

Interview



Prof. David Michaelis

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Why did you study chemistry, and how did your experience as missionary for the LDS Church in Costa Rica influence you?

I am spiritual person and to trust in God and has helped me in research, give me ideas and inspires students. BYU is a religious school and get to model for students.

What is your advice for graduate students in OChem to prepare best for an academic or a professional career in chemistry?

I think the most successful scientist love what they do, it fascinates them. They work too much, they love what they do. Be excited about what u do.

What is your favorite activity outside chemistry?

Being with my family, travelling, enjoying with kids.

Share us an interesting experience with Barry M. Trost and Tehshik P. Yoon?

Barry M. Trost - I have lots of experience, he thought only about work. In a Monday morning, he came from Japan, came to my desk and was sick (due to Parkinson disease) and drew a substrate on paper (Z alkene).

Tehshik P. Yoon - I was his 1st graduate student, helped set up his lab and started 1st projects, nCH activation with dioxiranes, then tried oxaziridines. Davis sulfonyl dioxirane was available, Yoon disapproved, but I tried and discovered 3 new reactions. Cu and oxaziridine gave N and O bonds.

Can you tell us one scientific result from your work you like most?

Bimetallic complexes