

# DANIEL H. ESS

*Professor*

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Brigham Young University

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Comp. Chemistry

University of California, Los Angeles (9/03-10/07)

Advisor: K. N. Houk

B.S. Biochemistry

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah (2000)

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Professor

Brigham Young University, Provo Utah (9/20-present)

Associate Professor

Brigham Young University, Provo Utah (9/16-9/20)

Assistant Professor

Brigham Young University, Provo Utah (7/10-8/16)

Postdoctoral Scholar

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (10/09-6/10)

Comp. Inorganic

Advisors: Cynthia K. Schauer and Thomas J. Meyer

Postdoctoral Scholar

The Scripps Research Institute, Florida (10/07-10/09)

Comp. & Experimental Catalysis

Advisor: Roy A. Periana

California Institute of Technology (10/07-10/09)

Advisor: William A. Goddard, III

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

Consultant

Hyconix Inc. (2015-present).

## CURRENT FUNDED RESEARCH AREAS

- Computational catalyst design
- Organometallic direct dynamics
- Computational studies of alkane C-H functionalization reactions
- Computational studies of multinuclear transition-metal catalysis

## CURRENT AWARDS (Total for all awards = \$4,598,265)

- *National Science Foundation*, "Theory and Design of Dinuclear Catalytic Reactions" CHE-2153215 (PI, 2022-2025)
- *DOD: Army Research Laboratory*, "CLEM-EM: Clean, Lean, and Efficient Synthesis of Energetic Materials" Rice-Army Cooperative Agreement (subcontract, 2021-2026)
- *National Science Foundation*, "Collaborative Research: Improving Student Learning in Organic Chemistry Using Chemical Reaction Simulations" DUE-2121023 (PI, 2021-2024)
- *National Institutes of Health, NIGMS*, "Nickel Catalyzed Electrochemical C-C Cross-Coupling Reactions" 1R15GM143721-01 (subcontract, 2021-2024)
- *National Science Foundation*, "Dynamical Organometallic Mechanisms" CHE-1952420 (PI, 2020-2023)

- *Chevron Phillips Chemical Co.*, “Design of Homogeneous Alpha Olefin Catalysts” (PI, 2014-2022)
- *Phillips 66*, “Computational Optimization of Solid Acid Metal-Organic Frameworks” (PI, 2019-2025)
- *National Science Foundation*, “Chemistry and Biochemistry REU Site to Prepare Students for Graduate School and an Industrial Career” CHE-1757627 (PI, 2018-2021); renewal (PI, 2021-2024) CHE-2050872
- *U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Catalysis Sciences*, “Theory of Main-Group, p-Block Hydrocarbon Functionalization Reactions” (PI, 2017-2020) and renewal “Modeling and Design of Main-Group Metal Catalyzed Alkane C-H Functionalization Reactions” (PI, 2020-2023) DE-SC0018329
- *National Institutes of Health, NIGMS*, “Asymmetric N-H/N-alkyl olefin aziridinations and ring-opening transformations” 1R35GM136373-01 (subcontract, 2020-2025)

### COMPLETED AWARDS

- *National Science Foundation*, “Theory and Design of Transition-Metal Heterodinuclear and Homodinuclear Catalytic Reactions” CHE-1764194 (PI, 2018-2021)
- *National Institutes of Health, NIGMS*, “Asymmetric N-H/N-alkyl olefin aziridinations and ring-opening transformations” 1R01GM114609-01 (subcontract, 2015-2019)
- *State of Utah, Principle Energy Issues Program, Utah Research Triangle*, “Catalytic Conversion of Carbon Dioxide to Carbon Monoxide and Methanol” (PI, 2014-2015)
- *U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences*, “Energy Frontier Research Center, Center for Catalytic Hydrocarbon Functionalization” DE-SC0001298 (subcontract, Co-PI, 2010-2014)
- *American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Foundation*, “Quantum Mechanical Investigation of Fundamental Concepts in Hydrocarbon C-H Bond Activation” (PRF #51081-DNI3) (PI, 2011-2014)

### SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

<https://github.com/DanielEss-lab>

- **Milo:** A quasiclassical direct dynamics program.
- **Mason and Taylor:** Automated construction and optimization of molecular transition-state structures.
- **MECPro:** Efficient program to locate minimum energy crossing points.
- **iORA:** iPhone application that animates organic reaction direct dynamics simulations. Type “iORA” into the Apple App Store
- **webORA:** <http://webora.chem.byu.edu/>
- **MOFseek:** Software that analyzes metal-organic framework structures.

### CHEMISTRY CAMPS

- Creator and co-director of BYU Chem Camp for children ages 9-12 (<https://chemcamp.byu.edu/9-12>) >500 children from 2016-present.
- Creator and co-director of BYU BioChem Camp for youth ages 13-14. (<https://chemcamp.byu.edu/13-14>) >200 youth from 2017-present.

### SUMMER VISITING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

<https://reu.chem.byu.edu/>

- PI and director of the NSF-funded Chemistry and Biochemistry Research Experiences for Undergraduates REU program “*Chemistry and Biochemistry REU Site to Prepare Students for*

*Graduate School and an Industrial Career*". Established 2018, the goal of this program is to provide a pathway to graduate school. This site hosts 10 visiting undergraduate students each year and 2 high school teachers (RET).

## COURSES TAUGHT

- Organic chemistry 1 and 2: Chem 351, 351M, 352, 352M, and 357 (industrial organic). These are large section classes ranging from 75-250 students.
- Graduate physical organic chemistry: Chem 552.
- Graduate computational chemistry: Chem 596R.
- Freshmen seminar series: Chem 195.

## TEACHING INNOVATION

- **Creator of Chem 357, Industrial Organic Chemistry.** This one-semester organic chemistry course replaced the typical two semester course chemical engineering majors. It teaches core organic chemistry principles of bonding, thermodynamics, reactive intermediates, and reaction mechanisms with an emphasis on industrial commodity chemistry processes. This is the first genuine industrial organic course offered to undergraduate students in the US.
- **Creator of Chem 195, Freshmen Seminar Series.** I created a course for freshmen chemistry majors. Chemistry 195 is designed to give freshmen an overview of all the divisions of traditional chemistry and their interface with biology, medicine, engineering, and other physical sciences. This class is a once-a-week seminar series. Speakers consist of either BYU professors, external industrial chemists, and professional speakers. This seminar series covers non-traditional employment, such as patent law and start-up companies.
- **Creator of Chem 397R, Mentored Service and Outreach.** This course is used to train BYU undergraduate students as Chem Camp counselors to teach children and youth science.

## EXTERNAL SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Guest editor for *J. Chem. Phys.* 2022, Volume 157, on "Chemical Design by Artificial Intelligence". Authored editorial: <https://aip.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/5.0123281>
- Guest editor for *Chemical Reviews* Volume 119, Issue 11 on "Computational Design of Catalysts from Molecules to Materials". Authored editorial: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemrev.9b00296>.
- Cofounder of monthly Zoom conference computational chemistry conference (2020-2021). Currently attended by >10 international research groups.
- Cofounder of annual "Utah Inorganometallic Conference" (2014-2019). Attended by BYU, UofU, and Utah State.
- Reviewer of >300 journal articles. Example of journals are: *Science*, *Nature*, *Nature Chemistry*, *Nature Catalysis*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Chemical Science*, *ACS Catalysis*, *Inorganic Chemistry*, *Journal of Physical Chemistry*, and *Organometallics*.
- Panel and "mail-in" grant review. Examples include Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, and Petroleum Research Foundation.

