

10 Tips on How to Get Published

Prof. Kirk Schanze, Editor-in-Chief
ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces



Tip 1: Create a Useful Outline

- Gather data; determine the major advances that emerged from the study
- Ask questions: WHY? WHAT? HOW?
- Carefully organize the data by importance (not chronology)
- Consider possible figures and where they should appear in the text
- Review your outline with a colleague to see if you missed a key point

Start outlines early in a project; do not wait until the “end”

Tip 2: Choose the Journal Carefully



ORGANOMETALLICS

NANO_{LETTERS}



J | A | C | S
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

ACS **Catalysis**

ACCOUNTS
of chemical research

ACS **APPLIED MATERIALS**
& INTERFACES

Inorganic Chemistry
including bioinorganic chemistry

ACS
central science

analytical chemistry

THE JOURNAL OF
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY A/B/C

Journal of
Medicinal Chemistry



Tip 3: Read & Follow the Guidelines



The screenshot shows the ACS Publications website navigation bar with options: Browse the Journal, Submission & Review, Open Access, and About the Journal. The main content area is titled 'Submission and Authoring' and contains two columns. The left column is 'Information for Authors' with a yellow 'NOTE' box and an 'Overview' section. The right column is 'Preparing for Online Submission', which is highlighted with a red box and contains a list of links: Author Guidelines [PDF], Document Templates, Submission Checklists [PDF], Suggesting Reviewers, Specifications for Graphics, Acceptable Software, & TeX/LaTeX, Copyright & Permissions, ACS AuthorChoice, Funded Research Options, Other Services & Policies, and Submit a Manuscript. To the right of the main content are two advertisements. The top one features a watermelon slice and the text 'ACS AuthorChoice lets you publish OA in any ACS publication.' The bottom one features the ACS logo and a woman's face with the text 'Where would the world be without chemists?'

Submission and Authoring

Information for Authors

NOTE: ACS Publications uses CrossCheck's iThenticate software to detect instances of similarity in submitted manuscripts. Your manuscript may be screened for similarity to published material. Learn more.

Overview

Authors are encouraged to use the *ACS Earth and Space Chemistry* Document Templates below for preparing manuscripts for submission as well as for preparing final, accepted manuscripts.

All manuscripts must be accompanied by a graphic to be published on the Table of Contents. See the [Author Guidelines \[PDF\]](#) section on Table of Contents Graphics for more information

The accuracy and correct formatting of the References are the responsibility of the author(s). Refer to *The ACS Style Guide* for the correct format.

Please read about [Suggesting Reviewers](#) before proceeding to the submission site.

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Preparing for Online Submission

- > [Author Guidelines \[PDF\]](#)
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- > [Submission Checklists \[PDF\]](#)
- > [Suggesting Reviewers](#)
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Where would the world be without chemists?

Tip 4: Tell a Story

- Make sure the paper has a main theme and punchline
- Avoid “data dumping”
- Provide context to prior literature, and cite the original work in the reference section
- Explain why the problem is important
- Share experimental details that would allow a reasonably educated person in your field to **re-perform** the experiments
- Analyze the data accurately and objectively
- Provide a strong conclusion, describing how your work moves the field forward, but be realistic

Anatomy of a Manuscript

Title

Introduction

**Results and
Conclusion**

Abstract

Graphics

References

**Experimental
Section**

Avoid Common Language Pitfalls

Imprecise Language

Translation

“It has long been known”

I did not look up the reference

“In my experience”

Once

“In many cases”

Twice

“In a series of cases”

Thrice

“It is believed that”

I think

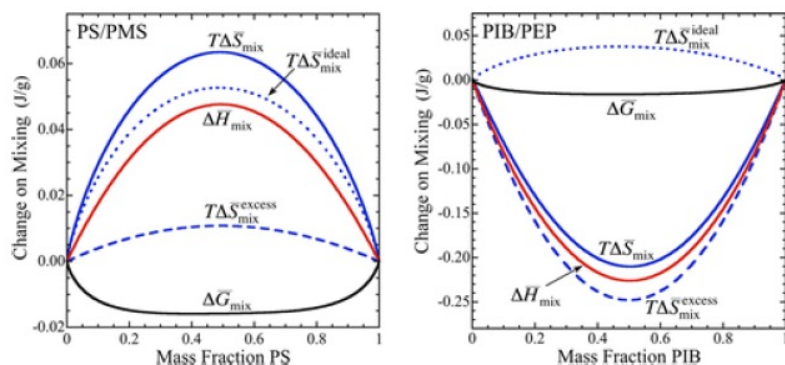
“It is generally believed that”

