



M. Greaney

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2005 in *Angewandte Chemie*: “Ruthenium-Catalyzed meta-Selective C–H Bromination”: C. J. Teskey, A. Y. W. Lui, M. F. Greaney, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 11677; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 11843.

## Michael Greaney

<b>Date of birth:</b>	November 10, 1973
<b>Position:</b>	Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of Manchester
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<b>Education:</b>	1996 MChem, University of Oxford 2000 PhD supervised by William Motherwell, University College London 2000–2002 Postdoctoral research with Jeffrey Winkler, University of Pennsylvania
<b>Awards:</b>	<b>2011</b> GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Syngenta and Pfizer Prize for Process Chemistry Research
<b>Current research interests:</b>	Organic synthesis and catalysis: aryne chemistry, C–H activation, photoredox catalysis, dynamic covalent chemistry
<b>Hobbies:</b>	Mountain biking, bridge, brewing

### My favorite author (fiction) is Roberto Bolaño.

My favorite food is pies.

My favorite quote is “Science is the art of the soluble” (Peter Medawar).

What I look for first in a publication is the mechanism.

My favorite piece of research is the enediyne antitumor antibiotic story—structures, syntheses, and elucidation of biological mechanism involving *para*-benzyne.

If I were not a scientist, I would be a Liverpool businessman.

My worst nightmare is Gantt charts. Gantt charts everywhere. (A Gantt chart illustrates project schedules.)

The most exciting thing about my research is the discovery cycle—so immediate! Chemistry experiments can be quick, making it easy to try out new ideas.

My biggest motivation is my research group.

The worst advice I have ever been given is “it’s just like riding off a kerb” (prior to attempting a substantial drop-off on the mountain bike). It wasn’t.

If I could go back in time and do any experiment, it would be the discovery of Teflon—a landmark material born out of a man’s tenacity to solve an unexpected problem (with a bandsaw).

I can never resist just one more experiment.

I celebrate success by a pint of plain (porter).

I would have liked to have discovered the aldol reaction, whilst writing symphonies on the side.

### My 5 top papers:

1. “Direct Arylation of Thiazoles on Water”: G. L. Turner, J. A. Morris, M. F. Greaney, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 7996; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *119*, 8142. (Pd-catalyzed “on water” C–H arylation using a variety of heteroaromatic substrates.)
2. “Three-Component Coupling of Benzyne: Domino Intermolecular Carbopalladation”: J. L. Henderson, A. S. Edwards, M. F. Greaney, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 7426. (Merging benzyne with transition-metal catalysis—enabled by Kobayashi’s versatile benzyne precursor.)
3. “Decarboxylative C–H Cross-Coupling of Azoles”: F. Zhang, M. F. Greaney, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 2768; *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 2828. (Biaryl coupling of heteroarenes at carboxylate and C–H positions.)
4. “Nucleophilic catalysis of acylhydrazone equilibration for protein-directed dynamic covalent chemistry”: V. T. Bhat, A. M. Caniard, T. Luksch, R. Brenk, D. J. Campopiano, M. F. Greaney, *Nat. Chem.* **2010**, *2*, 490. (Aniline catalysis promotes acylhydrazone exchange at higher pH values, allowing protein targets to interface and select from dynamic covalent libraries.)
5. “Synthesis of (±)-Merrilactone A and (±)-Anislactone A”: L. Shi, K. Meyer, M. F. Greaney, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 9250; *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 9436. (Synthesis of stereochemically rich sesquiterpene structures containing several fully substituted carbon centers.)

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