

# Conference Report: ISOR-16

## *International Symposium on Organic Reactions*

*Okayama University, Okayama, Japan*

*November 20–22, 2025*



I attended the 16th International Symposium on Organic Reactions (ISOR-16), held from November 20 to 22, 2025, at the 50th Anniversary Hall, Tsushima Campus of Okayama University. ISOR is a long-standing international symposium that began in 1988 as a forum for academic exchange between organic chemists from Japan and Taiwan, and has since developed into a recurring platform for scientific discussion across a broad range of organic chemistry disciplines.

### **Background and Scope of the Symposium**

ISOR is organized every two to two and a half years, alternating between Japan and Taiwan, with the aim of fostering collaboration, exchanging ideas and supporting early-career researchers. Over the years, the symposium has expanded to include topics such as asymmetric synthesis, bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, green and natural product synthesis, organic electrochemistry, organometallic chemistry and materials science. ISOR-16 continued this tradition by bringing together senior researchers, young investigators and graduate students in a highly interactive setting.

### **Participation and Scientific Activities**

I travelled from Taiwan to Japan to attend the conference as part of our research group. Our group leader, Dr.

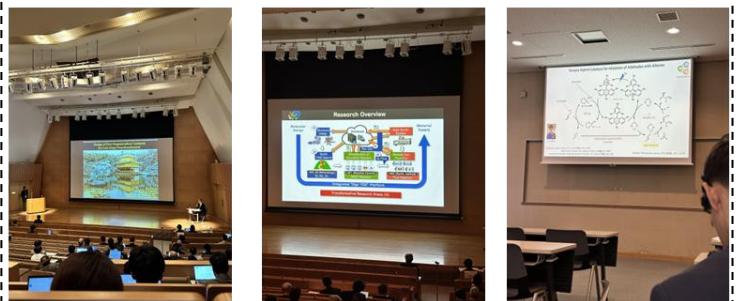
**Group Photo**



Hsuan-Hung Liao, was invited as one of the keynote speakers at ISOR-16, which provided an important opportunity to present our group's research direction to an international audience. The conference opened on November 20 with plenary and invited lectures. I attended several selected talks covering contemporary developments in organic reaction design and methodology, many of which emphasized mechanistic understanding and synthetic applicability. These lectures were particularly valuable in exposing current trends in reaction development and in

highlighting how fundamental reactivity concepts are translated into practical synthetic strategies. November 21 was dedicated primarily to the poster session. I presented my poster during this session and had the opportunity to discuss my work with researchers from Japan and Taiwan. The discussions were constructive and focused on experimental design, mechanistic interpretation and potential extensions of the project. This exchange provided useful external perspectives on my work and helped clarify how the project could be positioned more broadly within the field. The poster session also allowed me to interact with other graduate

**Selected lectures I attended**



Photos of me and Jason showing we really presented our poster.



I gained some new friends and it was fun.



students and early-career researchers, facilitating academic networking in a relatively informal setting. The conference banquet was held on the evening of the second day and was attended by students, professors and invited speakers. This event provided additional opportunities for informal scientific discussion and networking beyond the formal sessions and it was really



fun as I gained some new friends. The final day, November 22, concluded with additional lectures, an award ceremony and the official closing of the symposium. During the final day of the symposium, I was selected as one of the recipients of the Chemistry Letters Young Researchers Award. Receiving this award was particularly meaningful, as it reflected external evaluation of my research by members of the international organic chemistry community and provided encouragement at this stage of my doctoral studies. The overall organization of the conference encouraged sustained interaction among participants across all three days.

### **Funding and Logistical Considerations**

Participation in ISOR-16 was partially supported by IPPS funding, with the remaining expenses, including travel and accommodation, covered through personal funds. At the time of the conference, I was not eligible for NSTC or NSYSU travel support because a first-author manuscript had not yet been submitted, which is a requirement for such funding. As a result, attendance required additional personal financial commitment. Nevertheless, participation in the symposium was scientifically worthwhile, as it enabled direct engagement with international researchers, presentation of my work to a broader audience and receipt of constructive feedback that will inform the continued development and positioning of my research.

### **Academic and Professional Impact**

Participation in ISOR-16 provided valuable exposure to current research directions in organic chemistry and allowed me to receive direct feedback on my work from an international audience. Presenting at the poster session strengthened my ability to communicate my research clearly and respond to technical questions. Attending keynote and invited lectures also contributed to a broader understanding of how different research groups approach reaction development and mechanistic analysis.

***Overall, ISOR-16 was a meaningful academic experience that contributed to my development as a graduate researcher. The symposium reinforced the importance of international scientific exchange and provided both technical insight and professional perspective that will inform my ongoing and future research work.***