The Canadian Journal of Chemistry (CJC) and Canadian Science Publishing would like to congratulate Professor Adrian Schwan (University of Guelph) for receiving the very first Canadian Journal of Chemistry Best Paper Award.


There were 41 Canadian authors who indicated they wished their paper to be considered for the best paper award when they submitted their manuscripts. Associate Editors, who handle the submitted manuscripts, carefully evaluated each manuscript and nominated outstanding papers. The final decision was made by the selection committee consisting of the CJC Editorial Advisory Board members.

Dr. Schwan’s research in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Guelph focuses on developing new transformations of organosulfur compounds. Of particular interest is the exploration of the synthetic utility of low valent sulfur acids and the assessment of their value to create new stereogenic centres. Specifically, Professor Schwan is known for his explorations of the chemistry of sulfenic acid anions, compounds possessing the structure R-SO-M⁺. He also has interests in heterocyclic chemistry and the preparation of unnatural phosphonolipids for exogenous lung surfactant therapy.

His paper describes chemistry that breaks the paradigm for the stereochemical outcome of sulfinate ester substitution chemistry using Grignard reagents. Instead of effecting formal inversion chemistry at sulfur, a number of the substrates with complementary sulfinate configurations actually converge to a single stereogenic sulfur due to the presence of a nearby carboxylic ester group. A possible mechanism for this outcome is offered.

Dr. Schwan will receive a certificate, present an award lecture at the Canadian Society for Chemistry annual meeting in Ottawa in June 2015. He will receive a $1000 prize and present several sponsored lectures at Canadian universities sponsored by CJC. The winning paper was made open access.

For more details on the CJC Best Paper Award, please visit the Canadian Journal of Chemistry home page.