



N. Yoshikai

Naohiko Yoshikai

Date of birth:	February 20, 1978
Position:	Assistant Professor, Division of Chemistry and Biological Chemistry, School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Nanyang Technological University
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Education:	2000 BSc, The University of Tokyo 2005 PhD with Prof. Eiichi Nakamura, The University of Tokyo
Awards:	2007 Inoue Research Award for Young Scientists; 2009 Singapore National Research Foundation Research Fellowship; 2011 Thieme Chemistry Journals Award; 2011 Asian Core Program Lectureship; 2014 Chemical Society of Japan Award for Young Chemists
Current research interests:	Development and application of synthetic methods; homogeneous catalysis; organometallic reaction mechanisms
Hobbies:	Running and other sports, reading

The author presented on this page has published more than **10 articles** in *Angewandte Chemie* in the last 10 years, most recently: "Modular Synthesis of Multisubstituted Furans through Palladium-Catalyzed Three-Component Condensation of Alkynylbenziodoxoles, Carboxylic Acids, and Imines": J. Wu, N. Yoshikai, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, 54, 11107; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, 127, 11259.

My favorite author (fiction) is Jeffery Deaver.

My favorite saying is "God is in the detail".

My favorite time of day is a quiet evening.

I advise my students to be both enthusiastic and critical about their own work.

My favorite name reaction is the Grignard reaction, which attracted me to organic chemistry.

If I had one year of paid leave I would not be able to resist the idea of coming back to work within a month or two.

My favorite book is *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond.

The natural talent I would like to be gifted with is spatial ability to visualize complex three-dimensional structures.

When I was eighteen I wanted to be a mathematician or a physicist.

Chemistry is fun because one can combine logic and intuition to generate and explore new ideas.

Last time I went to the pub I enjoyed the night view of Singapore from Marina Bay Sands with my co-workers.

My favorite drink is coffee in the daytime and Tiger beer in the evening.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Cobalt-Catalyzed Hydroarylation of Alkynes through Chelation-Assisted C–H Bond Activation": K. Gao, P.-S. Lee, T. Fujita, N. Yoshikai, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, 132, 12249. (Our first paper on cobalt-catalyzed directed C–H functionalization.)
2. "Cobalt-Catalyzed Addition of Arylzinc Reagents to Alkynes to Form *ortho*-Alkenylarylzinc Species through 1,4-Cobalt Migration": B.-H. Tan, J. Dong, N. Yoshikai, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, 51, 9610; *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, 124, 9748. (A unique type of carbometalation reaction featuring the first reported 1,4-cobalt migration.)
3. "A Highly Modular One-Pot Multicomponent Approach to Functionalized Benzo[b]phosphole Derivatives": B. Wu, M. Santra, N. Yoshikai, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 7543; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 7673. (Application of the above-mentioned "migratory" arylzincation enabled rapid and divergent benzophosphole synthesis.)
4. "Palladium-Catalyzed Aerobic Oxidative Cyclization of *N*-Aryl Imines: Indole Synthesis from Anilines and Ketones": Y. Wei, I. Deb, N. Yoshikai, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2012**, 134, 9098. (The remarkably convenient preparation of certain types of indoles.)
5. "Palladium-Catalyzed Condensation of *N*-Aryl Imines and Alkynylbenziodoxolones To Form Multisubstituted Furans": B. Lu, J. Wu, N. Yoshikai, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, 136, 11598. (An unusual condensation/bond reorganization reaction discovered while studying palladium catalysis of imines.)

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