Sustainable catalysis: enzyme-mediated synthesis of high value chemicals and pharmaceuticals in flow reactors

Francesca Paradisi University of Nottingham

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Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Zaragoza - CSIC C/ Pedro Cerbuna, 12. Zaragoza 50009. Spain









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Francesca Paradisia,b*

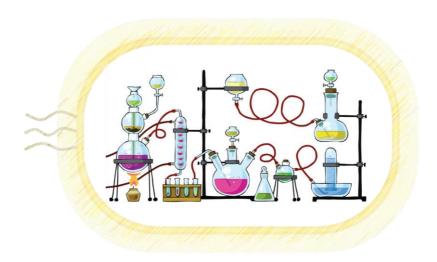


^aSchool of Chemistry, University of Nottingham, University Park, NG72RD, Nottingham, UK ^bDepartment of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Bern, Freiestrasse 3 CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland

*email: francesca.paradisi@dcb.unibe.ch

Personal Group Page https://paradisiresearch.com/

Flow chemistry has allowed many industrial processes to be carried out in continuous mode, with higher efficiency and automation. Biocatalysis has caught up with this technique and several examples have been reported in the literature in the last decade. However, the complexity of multi-enzymatic processes in the absence of cellular regulation, has limited their applications to some chemo-enzymatic synthesis, and just a few fully enzymatic processes have been implemented. Among others, the cofactor requirements of redox enzymes, the stability of the biocatalyst, and efficiency of the biotransformations, must be thoroughly optimised. Furthermore, the mobile phase is rarely recovered, minimizing the real environmental impact of enzymatic reactions. Here the steady evolution of flow biocatalysis in our laboratory will be presented, moving towards systems of increasing complexity with combinations of several enzymes, which resulted in a breakthrough in the design and implementation of an ultra-efficient zero-waste and closed-loop process with unprecedented atom efficiency and automation.



References:

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