## BYU AWARDS

- Karl G. Maeser Research and Creative Arts Award (2019)
- Richard Roskelly Teaching and Learning Fellowship (2017-2018)
- BYU Young Scholar Award (2015)
- BYU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences Young Scholar Award (2014)

## BYU COMMITTEES

Chair of undergraduate research awards                      2012-2015

Chair of graduate recruiting 2015-2020  
Member of college rank and status 2022-present

### MENTORED POSTDOCS

Dr. Olajumoke Dunsin (Jan. 2023-present)  
Dr. Anthony Schaefer (July 2022-present)  
Dr. Jyothish Joy (Jan. 2022-present)  
Dr. Jugal Kumawat (Jan. 2022-present)  
Dr. Justin Kirkland (Jan. 2021-present)  
Dr. Shusen Chen (Aug. 2020-present)  
Dr. Bo Yang (Oct. 2019-Sept. 2022) Eastman Chemical (Tennessee)  
Dr. Maliheh Tameh (Jan. 2021-Jan. 2022)  
Dr. Steven Maley (Jan. 2019-Nov. 2020) Nanotech (Canada)  
Dr. Madhu Samolia (May 2019-Dec. 2019)  
Dr. Jian Wang (Jan. 2015-Dec. 2015)  
Dr. Deep Devarajan (Jan. 2014-Dec. 2015)  
Dr. Alban Petit (Jan. 2013-July 2014)

### MENTORED GRADUATE STUDENTS

Sanaz Mohammadzadeh (Jan. 2023-present)  
Michael Davenport (June 2020-present)  
Joshua Wheeler (June 2018-present)  
Dr. Ryan Carlsen, Ph.D. (May 2015-Aug. 2021) *Consultant*  
James Coombs (Sept. 2018-Dec. 2020) *High school teacher, Rifle Colorado*  
Dr. Doo-Hyun Kwon, Ph.D. (June 2014-June 2019) *Computational chemist at GlaxoSmithKline and now at biotech company*  
Dr. Clinton King, Ph.D. (Sept. 2014-Aug. 2019) *Assistant professor at Utah Valley University.*  
Jack Fuller, M.S. (June 2014-Aug. 2016) *Ph.D. at UCLA; Postdoc at PNNL*  
Dr. Samantha Gustafson, Ph.D. (Sept. 2011-Aug. 2016)

#### *Jointly Advised Graduate Students:*

Artem Marchenko (Jan. 2022-present) Jointly advised with David Michaelis  
Kyle Clark (June 2018-Apr. 2020) Jointly advised with Matthew Asplund and David Michaelis.  
Dr. Ying Zhang, Ph.D. (Sept. 2013-July 2018) Jointly advised with Prof. Brian Woodfield. *Employed at Micron Inc.*

### BYU PUBLICATION STATISTICS & HIGHLIGHTS

- h-index = 45; i10-index = 98 (Google Scholar for all publications on 03/33/2023)
- Total publications = 160
- Total issued US patents = 7

### ISSUED PATENTS

7. Bischof, S. M.; Sydora, O. L.; Kilgore, U. J.; Ess, D. H.; Kwon, D-H. "Chromium Phosphinyl Isoindole Amidine Complexes for Tetramerization of Ethylene" (with Chevron Phillips Chem. Co. LP). US 11,583,843 B1. Issued 02/21/2023.

6. Bischof, S. M.; Sydora, O. L.; Kilgore, U. J.; Ess, D. H.; Kwon, D-H. "Chromium Bicyclic Phosphinyl Amidine Complexes for Tetramerization of Ethylene" (with Chevron Phillips Chem. Co. LP). US 11,505,513 B1. Issued 11/22/2022.