A couple of other people
think so, too

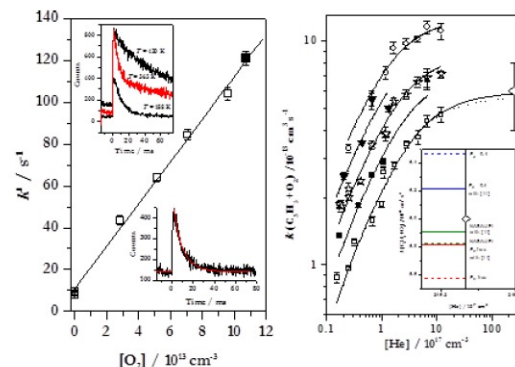
Tip 5: Draw Graphics with Care

- Be clear and precise, simple but informative
- Graphics should complement the text and support your story
- Use **color!**
- Graphics must be original, unpublished artwork created by an author

Good Graphic



Bad Graphic



Tip 6: Attract Readers with a Strong Title

- Craft a compelling title – describe your results/findings in as few words as possible, in an evocative and exciting way
- Avoid buzz words and hard-to-justify claims like “first” and “only”
- Avoid asking a question in the title – be clear on what was accomplished

Overly Long Title:

Synthesis, Electrochemistry, Spectroscopic Characterization, and X-ray Crystal Structure of a Novel NacNac-La Complex that Attacks DNA and Cures Cancer

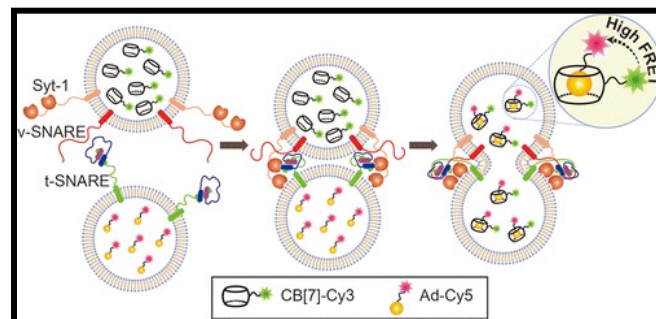
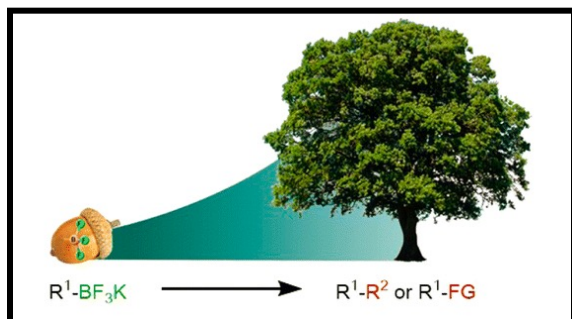
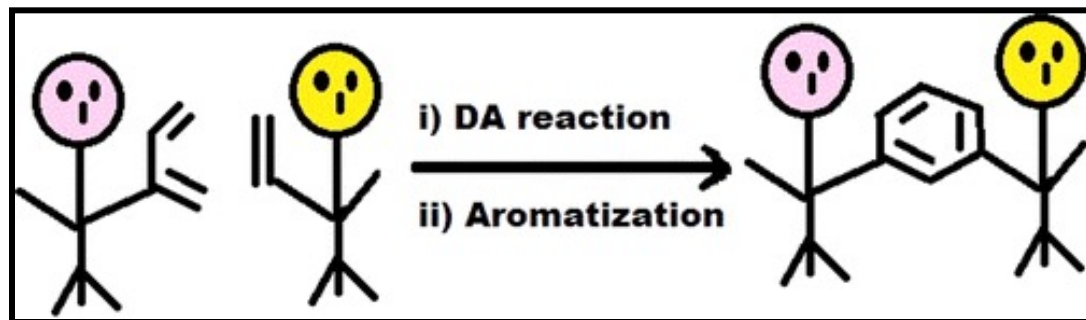
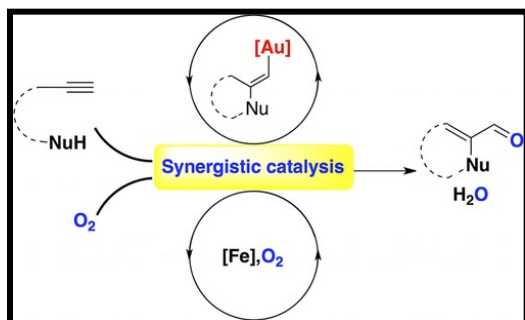
Shortened Title:

Lanthanum(III)-Diketimate Complex Cleaves DNA at Nanomolar Concentrations



Tip 7: TOC Graphics Count

- Capture the reader's attention
- Give a quick visual impression of the essence of your manuscript



Tip 8: Revise, Edit and Rework

PUBLISHING YOUR RESEARCH 101

Episode 1 – How to Write a Paper to Communicate Your Research



Author & Reviewer Resources



Search Citation Subject **Advanced Search**

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Tip 9: Prepare the SI with Care



Editorial

pubs.acs.org/OrgLett

Review of Supporting Information at *Organic Letters*

In our continuing effort to ensure that we publish the very best, high quality research, *Organic Letters* began conducting a closer examination of the Supporting Information (SI) submitted with our Letters. We added a staff member fully devoted to this task in 2012 to focus on a more consistent and systematic SI review *prior* to publication. We would like to update you on some of the common problems we have encountered, describe our process, and provide some guidance for those preparing materials for submission to *Organic Letters*.

In addition, we encourage you to review the *Organic Letters* Guidelines for Authors during manuscript and SI preparation.

To assist authors further, we have prepared a checklist to assist in avoiding the most common issues found during SI review (see next page). *This checklist is also provided as Supporting Information for your benefit.* There is no need to include it with the submission documents. Rather, we encourage you to use it as a tool in reviewing the final manuscript and SI. Please share the checklist with coauthors, colleagues, postdoctoral fellows and students and ask them to review the SI prior to submission.



Tip 10: Write a Strong Cover Letter

- Address the Editor-in-Chief or Associate Editor directly

Dear Professor Bertozzi

- Include the title of the manuscript and mention the journal name

We wish to submit our manuscript “TITLE” for publication in *ACS Central Science*.

- Highlight the relevance and importance of your work

We describe a new, non-natural enzyme-catalyzed reaction, aziridination of olefins via intermolecular nitrene transfer. **We discovered** that a variant of cytochrome P450BM3 used in **our previous studies** of intermolecular sulfimidation also catalyzes aziridination. **We were able to improve this activity** more than 50-fold and the enantioselectivity of enzyme-catalyzed aziridination was improved to 99% ee for a range of styrenyl substrates.



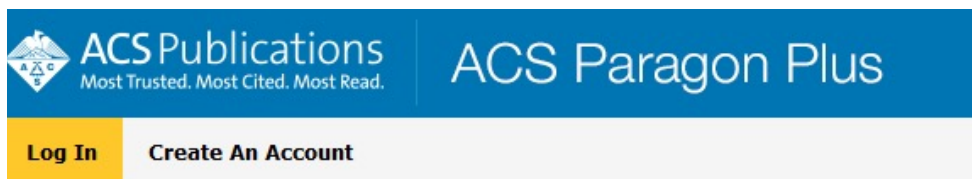
Tip 10: Write a Strong Cover Letter

- Explain why the work is appropriate for the journal's readership

This work should be of interest to the broad audience that ACS Central Science wishes to reach. It touches on evolution—how new enzyme activities can appear and be improved through evolution—as well as inorganic catalysis, biocatalysis, and chemical synthesis.



Submission and Review



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Simple Checklist for Submission:

- MS file (.doc, .pdf)
- Cover Letter
- Supporting Information
- Author Names, Contact Information
- Contact Information for Preferred Reviewers



QUESTIONS?

