Ilan Marek

Date of birth:	February 15, 1963
Position:	Professor of Chemistry, Technion–Israel Institute of Technology
E-mail:	chilanm@tx.technion.ac.il
Homepage:	ilan-marek.com
Education:	1985 BSc, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris 1988 PhD with Prof. J.-F. Normant, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris 1989 Postdoctoral position with Prof. L. Ghosez, Université catholique de Louvain
Awards:	**2011** Royal Society of Chemistry Organometallic Award; **2012** Janssen Pharmaceutica Prize for Creativity in Organic Synthesis; **2012** Israel Chemical Society Prize of Excellence; **2015** The Weizmann Prize for Exact Sciences
Research:	Organic synthesis
Hobbies:	Travelling, art, and architecture

I. Marek

The following paper by I. Marek and co-workers is published in this issue of Angewandte Chemie: "Cyclopropene Derivatives as Precursors to Enantioenriched Cyclopropanols and *n*-Butenals Possessing Quaternary Carbon Stereocenters": M. Simaan, P.-O. Delaye, M. Shi, I. Marek, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 12345; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 12522.

My favorite food is Tfina Pkaila (a traditional Jewish Tunisian recipe).

The best advice I have ever been given is "dream it, do it!" (Technion's axiom).

My favorite quote is "Anyone who doesn't believe in miracles is not a realist" (David Ben-Gurion).

My favorite piece of research is the one that will appear in the coming years.

If I won the lottery, I would surely make my family happy!

If I could have dinner with three famous scientists from history, they would be Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, and Robert B. Woodward.

And I would ask them nothing, I would just listen.

My favorite place on earth is anywhere close to a warm sea.

I chose chemistry as a career because I fell in love with the art of organic synthesis.

If I were not a scientist, I would be a surgeon.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Forming Stereogenic Centers in Acyclic Systems from Alkynes": R. Vabre, B. Island, C. J. Diehl, P. R. Schreiner, I. Marek, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 9996; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 10134. (Functionalized acyclic adducts can be prepared through the creation of three new C–C bonds and two to three stereogenic centers, including a quaternary-carbon stereogenic center, in a single-pot operation from simple terminal alkynes.)
2. "Selective Carbon–Carbon Bond Cleavage for the Stereoselective Synthesis of Acyclic Systems": I. Marek, A. Masarwa, P.-O. Delaye, M. Leibeling, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 414; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 424. (The synthesis of challenging acyclic molecular skeletons can also be accessed through regio-, diastereo-, or enantioselective C–C bond activation, even though such bonds are among the least reactive functional groups.)
3. "All-Carbon Quaternary Stereogenic Centers in Acyclic Systems through the Creation of Several C–C bonds per Chemical Step": I. Marek, Y. Minko, M. Pasco, T. Mejuch, N. Gilboa, H. Chechik, J. P. Das, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 2682. (All-carbon quaternary stereogenic centers could be created through the formation of several new C–C bonds in an acyclic system and in a single-pot operation from simple precursors.)
4. "Merging allylic carbon–hydrogen and selective carbon–carbon bond activation": A. Masarwa, D. Didier, T. Zabrodsky, M. Schinkel, L. Ackermann, I. Marek, *Nature* **2014**, *505*, 199. (An approach that exploits the multifold reactivity of easily accessible substrates with a single organometallic species to furnish complex molecular scaffolds through the merging of otherwise difficult transformations: allylic C–H and selective C–C bond activation.)
5. "Forming all-carbon quaternary stereogenic centres in acyclic systems from alkynes": Y. Minko, M. Pasco, L. Lercher, M. Botoshansky, I. Marek, *Nature* **2012**, *490*, 522. (Alternative approaches to the preparation of all-carbon quaternary stereogenic centers and more particularly to the formation of aldol and Mannich adducts can be designed from simple alkynes through the concomitant formation of several new bonds in a single-pot operation.)

International Edition: DOI: 10.1002/anie.201508341
German Edition: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201508341