5. Bischof, S. M.; Sydora, O. L.; Kilgore, U. J.; Ess, D. H.; Kwon, D.-H. "Chromium Phosphinyl Hydroisindole Amidine Complexes for Tetramerization of Ethylene" (with Chevron Phillips Chem. Co. LP). US 11,492,305 B1. Issued 11/08/2022.
4. Bischof, S. M.; Kilgore, U. J.; Sydora, O. L.; Ess, D. H.; Fuller, III, J. T.; Kwon, D.-H. "Fluorinated N<sub>2</sub>-Phosphinyl Amidine Compounds, Chromium Salt Complexes, Catalyst Systems, and Their Use to Oligomerize Ethylene" (with Chevron Phillips Chem. Co. LP) US 10,493,442 B2. Issued 12/03/2019.
3. Bischof, S. M.; Kilgore, U. J.; Sydora, O. L.; Ess, D. H.; Fuller, III, J. T.; Kwon, D.-H. "Carbonyl-Containing Perfluorohydrocarbyl-N<sup>2</sup>-Phosphinylamide Compounds, Chromium Salt Complexes and their use to Oligomerize Ethylene" (with Chevron Phillips Chem. Co. LP) US 10,294,171 B2. Issued 05/21/2019.
2. Bischof, S. M.; Kilgore, U. J.; Sydora, O. L.; Ess, D. H.; Fuller, III, J. T.; Kwon, D.-H. "Perfluorohydrocarbyl-N<sub>2</sub>-Phosphinyl Amidine Compounds, Chromium Salt Complexes, Catalyst Systems, and Their Use to Oligomerize Ethylene" (with Chevron Phillips Chem. Co. LP) US 10,183,960 B1. Issued 01/22/2019.
1. Ess, D. H.; Falck, J. R. Jat, J. L. Kürti, L. "Direct Stereospecific Synthesis of Unprotected Aziridines from Olefins" US 9,988,349 B2. Issued 06/05/2018.

## BYU PUBLICATIONS

(\* = corresponding or co-corresponding author; <sup>Δ</sup> = undergraduate co-author from my lab)

161. Joy, J.; Ess, D. H.\* Direct Dynamics Trajectories Demonstrate Dynamic Matching and Nonstatistical Radical Pair Intermediates during Fe-Oxo-Mediated C–H Functionalization Reactions. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2023**, *Accepted*.
160. Chen, S.; Rossberg, J.<sup>Δ</sup>; Brown, J.<sup>Δ</sup>; Reed, G.<sup>Δ</sup>; Todd, N.<sup>Δ</sup>; Yu, A.; Fleming, S. A.; Ess, D. H.\* Interactive Organic Reaction Trajectory Animation iPhone Application (iORA) and Web Site (webORA). *J. Chem. Ed.* **2023**, *ASAP*. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.jchemed.2c00983>
159. Son, J.-Y.; Aikonen, S.; Morgan, N.<sup>Δ</sup>; Harmata, A. S.; Sabatini, J. J.; Ess, D. H.\*; Paton, R. S.; Stephenson, C. R. J. Regioselective Rearrangement of Cubanes to Cuneanes: Scope Expansion and Mechanistic Investigations. *ChemRxiv* <https://chemrxiv.org/engage/chemrxiv/article-details/63ac9e5fe8047a7720f8a702>
158. Luo, J.; Davenport, M. T.; Callister, C.; Minter, S. D.; Ess, D. H.\*; Liu, T. L. Understanding Formation and Roles of Ni(II) Aryl Amido and Ni(III) Aryl Amido Intermediates in Ni-Catalyzed Electrochemical Aryl Amination Reactions. *ChemRxiv* <https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv-2022-bpzwt>
157. Yang, B.; Mendez-Arroyo, J.; May, C.; Yao, J.; Ess, D. H.\* Transition-State Analysis Reveals Unexpected Coordination-Specific Reactivity that Drives Alkene Dimerization by Sulfated Metal–Organic Frameworks. *ChemRxiv* <https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv-2022-pv5zx>
156. Maley, S. M.; Lief, G. R.; Buck, R. M.; Sydora, O. L.; Yang, Q.; Bischof, S. M.; Ess, D. H.\* Density functional theory and CCSD(T) Evaluation of Ionization Potentials, Redox Potentials, and Bond Energies Related to Zirconocene Polymerization Catalysts. *J. Comput. Chem.* **2023**, *44*, 506-515. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcc.26890>

