



R. Gilmour

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

“Deconstructing Covalent Organocatalysis”: M. C. Holland, R. Gilmour, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 3862; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 3934.

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Awards:	2011 Ružička Prize, ETH Zurich; 2013 ERC Starting Grant
Current research interests:	Molecular design, physical organic chemistry, organofluorine chemistry, organocatalysis, conformational analysis, glycochemistry, chemical biology

If I could be anyone for a day, I would be James Bond ... because ...

If I were a car I would be an Aston Martin DB5.

My first experiment was mixing vinegar and baking soda in the kitchen, and the eventual scale-up.

The most important thing I learned from my students is that everyone brings a different skill set to the group and it's my job to match personalities to projects.

The principal aspect of my personality is determination, which isn't always constructive.

My favorite author (science) is Professor Albert Eschenmoser. I admire his balance of precision and insight.

My favorite composer is Sergei Rachmaninov (especially the piano concertos).

My favorite book is anything by Sir Walter Scott. I loved his works as a child and still enjoy them today.

The biggest challenge facing scientists is understanding consciousness.

The most significant scientific advance of the last 100 years has been unraveling the structure of DNA, and the eventual birth of molecular biology.

My favorite quote is “the rank is but the guinea's stamp” (reflecting Robert Burns' fervent belief in human equality).

My favorite molecule is Prof. David MacMillan's first-generation imidazolidinone. It is not only a powerful catalyst, but a wonderful platform from which to study noncovalent interactions.

My science “hero” is Prof. Jack D. Dunitz, “the professor's professor”! (See *Helv. Chim. Acta.* **2013**, *96*, 539.)

My 5 top papers:

1. “The Fluorine-Iminium Ion *Gauche* Effect: Proof of Principle and Application to Asymmetric Organocatalysis”: C. Sparr, W. B. Schweizer, H. M. Senn, R. Gilmour, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 3065; *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 3111.
2. “Fluoro-Organocatalysts: Conformer Equivalents as a Tool for Mechanistic Studies”: C. Sparr, R. Gilmour, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 6520; *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 6670.
3. “Fluorine-Directed Glycosylation”: C. Bucher, R. Gilmour, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 8724; *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 8906.
4. “Cyclopropyl Iminium Activation: Reactivity Umpolung in Enantioselective Organocatalytic Reaction Design”: C. Sparr, R. Gilmour, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 8391; *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 8541.
5. “Deconstructing Covalent Organocatalysis”: M. C. Holland, R. Gilmour, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 3862; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 3934.

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