

International Conference on

Pharmaceutical Chemistry

September 05-07, 2016 Frankfurt, Germany

New asymmetric organocatalytic methods towards the synthesis of molecules of biological interest

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The use of asymmetric organocatalysis as a method towards the construction of enantiopure molecules has burgeoned significantly in the last decade or so. Our group has developed several new reactions that lead to highly enantiopure biomolecules – mainly non-natural amino acids – using hydrogen bonding catalysis. We present the expedient synthesis of novel γ - and δ -amino acids, as well as other novel complex structures and derivatives, such as an analogue of the Amaryllidaceae alkaloid α -lycorane.

Biography

Alexander J Andre Cobb is an Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Reading. He started his career at King's College London where he studied Chemistry as an undergraduate. He then worked for his PhD at University College London under the guidance of Professor Charles Marson, investigating novel metal catalyzed asymmetric reactions. After completing this in 2001-02, he moved to the University of Cambridge to work briefly for Dr. Florian Hollfelder and then with Professor Steven V Ley CBE FRS in the fields of Organocatalysis and Medicinal Chemistry. In 2005, he was appointed to the faculty of the Reading School of Pharmacy and promoted to Associate Professor in October 2012.

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