155. Singh, J.; Nelson, T. J.; Mansfield, S. A.; Nickel, G. A.; Cai, Y.; Jones, D. D.; Small, J. E.; Ess, D. H.; Castle, S. L. Microwave- and Thermally Promoted Iminyl Radical Cyclizations: A Versatile Method for the Synthesis of Functionalized Pyrrolines. *J. Org. Chem.* **2022**, *87*, 16250-16262. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.2c01806>
154. Yang, B.; Hawley, D. <sup>Δ</sup>; Yao, J.; May, C.; Mendez-Arroyo, J. E.; Ess, D. H.\* “Demonstration of High-Throughput Building Block and Composition Analysis of Metal-Organic Frameworks” *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2022**, *62*, 4672-4679. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jcim.2c00937>
153. Koppaka, A.; Kirkland, J. T.; Periana, R. A.; Ess, D. H.\* Experimental Demonstration and Density Functional Theory Mechanistic Analysis of Arene C–H Bond Oxidation and Product Protection by Osmium Tetroxide in a Strongly Basic/Nucleophilic Solvent. *J. Org. Chem.* **2022**, *87*, 13573-13582. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.joc.2c01159>
152. Ess, D. H.\*; Jelfs, K. E.; Kulik, H. J. Chemical design by artificial intelligence. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2022**, *157*, 120401. <https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0123281>
151. Kong, F.; Chen, S.; Chen, J.; Liu, C.; Zhu, W.; Dickie, D. A.; Ess, D. H.\* Zhang, S.; Gunnoe, T. B. Cu(II) Carboxylate Arene C–H Functionalization: Tuning for Non-Radical Pathways. *Sci. Adv.* **2022**, *8*, eadd 1594. DOI: [10.1126/sciadv.add1594](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.add1594)
150. Melville, J. <sup>Δ</sup>; Hargis, C. <sup>Δ</sup>; Davenport, M. T.; Hamilton, R. S. <sup>Δ</sup>; Ess, D. H.\* Machine Learning Analysis of Dynamic-Dependent Bond Formation in Trajectories with Consecutive Transition States. *J. Phys. Org. Chem.* **2022**, *35*, e4405. <https://doi.org/10.1002/poc.4405>
149. Kattamuri, P. V.; Zhao, J.; Das, T. K.; Siitonen, J. H.; Morgan, N. <sup>Δ</sup>; Ess, D. H.\* Kürti, L. Aza-Quasi-Favorskii Reaction: Construction of Highly Substituted Aziridines through a Concerted Multibond Rearrangement Process. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2022**, *144*, 10943-10949. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.2c03805>
148. Maley, S. M.; Steagall, R. <sup>Δ</sup>; Lief, G. R.; Buck, R. M.; Yang, Q.; Sydora, O. L.; Bischof, S. M.; Ess, D. H.\* Computational Evaluation and Design of Polyethylene Zirconocene Catalysts with Noncovalent Dispersion Interactions. *Organometallics*, **2022**, *41*, 581-593. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.organomet.1c00670>
147. Clapson, M. L.; Kirkland, J. K.; Piers, W. E.; Ess, D. H.\*; Gelfand, B.; Lin, J.-B. Carbene Character in a Series of Neutral PC<sub>carbene</sub>P Cobalt(I) Complexes: Radical Carbenes Versus Nucleophilic Carbenes *Organometallics*, **2022**, *41*, 235-245. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.organomet.1c00585>
146. Morgan, N. <sup>Δ</sup>; Maley, S. M.; Kwon, D.-H.; Webster-Gardiner, M. S.; Small, B. L.; Sydora, O. L.; Bischof, S. M. Ess, D. H.\* Computational Assessment and Understanding of C<sub>6</sub> Product Selectivity for Chromium Phosphinoamidine Catalyzed Ethylene Trimerization. *J. Organometallic Chem.* **2022**, *961*, 122251. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022328X21005726>
145. Chen, S.; Nielson, T.; Zalit, E.; Skjelstad, B. B.; Borough, B.; Hirschi, W. J.; Yu, S.; Balcells, D. Ess, D. H.\* Automated Construction and Optimization Combined with Machine Learning to Generate Pt(II) Methane C–H Activation Transition States. *Topics in Catalysis* **2022**, *65*, 312-324. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11244-021-01506-0>
144. Ess, D. H.\* Quasiclassical Direct Dynamics Trajectory Simulations of Organometallic Reactions. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2021**, *54*, 4410-4422. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.accounts.1c00575>

