

Supervisor Expression of Interest MSCA-IF Marie Sklodowska Curie Action-Individual Fellowship 2020

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Research Topic:	Gold(I)-catalyzed activation of acetylene gas
Brief description of the research project idea:	

Gold(I)-catalyzed activation of acetylene gas

Recently, our group reported the selective synthesis of the *Z*,*Z*-1,4-disubstituted 1,3-butadienes by reaction of acetylene gas with *trans*-1,2-substituted alkenes (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2020, *59*, 4888).

Remarkably, in the presence of excess acetylene, the initially formed 1,3-butadienes react further by a new type of *intermolecular cross-metathesis* forming conjugated polyenes capped with two aryl rings.

Based on the preliminary results on this novel oligomerization, the first objective of this project is to develop a high-yielding gold(I)-catalyzed polymerization of acetylene gas in the presence of a variety of alkenes under simple experimental conditions (room temperature, 1 atm) using new catalysts bearing sterically hindered ligands.

On the other hand, reaction of acetylene with 1,5-dienes leads to tricyclo[5.1.0.0] octanes as single stereoisomers, which has been applied for the total synthesis of the natural product waitziacuminone in a single step from commercially available products.

Encouraged by this noteworthy result, a second objective of this project is to design chiral catalysts for the enantioselective activation of acetylene to build up complex chiral structures.