A. Minnaard

*The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** in Angewandte Chemie in the last 10 years:*
"Catalytic Regioselective Oxidation of Glycosides": M. Jäger, M. Hartmann, J. G. de Vries, A. J. Minnaard, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 7963 – 7966; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 7809 – 7812.

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Current research interests:	Synthesis and immunology of complex glycolipids of *M. tuberculosis*; development of efficient catalytic methods for organic synthesis
Hobbies:	Reading, music

In a spare hour, I … play the saxophone.

My favorite saying is … hmm, did you already try adding HMPA or AIBN?

I admire … my colleague em. Prof. Dr. Jan B. F. N. Engberts for his insights in fundamental chemical phenomena and philosophy of education.

I advise my students to … read, read, read.

My favorite principle is … the Curtin–Hammett Principle, as it often provides a beautiful explanation for observed (stereo)selectivity, and an efficient synthetic tool.

My chemical "hero" is … em. Prof. L. Brandsma (preparative organic synthesis at the University of Utrecht).

If I could be a piece of lab equipment, I would be … a stir bar, being very close to the reaction.

My favorite author (science) is … Prof. Douglass Taber because of his Organic Highlight columns at http://www.organic-chemistry.org/Highlights.

The greatest scientific advance of the last decade has been … the massive progress made in the reprogramming of cells, because of its enormous implications.

I am waiting for the day when someone will discover … a reliable and practical tool to predict reaction speed!

The most important future applications of my research … will hopefully be the use of synthetic glycolipids in an efficient vaccine against tuberculosis.

My first experiment was … the extraction of nicotine from tobacco.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Catalytic Regioselective Oxidation of Glycosides": M. Jäger, M. Hartmann, J. G. de Vries, A. J. Minnaard, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 7963 – 7966; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 7809 – 7812. (The synthesis and modification of carbohydrates in a protecting group-free manner.)
2. "Total synthesis, stereochemical elucidation and biological evaluation of Ac_2SGL; a 1,3-methyl branched sulfoglycolipid from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*": D. Geerdink, B. ter Horst, M. Lepore, L. Mori, G. Puzo, A. K. H. Hirsch, M. Gilleron, G. de Libero, A. J. Minnaard, *Chemical Science* **2013**, *4*, 709 – 716. (Multi-methyl-branched fatty acids are synthetically accessible and provide access to Ac_2SGL.)
3. "Asymmetric Copper-Catalyzed Addition of Grignard Reagents to Aryl Alkyl Ketones": A. V. R. Madduri, S. R. Harutyunyan, A. J. Minnaard, *Angew. Chem.* **2012**, *124*, 3218 – 3221; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2012**, *51*, 3164 – 3167. (Finally this reaction can now be performed in a catalytic enantioselective manner.)
4. "Pd – NHC Catalyzed Conjugate Addition versus the Mizoroki – Heck Reaction": A. L. Gottumukkala, J. G. de Vries, A. J. Minnaard, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2011**, *17*, 3091 – 3096. (As we carry out conjugate addition reactions with organometallic compounds derived from aryl halides, why don't we use the aryl halides themselves?)
5. "Total Synthesis of Enantiopure β-D-Mannosyl Phosphomycoketides from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*": R. P. van Summeren, D. B. Moody, B. L. Feringa, A. J. Minnaard, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 4546 – 4548. (Established the configuration of the title compound and provided material for extensive immunological studies.)

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