



Lit Picks 2011-2012

This year's Lit Picks reflect the diversity of research and scientific interests within the group, especially with regard to our core enthusiasm for organic synthesis and improving human health.

Most Selected Papers

Multiple members of the group chose each the following papers; papers are listed in descending order of votes, then in alphabetical order by first author in the case of a tie.

4 Votes

Cohen, Myron S.; Chen, Ying Q.; McCauley, Marybeth; Gamble, Theresa; Hosseinipour, Mina C.; Kumarasamy, Nagalingeswaran; Hakim, James G.; Kumwenda, Johnstone; Grinsztejn, Beatriz; Pilotto, Jose; Godbole, Sheela V.; Mehendale, Sanjay; Chariyalertsak, Suwat; Santos, Breno R.; Mayer, Kenneth H.; Hoffman, Irving F.; Eshleman, Susan H.; Piwowar-Manning, Estelle; Wang, Lei; Makhema, Joseph; Mills, Lisa A.; de Bruyn, Guy; Sanne, Ian; Eron, Joseph; Gallant, Joel; Havlir, Diane; Swindells, Susan; Ribaud, Heather; Elharrar, Vanessa; Burns, David; Taha, Taha E.; Nielsen-Saines, Karin; Celentano, David; Essex, Max; Fleming, Thomas R. "Prevention of HIV-1 Infection with Early Antiretroviral Therapy." *New England Journal of Medicine*, **2011**, 493-505.

"From a public health perspective, the results of this study are beginning to greatly affect treatment strategies for those living with HIV/AIDS, suggesting that earlier treatment can help control the pandemic by minimizing further disease transmission." – Brian L.

"The HPTN 052 trial has been called a "game changer" because it adds yet another tool in the fight against HIV/AIDS. When an HIV positive person is treated with HAART therapy early (before CD4 dropped below 250 cells per mL), the transmission rate to an uninfected partner dropped 96%." – Jen

"This could have significant impact in limiting the transmission of HIV!" – Katie

Leonard, Thomas H.; Rozycki, Bartsoz; Saldi, Layla F.; Hummer, Gerhard; Hurley, James H. "Crystal Structure and Allosteric Activation of Protein Kinase C β II." *Cell*, **2011**, 55-66.

"This is significant as it is the first structure (X-ray crystal AND NMR solution) of a full length PKC isoform, rather than just the C1b domain, and has direct relevance to our group as the target of many of our compounds." – Katie

"This paper gives us the crystal structure of PKC in a partially activated form. This gives us a significant amount of information about the mechanism of PKC activation, and gives a very helpful crystal structure upon which more binding and docking studies can be made." – Steven

3 Votes

Stang, E. M.; White, M. Christina “Molecular Complexity via C-H Activation: A Dehydrogenative Diels-Alder Reaction” *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, **2011**, 14892-14895.

“Utilizes a dehydrogenative Diels-Alder on a terminal olefin to rapidly construct complex molecular scaffolds.” – Micah

“Diels-Alder reaction is one of the most powerful reactions to synthesize 6-membered rings but there is a problem that handling 1,3-dienes is not easy, especially in the case of synthesis of complex molecules. This method enables to escape using 1,3-dienes by C-H activation of terminal olefins, which are easy to handle and most of which are commercially available.” – Yasayuki

Wolfe-Simon, F.; Blum, J.S.; Kulp, T.R.; Gordon, G.W.; Hoeft, S.E.; Pett-Ridge, J.; Stolz, J.F.; Webb, S.M.; Weber, P.K.; Davies, P.C.; Anbar, A.D.; Oremland, R.S. “A Bacterium That Can Grow by Using Arsenic Instead of Phosphorus.” *Science*, **2011**, 332, 1163-1166.

“This paper suggests that bacteria can continue to grow by incorporating arsenic into their DNA! It’s looking like it’s already been disproven, but what a crazy suggestion!” – Erika

2 Votes

Brantley, Johnathan N.; Wiggins, Kelly M.; Bielawski, Christopher W. “Unclicking the Click: Mechanically Facilitated 1,3-Dipolar Cycloreversions.” *Science*, **2011**, 1606-1609.

“Mechanically-facilitated “retro-Click” reaction could lead to the development of triazoles and other cycloadducts as protecting groups in organic synthesis.” – Micah

Cramer, P. E.; Cirrito, J. R.; Wesson, D. W.; Lee, C. Y. D.; Karlo, J. C.; Zinn, A. E.; Casali, B. T.; Restivo, J. L.; Goebel, W. D.; James, M. J.; Brunden, K. R.; Wilson, D. A.; Landreth, G. E. “ApoE-Directed Therapeutics Rapidly Clear β -Amyloid and Reverse Deficits in AD Mouse Models.” *Science* **2012**, 1-4.

“Study out of Case Western that shows the efficacy of a clinically used anti-cancer agent (lymphoma) that results in enhanced clearance of soluble A β within hours and thus has great efficacy for treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.” – Alison

Fuechsle, M.; Miwa, J. A.; Mahapatra, S.; Ryu, H.; Lee, S.; Warschkow, O.; Hollenberg, L. C. L.; Klimeck, G.; Simmons, M. Y. “A single-atom transistor.” *Nature Nanotechnology*, **2012**, ASAP.

