American (Mopar) automobiles

**I advise my students to ...** work hard and not to accept mediocrity.

**Chemistry is fun because ...** you can make a career out of your favorite hobby.

**The most important thing I learned from my students is ...** patience, and that enthusiasm is contagious.

**The natural talent I would like to be gifted with is ...** athletic ability.

**Looking back over my career, I ...** appreciate all the great students who have worked with me.

**Last time I went to the pub ...** I enjoyed myself.

**My favorite drink is ...** strong coffee in the morning and a good American IPA in the evening.

**If I could be anyone for a day, I would be ...** Jack Morris pitching game seven of the 1991 world series.

**In a spare hour, I ...** go for a run, hike with the kids, or work on one of my cars.

**My favorite time of day is ...** between dinner and bedtime, relaxing with the family.

**My favorite way to spend a holiday is ...** with my family, getting outside, and eating too much.

**The secret of being a successful scientist is ...** I wish I knew, because my approach involves too much work.

**My favorite theorem is ...** microscopic reversibility—so simple and yet so powerful.

**My science “heroes” are ...** Pasteur, van’t Hoff, and Kekulé (with apologies to Couper and Le Bel). What is more fundamental to organic chemistry than the theory of the tetrahedrally coordinated carbon atom?

### My 5 top papers:

1. “Platinum-Catalyzed Intramolecular Hydroamination of Unactivated Olefins with Secondary Alkylamines”: C. F. Bender, R. A. Widenhoefer, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 1070. (The first reported examples of the title reaction.)
2. “Gold(I)-Catalyzed Intramolecular Enantioselective Hydroalkoxylation of Allenes”: Z. Zhang, R. A. Widenhoefer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 283; *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 287. (One of the first reported highly enantioselective transformations catalyzed by a bis(goldphosphine) complex.)
3. “Syntheses, X-ray Crystal Structures, and Solution Behavior of Monomeric, Cationic, Two-Coordinate Gold(I)  $\pi$ -Alkene Complexes”: T. J. Brown, M. G. Dickens, R. A. Widenhoefer, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 6350. (Our first contribution to what has become a sizable body of work involving cationic gold  $\pi$  complexes.)
4. “Palladium-Catalyzed Intramolecular Addition of 1,3-Diones to Unactivated Olefins”: T. Pei, R. A. Widenhoefer, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 11290. (Our first meaningful contribution to the area of catalytic alkene functionalization.)
5. “Gold(I)-Catalyzed Intramolecular Hydroamination of Alkenyl Carbamates”: X. Han, R. A. Widenhoefer, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 1747; *Angew. Chem.* **2006**, *118*, 1779. (One of the first reported examples of alkene hydrofunctionalization catalyzed by cationic gold(I) complexes.)

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