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Education and Experience: He received his B. S. degree (2000) from Fuyang Teachers College and M. Eng. degree (2003) from Shantou University. In 2003, he joined in the Group of Professor Guorong Qi at Zhejiang University, where he received Ph.D. in 2006. He then became an Assistant Professor and was promoted to be an Associate Professor at the end of 2009 and a full Professor at the end of 2016. In 2012—2013, he worked as a visiting scholar at Moore group at Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Research Areas: Polymer Chemistry and Functional Materials

Interview

Q1: What are the major current research activities in your group?

A1: My group focuses on the synthesis of sustainable polymers using one-carbon monomers such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbonyl sulfide (COS) and carbon disulfide (CS₂) and the catalyst for the C1 polymerization process. We are also endeavored to the understanding of the catalysis, the application of these C1-derived polymers, and the industrialization of C1-based polymers that, positively, may reduce the “white pollution” in environment.

Q2: When did you get interested in the specific field? Could you please tell us more about your research in this respect?

A2: Every element in nature can be reasonably harnessed for human beings. CO₂ and sulfur are “waste gas” and “solid waste”, respectively, during the utilization of oil and coal. Sulfur can be easily converted to COS and CS₂. My dream is to transform the “waster” matter to useful materials, to better the life and the world.

Q3: What is the most important personality in scientific research?

A3: Deep thinking, deep thinking, deep thinking.

Q4: What is your motto?

A4: JUST DO IT.

Q5: Who is the person you admire the most?

A5: Zedong Mao.

Q6: What are your hobbies?

A6: Alcohol and reading.

Q7: What would you be if you were not a chemist?

A7: Historian. It is also good as a chemist.

Q8: What are the most important things you learned from your parents?

A8: Kindness, integrity and tolerance.

Q9: What is the best advice you have ever been given?

A9: To have a positive self-image (from English textbook).

Q10: What is your most favorite city?

A10: My most favorite city is Hangzhou, the real paradise.

My top articles

- [1] Zhang, C.-J.; Zhu, T.-C.; Cao, X.-H.; Hong, X.; Zhang, X.-H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2019**, *141*, 5490.
- [2] Zhang, C.-J.; Wu, H.-L.; Li, Y.; Yang, J.-L.; Zhang, X.-H. *Nat. Commun.* **2018**, *9*, 2137.
- [3] Yang, J.-L.; Wu, H.-L.; Li, Y.; Zhang, X.-H.; Darensbourg, D. J. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2017**, *56*, 5774.
- [4] Li, Y.; Zhang, Y.-Y.; Hu, L.-F.; Zhang, X.-H.; Du, B.-Y.; Xu, J.-T. *Prog. Polym. Sci.* **2018**, *82*, 120.