D. Romo

Daniel Romo

Date of birth:	November 30, 1964
Position:	Schotts Professor of Chemistry, Baylor University
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Education:	1986 BA in chemistry/biology, Texas A&M University 1991 PhD supervised by Prof. Albert I. Meyers, Colorado State University 1991–1993 postdoc with Prof. Stuart L. Schreiber, Harvard University
Awards:	**2001** Pfizer Award for Creativity in Organic Chemistry; **2009** NIH MERIT Award; **2013** Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry
Current research interests:	Synthesis and biology of β-lactones; total synthesis/mode of action studies of natural products; organocascade catalysis
Hobbies:	Christian apologetics, Aggie sports (college sports), science–faith intersection, fishing

*The author presented on this page has published **10 articles** in Angewandte Chemie in the last 10 years:* "Asymmetric Organocatalysis: The Emerging Utility of α,β-Unsaturated Acylammonium Salts": S. Vellalath, D. Romo, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2016**, *55*, 13934; *Angew. Chem.* **2016**, *128*, 14138.

I celebrate success by giving thanks to God and "chillin" with my family.

The best advice I have ever been given is "Romo, when you begin your independent career, be sure to do some chemistry that will become associated with your name" (A. I. Meyers).

My favorite quote is "never, never, never give up!" (Winston Churchill).

The most important thing I learned from my parents is you can accomplish anything you can dream and hard work pays off; demonstrated through example rather than words.

My favorite place on earth is next to my wife Laura, enjoying a good show with a bowl of popcorn.

I chose chemistry as a career because of excellent chemistry teachers from high school to college.

My best investment was/is the time, energy, love, and finances poured into our children (five boys) since they will be our true legacy.

If I were not a scientist, I would be a professional fisherman who spends weekends running fishing tours while collecting specimens for isolation chemists and serving sashimi on deck!

My worst nightmare is a reoccurring one involving forgetting I signed up for an undergraduate course until finals week!

The most exciting thing about my research is when my students share an unexpected finding with me and I see their excitement and desire to dig deeper into the generality of the observation.

I lose track of time when getting into a groove toward completing a manuscript or grant application.

The work of D. Romo has been featured on the cover of Angewandte Chemie: "Total Synthesis of (+)-Omphadiol": G. Liu, D. Romo, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 7537; *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 7679.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Intramolecular Nucleophile-Catalyzed Aldol-Lactonization (NCAL) Reactions: Catalytic, Asymmetric Synthesis of Bicyclic β-Lactones": G. S. Cortez, R. L. Tennyson, D. Romo, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 7945. (Early β-lactone paper by Reggie and Guillermo, building on elegant work of Wynberg.)
2. "Inhibition of Eukaryotic Translation Initiation by the Marine Natural Product Pateamine A": W.-K. Low, Y. Dang, T. Schneider-Poetsch, Z. Shi, N. S. Choi, W. C. Merrick, D. Romo, J. O. Liu, *Mol. Cell* **2005**, *20*, 709. (Culmination of synthesis/mode of action studies of PatA initiated by one of my first grads, Robert Rzasa.)
3. "Concise Synthesis of Spirocyclic, Bridged γ-Butyrolactones via Stereospecific, Dyotropic Rearrangements of β-Lactones Involving 1,2-acyl and δ-Lactone Migrations": V. C. Purohit, A. S. Matla, D. Romo, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 10478. (Extension of a known, but intriguing transformation of β-lactones by Vikram.)
4. "Enantioselective Total Synthesis of the Marine Toxin (−)-Gymnodimine Employing a Barbier-Type Macrocyclization": K. Kong, C. S. Lee, D. Romo, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 7402; *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 7538. (Ke's fearlessness in adding *t*BuLi at *room temperature* to an advanced intermediate was critical for the key macrocyclization!)
5. "Rapid assembly of complex cyclopentanes employing chiral α,β-unsaturated acylammonium intermediates": G. Liu, M. E. Shirley, K. N. Van, R. L. McFarlin, D. Romo, *Nat. Chem.* **2013**, *5*, 1049. (Gang took a rough idea from his advisor and "ran with it".)

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