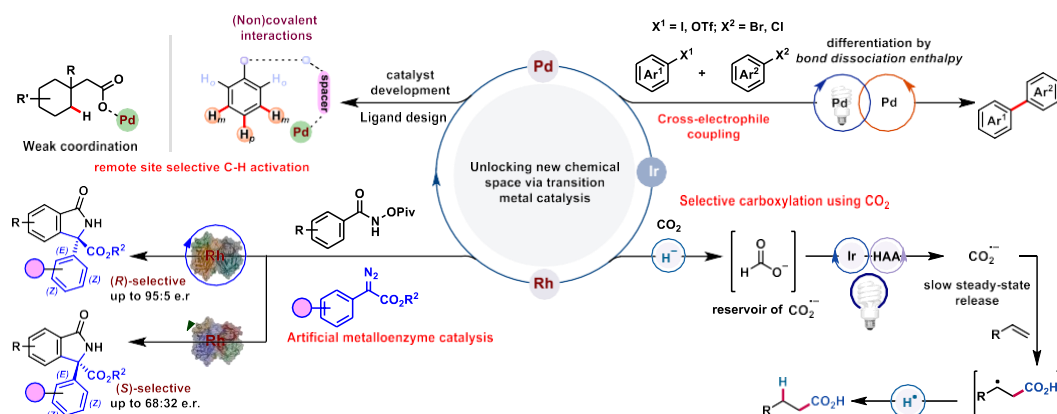


Unlocking new chemical space via selective catalysis

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The limitations of cross-coupling such as the availability of prefunctionalized coupling partners, instability, and synthesis expense remain, posing significant barriers to unlocking new chemical space for molecular complexity. To solve these underlying problems of cross-coupling we are mainly focused on the development of techniques for direct C–H functionalization and cross-electrophile coupling. Selectively targeting a remote C–H bond in a molecule remains more challenging due to the inaccessibility of these sites in formation of energetically favorable organometallic pre-transition states. We believe that the direct release of the reactive metal catalyst in close proximity to the targeted remote C–H bond could solve this problem. We devised covalently attached template-directed methods that require precise spatial positioning of the directing group in order to selectively activate remote C–H bonds. We recently demonstrated that various non-covalent interactions are also successful in recognizing the perfect orientation of catalyst and the substrate to achieve selective C–H bond activation. In this vein, we have developed a method for the activation of methylene C–H bond in presence of methyl C–H bonds to form unsaturated bicyclic lactones utilizing the weak coordinating nature carboxylic acid towards palladium. Cross-electrophile coupling (XEC) approach would be a powerful tool for the construction of (hetero)biaryl moiety because of the widespread availability and stability of (hetero)aryl electrophiles. We have demonstrated a ligand controlled visible light driven monometallic cross-electrophile coupling platform for the synthesis of unsymmetrical (hetero)biaryls directly from (hetero)aryl halides and pseudohalides. In addition, our lab is pursuing the development of a paradigm in which small molecules such CO₂, SO₂ etc. can be converted into a wide range of chemicals and materials using renewable visible light photocatalysis.



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Presenter Details: Prof. Debabrata Maiti received his PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 2008 under the supervision of Prof. Kenneth D. Karlin. After postdoctoral studies at MIT with Prof. Stephen L. Buchwald, he joined the Department of Chemistry at IIT Bombay in 2011. His research interests are focused on the development of new and sustainable synthetic and catalytic methodologies. Currently he is *Editor-in-Chief, Synlett*.