

Prof. Dr. Per-Ola Norrby

Senior Principal Scientist, Data Science & Modelling, AstraZeneca, Sweden.

Title talk: Predicting reaction selectivity

Short research biography



Per-Ola Norrby was born in Sweden in 1962. He obtained his PhD in Organic Chemistry from KTH, Stockholm in 1992, under the supervision of Björn Åkermark. He then did a postdoc with Barry Sharpless at Scripps in San Diego. A second postdoc with Tommy Liljerfors at DFH in Copenhagen led to an academic career in Denmark, first at DFH, then at DTU, where he became Associate Professor in Organic Chemistry. He moved back to Sweden in 2006 to become a Professor in Organic Synthesis at Gothenburg University. In 2014, he moved to AstraZeneca Gothenburg where he is currently active as a Principal Scientist in Data Science & Modelling, Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Throughout his career, his research interests has focused on reaction mechanism, which have been studied using a combination of experimental techniques and molecular modelling, frequently in collaboration with other research groups. A major focus has been to develop predictive models for stereoselectivity, and to apply these in virtual screening of asymmetric catalysts. In the last decades, he has focused on all aspects of chemical reactivity in the pharmaceutical industry, from synthetic route design to understanding stability and degradation of pharmaceutical products.

He has published >200 peer reviewed articles together with >400 co-authors. He is a Fellow of Chemistry Europe and of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and a life-time member of the Swedish Chemical Society. In 2019, he received the Ulla and Stig Holmquist Prize in Organic Chemistry from Uppsala university.

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