Using Transition Metal Catalysis to Access Useful Aromatic Compounds

Abstract: Although new synthetic methods are now published at an astonishing rate, few meet the stringent criteria imposed by the synthesis of drug-like molecules.¹ Our work in medicinal chemistry and calls to action from the pharmaceutical sector² have inspired us to develop methods that provide useful (lead-like) small molecules with challenging substitution patterns and that tolerate useful functional groups. In this seminar I will present new methods and strategies for the synthesis of seemingly simple products that in fact present some interesting synthetic challenges. In some cases, our studies have led to mechanistic insights that may aid the development of useful catalysts.
