

“Diversions and junctions in the road of science: from carbon nanotube rotaxanes to covalent organic frameworks”

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It is both obvious and often forgotten that science is made by scientists. Chemistry has the privilege of creating its own matter of study, and therefore is perhaps the branch of science where creativity is most important. It follows that the outcome of a chemistry project is heavily influenced by the personality, abilities and interests of the chemist at the bench.

In this presentation, I will describe how our initial plan to make carbon nanotube-rotaxanes¹ with pyrene decorated macrocycles eventually diverted into projects in catalysis,² supramolecular chemistry,^{3, 4} polymer chemistry,⁵ and covalent organic frameworks,^{6, 7} always while advancing towards our initial goal.⁸⁻¹⁰ Of course, not all diversions lead to nice places, and I will also describe the time spent re-discovering chemistry that had been known for decades!¹¹ It is the story of the inspiration and perspiration that led Alejandro to a remarkably successful PhD, and the whole group to get involved in new and exciting collaborations.

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