

Catalysis: A Frontier at the Center of Chemistry

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There is no doubt that many of the most pressing challenges facing humanity – such as health, the environment, and energy – will have to be addressed using chemistry. But what remains to be discovered or understood in this discipline of ours? Is it a “mature” science, such that the only real opportunities exist in applying known concepts both within the field and at the interface of other disciplines? Or are there genuinely new things to be found about molecular structure and reactivity that can enhance the impact of our field?

In this lecture, I will share my own perceptions of what are some of the major fundamental challenges at the core of chemistry, and touch on ways that my group has gone to address them.