P. Floreancig

*The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in Angewandte Chemie*: "Total Synthesis of the Protein Phosphatase 2A Inhibitor Lactodehydrothyrsiferol": D. J. Clausen, S. Wan, P. E. Floreancig, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 5284 – 5287; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 5178 – 5181.

Paul Floreancig

Date of birth:	June 3, 1964
Position:	Professor of Chemistry
E-mail:	florean@pitt.edu
Homepage:	www.pitt.edu/~florean
Education:	1986 BS Indiana University, Bloomington (USA) 1997 PhD with Paul Wender, Stanford University (USA) 1997–1999 Postdoc with Peter Dervan, Caltech, Pasadena (USA)
Awards:	**2000** Research Corporation Research Innovation Award
Current research interests:	My research group has had a long-standing interest in using oxidative reactions to form electrophiles for synthetic purposes. This research has led us to mechanistic studies and to the design of applications for the developed methods that would be difficult to achieve through conventional protocols. We are also developing new multicomponent reactions based on the high capacity of nitriles for diversification. Both of these efforts have led us to apply the developed approaches to the synthesis of natural products and their analogues, which has resulted in our entry into devising structure–activity relationships for several natural products.
Hobbies:	Cycling, reading, watching sports, reliving my youth vicariously through my daughter

If I could be any age I would be … 47. No point in fretting about the passage of time.

The biggest challenge facing scientists is … reversing the growing sense from the general public that science is not a worthy area of pursuit.

Looking back over my career, I … wish I had incorporated biological studies into my research program earlier. They add a fascinating dimension to the science and can propel the work in unforeseen directions.

My favorite name reaction is … the Lobry–de Bruyn–Alberda–van Ekenstein reaction. It has a great name, and it solved a particularly sticky problem when I was a graduate student.

The most important thing I learned from my students is … ideas and solutions based on their laboratory observations are far more powerful than ideas and solutions that come from my desk.

My favorite book is … "Midnight's Children" by Salman Rushdie. It offers a compelling plot, an amazing use of language, and the unexpected blending of mysticism and historic events.

My motto is … teach students as you would like to be taught.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Structure – Reactivity Relationships in Oxidative Carbon–Carbon Bond Forming Reactions: A Mild and Efficient Approach to Stereoselective Syntheses of 2,6-Disubstituted Tetrahydropyrones": L. Wang, J. R. Seiders, II, P. E. Floreancig, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 12596 – 12603. (This paper provided a guide to designing oxidative fragmentation reactions that give useful products and described a strategy for adjusting reaction efficiency by manipulating the oxidation potentials and bond dissociation energies of the substrate.)
2. "Stereoselective Synthesis of Tertiary Ethers through Geometric Control of Highly Substituted Oxocarbenium Ions": L. Liu, P. E. Floreancig, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 6030 – 6033; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 5894 – 5897. (In this paper, two stereochemical models are presented that have excellent predictive capabilities for reactions that give cyclic tertiary ethers.)
3. "Total Synthesis of Pederin and Analogues": F. Wu, M. E. Green, P. E. Floreancig, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 1163 – 1166; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 1131 – 1134. (This work showed that an appropriately situated multicomponent reaction can result in a brief linear sequence for the synthesis of a complex natural product and can provide facile access to a number of analogues that enhance our understanding of biological activity.)
4. "An Experimental and Computational Approach to Defining Structure/Reactivity Relationships for Intramolecular Addition Reactions to Bicyclic Epoxonium Ions": S. Wan, H. Gunaydin, K. N. Houk, P. E. Floreancig, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 7915 – 7923. (Bicyclic epoxonium ions are frequently encountered intermediates in cyclic ether synthesis and this manuscript detailed the structural features that control the regiochemical preferences for their opening reactions.)
5. "Oxidative Carbocation Formation in Macrocycles: Synthesis of the Neopeltolide Macrocycle": W. Tu, P. E. Floreancig, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 4637 – 4641; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 4567 – 4571. (This work showed that oxidative conditions can be used to form cations in systems that might not be amenable to cation formation through traditional acid-mediated approaches.)

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201103836