

Pavel Kočovský



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Background

Pavel Kočovský was raised and educated in Prague, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic). He received an **MSc** (1st class) in 1974 from the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Technical University, Prague, where he did his diploma work with Prof. O. Červinka in the area of asymmetric reactions. He obtained a **PhD** in 1977 from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry (IOCB), Prague, where he worked on steroid chemistry under the guidance of Dr. V. Černý and Prof. F. Šorm. He was then appointed to an academic position at the same Institute, which he held for fourteen years (1977-1991). He did his postdoctoral work with Prof. J. E. McMurry at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA (1983-84), and later spent a sabbatical year with Prof. J.-E. Bäckvall at the University of Uppsala, Sweden (1989-1990).

In 1991 he moved to the University of Leicester, UK, where he spent nine years, obtained a **DSc** (1993), and raised in the ranks to full professor. In 1999 he moved to the University of Glasgow as the **Sir William Ramsay Professor of Chemistry** and in 2010 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (**FRSE**). In 2006 he chaired the 1st RSC Symposium on Organocatalysis in Organic Synthesis and in 2009 the 15th IUPAC Symposium on Organometallic Chemistry Directed Towards Organic Synthesis (OMCOS 15), both held in Glasgow. He was also one of the founding fathers of the COST action ORCA on Organocatalysis (2010-2014).

He left Glasgow in the spring of 2014 and for several years was “delocalized” between Charles University (Prague) and Stockholm University before settling at Charles. In Prague, he also serves as an adjunct professor at the IOCB, where he was previously a member of the International Advisory Board (2003-2011). In addition, he has a joint appointment at the Faculty of Pharmacy (Charles University) in Hradec Králové. In 2014 he was a visiting professor at Sapienza University of Rome.

His research interests span organic and organometallic chemistry, stereoselective reactions, asymmetric catalysis, reaction mechanisms, and synthesis of functional molecules. He has published more than 250 papers, reviews, and book chapters, which received over 9,000 citations, and he is a member of the editorial boards of several international journals. In addition to his research, he is an enthusiastic and innovative educator. A more detailed account of his activities can be found under the headings listed below and in the laudatio (http://cccc.uochb.cas.cz/virtual_issues/kocovsky/foreword/) written by Dr. Ivo Starý, his former student. For further information, see the interview (in Czech) he gave to the ICT in 2010 (<https://studuj.vscht.cz/uspesni/kocovsky>) and his personal recollections (listed in the publications record), where he also writes about his life-long “stereophilia” and “palladophilia”. Some of his views on organocatalysis are spelled out in another interview (*Chem. Eng. News* **2004**, 82, No 36, 41-45). Additional details were revealed in the interview he gave to the Science Faculty of Charles University on the occasion of the *Best Chemistry Teacher of the Year Award* (2019): see <https://www.natur.cuni.cz/fakulta/veda-a-vyzkum/popularizace/clanky/rozhovor-s-laureatem-studentskeho-velemloka-za-rok-2017-2018-za-chemii-pavlem-kocovskym-aneb-spoluzaci-me-meli-za-chemickeho-cvoka>.

- **Teaching**
- **Research**
- **Publications**
- **Co-workers**
- **Invited Seminars and Symposia**
- **Pictures (Personal)**
- **Pictures (Family)**
- **Pictures (Travel)**

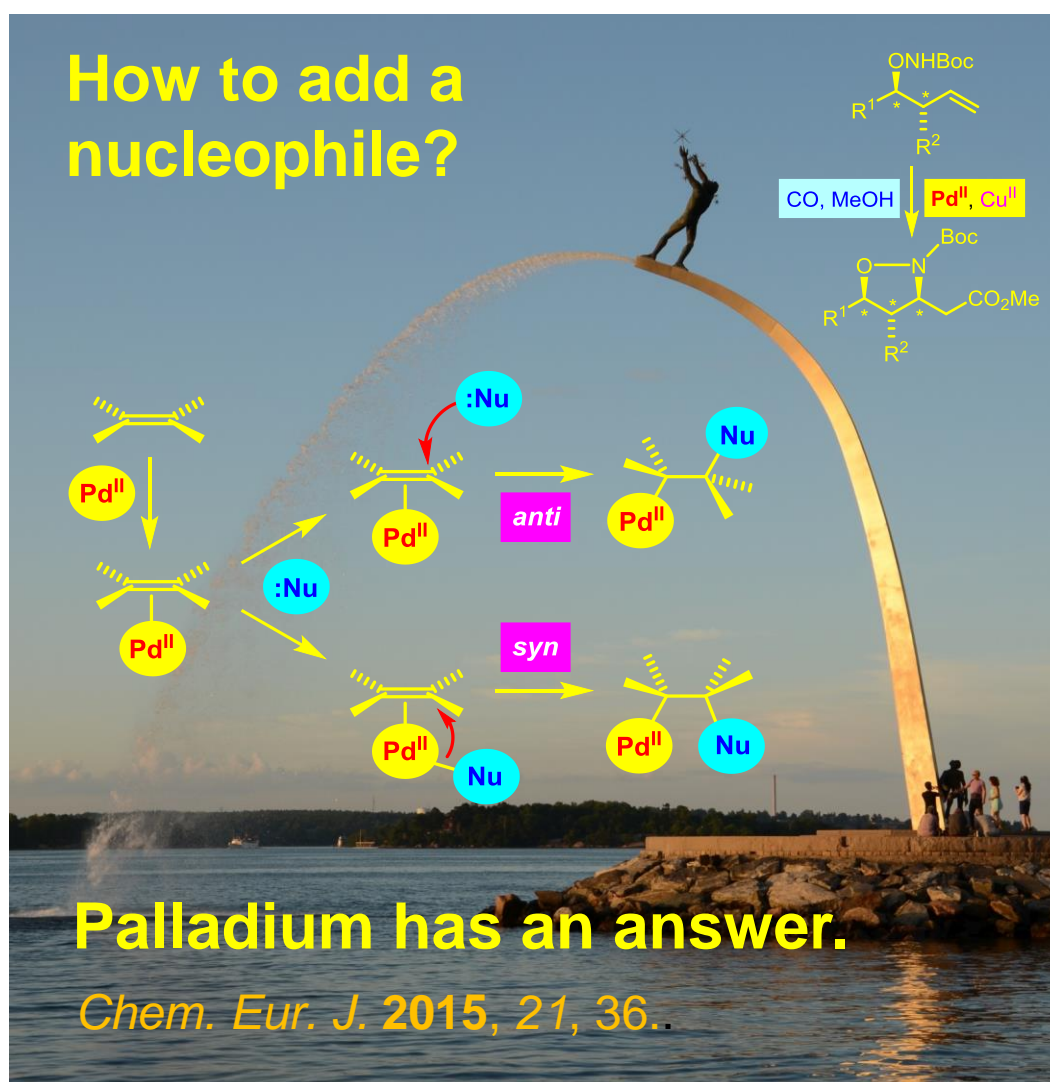


Pavel Kočovský – Research Highlights

Inspiration



Catalysis



Synthesis of Natural Products