143. Steiman, T. J.; Kalab, A. E.; Coombs, J. C.; Kirkland, J. K.; Torres, H.<sup>△</sup>; Ess, D. H.; Uyeda, C. Dinickel-Catalyzed Vinylidene–Alkene Cyclization Reactions. *ACS Catal.*, **2021**, *11*, 14408-14416. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acscatal.1c03350>
142. Chen, S-S.; Koppaka, Anjaneyulu, Periana, R. A.; Ess, D. H.\* Theory and Experiment Demonstrate that Sb(V)-Promoted Methane C-H Activation and Functionalization Outcompetes Superacid Protonolysis in Sulfuric Acid. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2021**, *143*, 18242-18250. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.1c08170>
141. Teynor, M. S.<sup>△</sup>; Scott, W.<sup>△</sup>; Ess, D. H.\* Catalysis with a Skip: Dynamically Coupled Addition, Proton Transfer, and Elimination during Au- and Pd-Catalyzed Diol Cyclizations. *ACS Catal.* **2021**, *11*, 10179-10189. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acscatal.1c02408>
140. Ence, C. C.; Martinez, E. E.; Himes, S. R.<sup>△</sup>; Nazari, S. H.; Moreno, M. R.; Matu, M. F.; Larsen, S. G.; Gassaway, K. J.; Valdivia-Berroeta, G. A.; Smith, S. J.; Ess, D. H.\*; Michaelis, D. J. Experiment and Theory of Bimetallic Pd-Catalyzed  $\alpha$ -Arylation and Annulation for Naphthalene Synthesis. *ACS Catal.* **2021**, *11*, 10394-10404. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acscatal.1c02731>
139. Davis, J. T.; Martinez, E. E.; Clark, K. J.; Kwon, D-H.; Talley, M. R.; Michaelis, D. J.; Ess, D. H.\*; Asplund, M. C. Time-Resolved Ultraviolet–Infrared Experiments Suggest Fe–Cu Dinuclear Arene Borylation Catalyst Can Be Photoactivated. *Organometallics* **2021**, *40*, 1859-1865. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.organomet.1c00136>
138. Yang, B.; Wheeler, J. I.; Sorensen, B.<sup>△</sup>; Steagall, R.<sup>△</sup>; Nielson, T.<sup>△</sup>; Yao, J.; Mendez-Arroyo, J.; Ess, D. H.\* Computational Determination of Coordination Structure Impact on Adsorption and Acidity of Pristine and Sulfated MOF-808. *Mater. Adv.* **2021**, *2*, 4246-4254. <https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlehtml/2021/ma/d1ma00330e>
137. Yang, B.; Schouten, A.<sup>△</sup>; Ess, D. H.\* Direct Dynamics Trajectories Reveal Nonstatistical Coordination Intermediates and Demonstrate that  $\sigma$  and  $\pi$ -Coordination Are Not Required for Rhenium(I)-Mediated Ethylene C–H Activation. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2021**, 8367-8374. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/jacs.1c01709>
136. Maley, S. M.; Melville, J.<sup>△</sup>; Yu, S.<sup>△</sup>; Teynor, M. S.<sup>△</sup>; Carlsen, R.; Hargis, C.<sup>△</sup>; Hamilton, R. S.<sup>△</sup>; Grant, B. O.<sup>△</sup>; Ess, D. H.\* Machine Learning Classification of Disrotatory IRC and Conrotatory Non-IRC Trajectory Motion for Cyclopropyl Radical Ring Opening. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2021**, *23*, 12309-12320. <https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2021/cp/d1cp00612f#!divAbstract>
135. Carlsen, R.; Maley, S. M.; Ess, D. H.\* Timing and Structures of  $\sigma$ -Bond Metathesis C–H Activation Reactions from Quasiclassical Direct Dynamics Simulations. *Organometallics*, **2021**, *40*, 1454–1465. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.organomet.1c00102>
134. McGuire, K. L.; Smit, P.; Ess, D. H.; Hill, J. T.; Harrison, R. G.; Busath, D. D. Mechanism and Kinetics of Copper Complexes Binding to the Influenza A M2 S31N and S31N/G34E Channels. *Biophysical Journal* **2021**, *120*, 168-177. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.24.265165>
133. Patel, D. I.; Shah, D.; Roychowdhury, T.; Wheeler, J. I. Ess, D. H.; Hilfiker, J. N.; Linford, M. R. Diphenylsiloxane-Dimethylsiloxane Copolymer: Optical Function from 191 - 1688 nm (0.735 - 6.491 eV)

