



T. Katsuki

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*:

“Efficient Construction of α -Spirocyclopropyl Lactones: Iridium-Salen-Catalyzed Asymmetric Cyclopropanation”: M. Ichinose, H. Suematsu, T. Katsuki, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 3167–3169; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 3121–3123.

Tsutomu Katsuki

Date of birth:	September 23, 1946
Nationality:	Japanese
Position:	Professor of Chemistry, Kyushu University (Japan)
Education:	1965–1969 Undergraduate, Kyushu University 1969–1971 MSc. course, Kyushu University 1976 DSc. with Professor M. Yamaguchi, Kyushu University 1979–1981 Postdoc with Prof. K. Barry Sharpless, The Scripps Research Institute (USA)
Awards:	2009 The Commendation for Science and Technology, MEXT, Japan; 2005 Ryoji Noyori Prize; 2002 Award of the Chemical Society of Japan; 2001 Molecular Chirality Award; 1998 Synthetic Organic Chemistry Award, Japan; 1996 Inoue Science Award
Current research interests:	Ecologically sustainable chemical transformations and asymmetric catalysis; asymmetric oxidation by using molecular oxygen (in air) or hydrogen peroxide; nitrene transfer reactions by using azide compounds; carbene transfer reactions
Hobbies:	Reading historical novels

My most exciting discovery to date has been ... asymmetric epoxidation of allylic alcohols in the Sharpless lab.

If I wasn't a scientist, I would be ... a high-school teacher.

My favorite subject at school was ... geography. It was fun to imagine other landscapes and the experiences of people who lived there.

The most significant scientific advance of the last 100 years has been ... molecular biology, although we still have more to explore.

My first experiment was ... a neutralizing titration in high school. I realized how difficult it was to use our hands separately.

The most exciting thing about my research is ... to hear a report about a completely unexpected result from my students and young colleagues.

My biggest motivation is ... that there are so many things beyond our flask of knowledge.

The best advice I have ever been given is ... to address not only individual and specialized problems, but also to take a holistic approach (by the late Prof. S. Masamune).

The part of my job which I enjoy the most is ... to see how rapidly students develop into chemists. After all, I learn a lot from them.

My favorite food is ... my wife's home cooking. It is good for my health.

My worst habit is ... overhastiness. I often used to mix reagents before thinking!

The biggest problem that chemists face is ... the creation of organic chemistry that is not dependant on petroleum.

My 5 top papers:

1. “Catalytic Asymmetric and Chemoselective Aerobic Oxidation: Kinetic Resolution of *sec*-Alcohols”: K. Masutani, T. Uchida, R. Irie, T. Katsuki, *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2000**, *41*, 5119–5123.
2. “Zr[bis(salicylidene)ethylenediaminato]-Mediated Baeyer-Villiger Oxidation: Stereospecific Synthesis of Abnormal and Normal Lactones”: A. Watanabe, T. Uchida, R. Irie, T. Katsuki, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2004**, *101*, 5737–5742.
3. “Construction of Pseudo-Heterochiral and Homochiral Di- μ -oxotitanium(Schiff base) Dimers and Enantioselective Epoxidation Using Aqueous Hydrogen Peroxide”: K. Matsumoto, Y. Sawada, B. Saito, K. Sakai, T. Katsuki, *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, *117*, 5015–5019; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, *44*, 4935–4939.
4. “Construction of an Aryliridium–Salen Complex for Highly *cis*- and Enantioselective Cyclopropanations”: S. Kanchiku, H. Suematsu, K. Matsumoto, T. Uchida, T. Katsuki, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, *119*, 3963–3965; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, *46*, 3889–3991.
5. “Iron–Catalyzed Asymmetric Aerobic Oxidation: Oxidative Coupling of 2-Naphthols”: H. Egami, T. Katsuki, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 6082–6083.

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