

# Bringing Chemistry to Life

## a podcast series

Season 5, Episode 6

Cross-coupling, catalysis and one chemist's move to tech



### Episode Abstract

Most of us don't grow up across the street from a chemistry building or know from an early age that we want to be a scientist, but we're joined by a former colleague and friend of Paolo's, for which this is his story. Dr. Alan Dyke joins to share his career path and discuss the history and current state of the field of catalysis.

With a father that taught university-level chemistry, and a brother who was also a scientist, but in a different discipline, it may not be surprising that Alan Dyke (Chief Technology Officer of Boulder Scientific Company at the time of the interview; now Vice President of Business Development for ProChem, Inc.) also became a chemist. What is surprising is that he's considered to be somewhat of the black sheep of the family in that he's elected more commercial career opportunities instead of taking an academic route. This very successful black sheep is able to shed light on the upsides of choosing a non-academic career.

Join us for a wonderful conversation where Paolo and Alan recount their shared history and the evolution of the catalysis field over recent decades. They discuss the evolution of homogeneous cross coupling, biocatalysis, metathesis, and metallocene chemistry. Application of catalysis to fields as varied as pharmaceuticals and polymers is discussed, along with sustainability and other trends and dynamics in the field. Overcome your activation energy and join us!

### About Our Guest

#### Alan Dyke, PhD

Vice President of Business Development  
ProChem, Inc.



### Alan's Recent Publications:

- [The Anionic thia-Fries rearrangement of Aryl Triflates, 14 Jan 2003 \(the reaction we discovered in the Lloyd-Jones Group in Bristol\)](#)
- [Decoupling Deprotonation from Metalation: This-Fries Rearrangement, 16 Jun 2008 \(full review of the Thia-Fries Rearrangement\)](#)
- [Organometallic Generation and Capture of ortho-Arynes 15 Sep 2006](#)

### Alan's Content Recommendations:

- [Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Super Athletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen](#), a book by Christopher McDougall
- [Eat and Run: My Unlikely Journey to Ultramarathon Greatness](#), a book by Scott Jurek and Steve Friedman
- [Finding Ultra, Revised and Updated Edition: Rejecting Middle Age, Becoming One of the World's Fittest Men, and Discovering Myself](#), a book by Rich Roll
- [The Rich Roll Podcast, Unlock Your Best Self](#), Alan's favorite podcast
- [Do Hard Things: Why We Get Resilience Wrong and the Surprising Science of Real Toughness](#), a book by Steve Magness
- [Subtract: The Untapped Science of Less](#), a book by Leidy Klotz

This podcast series is available via the following links