by Spectroscopic Ellipsometry. *Surface Science Spectra* **2020**, 27, 026001. <https://doi.org/10.1116/6.0000249>.

132. Smith, J. A.; Schouten, A.<sup>Δ</sup>; Wilde, J. H.; Westendorff, K. S.; Dickie, D. A.; Ess, D. H.\*; Harmen, W. D. Experiments and Direct Dynamics Simulations Reveal a Network of Reaction Pathways for Tungsten  $\eta^2$ -Arene - Aryl Hydride Equilibria. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2020**, 142, 16437-16454. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.0c08032>

131. Major, G. H.; Chapman, S. C.; Chapman, J. T.; Wheeler, J. I.; Chatterjee, S.; Cushman, C. V.; Ess, D. H.; Linford, M. R. Spectroscopic Ellipsometry of SU-8 Photoresist from 190 – 1680 nm (0.740 – 6.50 eV). *Surface and Interface Analysis*, **2021**, 53, 5-31. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sia.6867>

130. Smith, J. D.; Durrant, G.; Ess, D. H.; Gelfand, B. S.; Piers, W. E. H/D Exchange Under Mild Conditions in Arenes and Unactivated Alkanes with C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>O Using Rigid, Electron-rich Iridium PCP Pincer Complexes. *Chem. Sci.* **2020**, 11, 10705-10717. <https://doi.org/10.1039/D0SC02694H>

129. Maley, S. M.; Kwon, D-H.; Rollins, N.<sup>Δ</sup>; Stanley, J. C.<sup>Δ</sup>; Sydora, O. L.; Bischof, S. M.; Ess, D. H.\* Quantum-Mechanical Transition-State Model Combined with Machine Learning Provides Catalyst Design Features for Selective Cr Olefin Oligomerization. *Chem. Sci.* **2020**, 9665-9674. <https://doi.org/10.1039/D0SC03552A>

128. Kwon, D-H.; Maley, S. M.; Stanley, J. C.<sup>Δ</sup>; Sydora, O. L.; Bischof, S. M.; Ess, D. H.\* Why Less Coordination Provides Higher Reactivity Chromium Phosphinoamidine Ethylene Trimerization Catalysts. *ACS Catal.* **2020**, 10, 9674-9683. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acscatal.0c02595>