“Moore’s Law predicts microchips containing single atom transistors will arrive in 2020. This paper, presenting the first example of a reproducible method to produce a single atom transistor hints that this threshold may be reached sooner than predicted.” – Liz

Jones, S. B.; Simmons, B.; Mastracchio, A.; MacMillan, D.W.C. “Collective Synthesis of Natural Products by Means of Organocascade Catalysis.” *Nature*, **2011**, 475, 183-188.

“This paper aimed to expedite the process of synthesizing large collections of biologically relevant molecules with similar scaffolds. This could be very useful in creating and testing many analogs of natural products.” – Spencer

Kedei, N.; Lubart, E.; Lewin, N.; Telek, A.; Lim, L.; Mannan, P.; Garfield, S.; Kraft, M.; Keck, G.; Kolusheva, S.; Jelinek, R.; Blumberg, P. “Some Phorbol Esters Might Partially Resemble Bryostatin 1 in the Actions on LNCaP Prostate Cancer Cells and U937 Leukemia Cells.” *ChemBioChem*. **2011**, 1242-1251.

“This paper involves the synthesis of a wide range of phorbol esters in a similar vein to the prostratin analogues that we synthesize in this lab. Their results in both cancer cells and leukemia cells give us more information about how a possible analogue strategy might work.” – Steven

Lee, E.; Kamlet, A.S.; Powers, D.C.; Neumann, C.N.; Boursalian, G.B.; Furuya, T.; Choi, D.C.; Hooker, J. M.; Ritter, T. A Fluoride-Derived Electrophilic Late-Stage Fluorination Reagent for PET Imaging. *Science*, **2011**, 344, 639-642.

“They fluorinate some pretty complex molecules late-stage for PET imaging. This method can allow molecules that would otherwise not be good PET candidates to be used for PET.” – Erika

Lévesque, F.; Seeberger, P. H. “Continuous-Flow Synthesis of the Anti-Malaria Drug Artemisinin.” *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, 51, 1706-1709.

“This report provides a high-yielding, scalable and low-cost continuous-flow process for the preparation of artemisinin from artemisinic acid, which can be prepared by fermentation in engineered yeast. Artemisinin is currently the most effective treatment for multidrug resistant malaria; however, current reliance on extraction from plant sources severely limits the supply of the drug, elevating costs for patients around the world.” – Brian L.

Lu, Yu; Woo, Sang Kook; Krische, Michael J. “Total Synthesis of Bryostatin 7 via C-C Bond-Forming Hydrogenation.” *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 13876-13879.

“This dramatic example of step economy furnishes a biologically active Bryostatin in half as many steps as the previous synthesis of this molecule. I see this as a demonstration of how far organic synthesis has advanced over the last two decades, and a call to action for synthetic chemists to carefully select/design the molecules we synthesize for transformative applications.” – Liz

Lustig, Robert H.; Schmidt, Laura A.; Brindis, Claire D. “Public Health: The Toxic Truth About Sugar.” *Nature*, **2012**, 27-29.

“Chronic non-communicable diseases contribute to 35 million annual deaths. Sugar consumption is linked to a rise in these diseases, and the dissemination of these findings has the potential to address disease in a preventative manner.” – Jessica

Martin, D. B. C.; Vanderwal, C. D. “A synthesis of strychnine by a longest linear sequence of six steps” *Chem. Sci.*, **2011**, 2, 649-651.

“Successive Brook rearrangement and intramolecular conjugate addition was highly impact process. I was really surprised about this short step synthesis.” – Fuyuhiko

Mendoza, A.; Ishihara, Y.; Baran, P. S. “Scalable enantioselective total synthesis of taxanes” *Nat. Chem.* **2012**, 21-25.

“This is a practical method for construction of taxane skeleton.” – Yasayuki

Michaudel, Q.; Thevenet, D.; Baran, P.S. “Intermolecular Ritter-Type C-H Amination of Unactivated sp³ Carbons”. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, 134, 2547-2550.

“Direct functionalization (amination) of saturated hydrocarbons (i.e. completely unactivated), allowing for a very large increase in value from many starting materials that are feedstocks.” – Brian T.

Nagib, D. A.; MacMillan, W. C. “Trifluoromethylation of arenes and heteroarenes by means of photoredox catalysis” *Nature*, **2011**, 480, 224-228.

“Trifluoromethyl group is common in medicinal chemistry, but there are a few methods to introduce trifluoromethyl group. This method enables to introduce trifluoromethyl group easily and doesn't need function group on the substrates.” – Yasayuki

Shan, Y.; Kim, E. T.; Eastwood, M. P.; Dror, R. O.; Seeliger, M. A.; Shaw, D. E. “How Does a Drug Molecule Find Its Target?” *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, **2011**, 9181-9183.

“By far, one of the most amazing articles read, Shan et al. developed a docking system for molecules without any initial parameterization of biasing. It is the closest method so far to mimic what naturally occurs in host-guest complexation.” – Brandon

1 Vote (Entries are formatted as submitted in alphabetical order by first author).

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