Prof. Kirk Schanze, Editor-in-Chief, *ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces*



ACS APPLIED ENERGY MATERIALS

January 1, 2016
Volume 1
Number 1
pubs.acs.org/ami

ACS APPLIED POLYMER MATERIALS

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Number 1
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ACS APPLIED BIO MATERIALS

January 1, 2016
Volume 1
Number 1
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ACS APPLIED MATERIALS & INTERFACES

June 13, 2016
Volume 11
Number 24
pubs.acs.org/ami



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UNC



Randy Lee
Houston



Jodie Lutkenhaus
TAMU



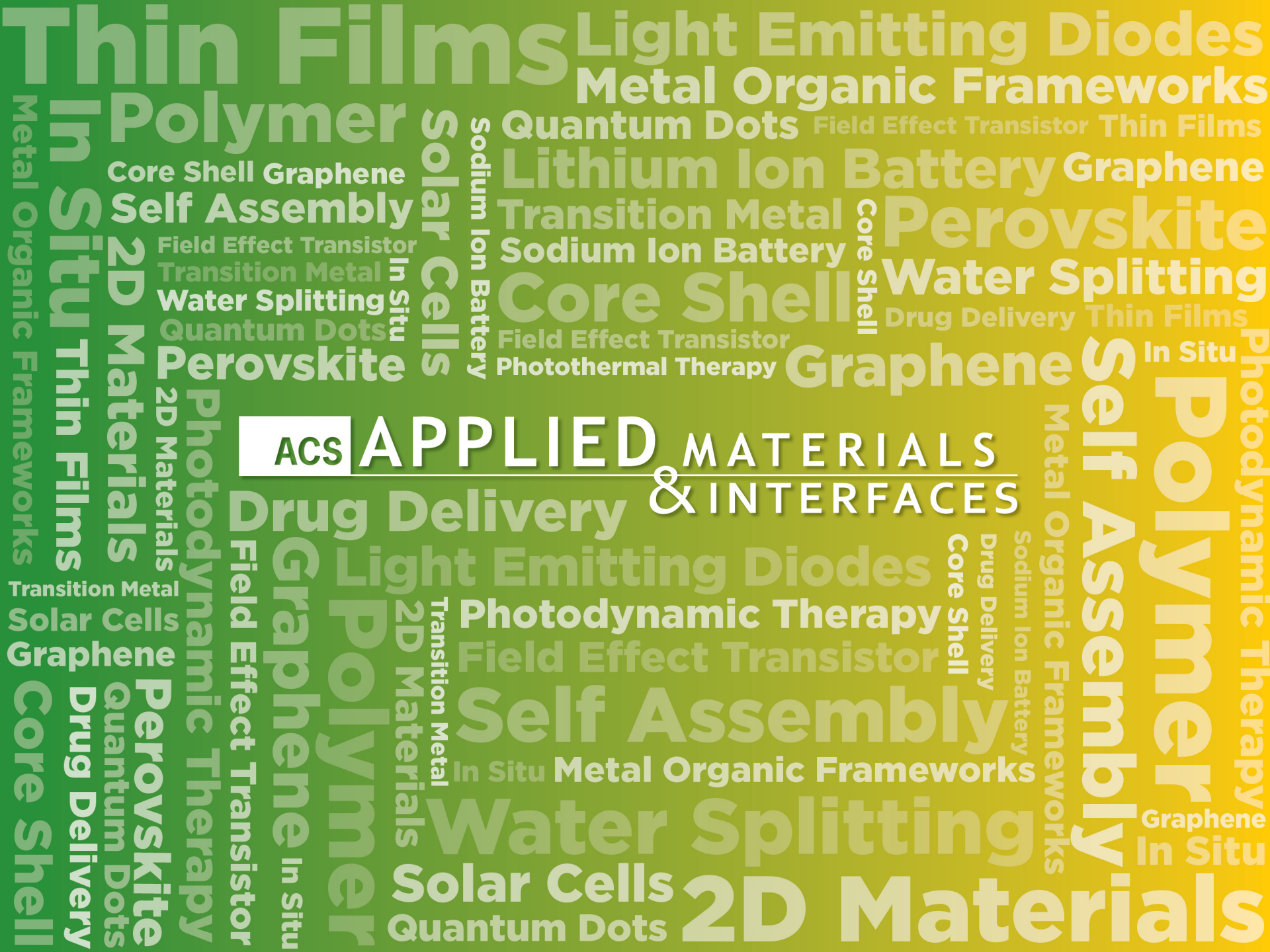
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