127. Martinez, E. A.; Jensen, C. A.; Larson, A. J. S.; Kenney, K. C.; Clark, K. J.; Nazari, S. H.; Valdivia-Berroeta, G. A.; Smith, S. J.; Ess, D. H.; Michaelis, D. J. Monosubstituted, Anionic Imidazolyl Ligands from N-H NHC precursors and Their Activity in Pd-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2020**, 362, 2876-2881. <https://doi.org/10.1002/adsc.202000483>

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## **MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

<https://www.chem.byu.edu/news/ess-researchers-invent-chemical-catalyst/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmwBv\\_8IgVk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmwBv_8IgVk)

<https://www.ksl.com/article/29047879/byu-chemist-makes-breakthrough-discovery-on-natural-gas>

## **LIST OF MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

❖ All students mentored >1 year

Brian Kirk (2010-2013)

Preston Stewart (2010-2012)

Corey S. Ellis (2010-2012)

Melinda Lambert (2010-2011)

Alex Miller (2011-2012)

Kevin Jenson (2011-2012)

Thomas Cook (2011-2013)

Pete J. Anderson (2011-2013)

Josh Flygare (2011-2013)

Gerrit Winkel (2011-2012)

Michael Devonas (2011-2014)

Austin Talbot (2011- 2015)

Krissie Bak (2011-2012)

Brendan Leach (2012-2013)

Benjamin Kay (2012-2015)

Scott Michaelis (2013-2014)

Sam Roberts (2013-2015)

Josh Reitz (2013-2014)

Austin Jacobs (2013-2014)

Ben Black (2014-2015)

Sergio Mendoza (2014-2016)

Steven Butler (2014-2016)

Matt Proctor (2014-2016)

Nathan Wohlgemuth (2014-2017)

Justin Snyder (2014-2016)

Steven Jones (2015-2016)

Chance Clinger (2015-2016)

Jimmy Coombs (2015-2017)

Kayla Bixler (2016-2017)

Lily Hamill (2016-2018)

Dalton Perry (2016-2018)

Wendy Williams (2016-2018)

Ashley Holdaway (2017-2019)

Wendy Juo-Chun (2017-2018)

Nick Rollins (2017-2019)

Johnathan Stanley (2017-2020)

Johnny Huang (2017-2020)

Anna Schouten (2018-2020)

Cam Jackson (2018-2019)

Samuel Pugh (2018-2020)

Jordan Jenkins (2018-2019)

Kavika Faleumu (2018-2019)

Ernest Puleasi (Summer REU 2018)

Alexander Gibson (2018-2019)

Robert Steagall (2019-)

Matthew Teynor (2019-)

Hector Torress (Summer REU 2019)

Lorna Suaava (Summer REU 2019)

Taylor Nielson (2019-2021)

Brett Sorensen (2019-2020)

Nathan Morgan (2019-2022)

Windsor Scott (2019-2020)

Ian Abrams (2019)

Cal Hargis (2020-)

Benjamin Grant (2020-2021)

Reid Spencer Hamilton (2020-2022)

Jessie Melville (2020-)

Elayna Zalit (2020-)

Spencer Yu (2020-2021)

Gabriel Reed (2020)

James Monson (2020)

Mason Brown (Summer 2020)

Billy Hirschi (2020-)

Jeremiah Brown (2021-)

Braden Borough (2021-2022)  
Zack Meyer (2021-)  
David Hawley (2021-2022)  
Jared Rossberg (2021-)  
Brendan Jensen (2022-)  
Drew Hartsfield (2022-)  
Nathan Todd (2022-)  
Ishmael Taleo (2022-)  
Allison Lambert (2022-)  
Ariana Carter (Summer REU 2022)

Aidan Goble (2022-)  
Alex Kraus (2022-)  
Trevor Mallavia (2022-)  
Iran Daniela Macias (2022-)  
Ty Showalter (2023-)  
Tyson Tolman (2023-)  
Harlan Stevens (2023-)  
Eve Davis (2023-)  
Amber Abbott (2023-)  
Josh Hansen (2023-)