

University of Groningen

Lewis Acids in Autocatalytic and Dearomative Reactions

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DOI:
[10.33612/diss.178508843](https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.178508843)

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Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2021

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Kulish, K. (2021). *Lewis Acids in Autocatalytic and Dearomative Reactions*. University of Groningen.
<https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.178508843>

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1. The design of autocatalysis requires thinking outside the box.
2. The initial design is a mere point of departure in the overall study. Scientific success lies in the open-minded exploration of possibilities, not blindly following plans.
3. If one wants to make one's molecule react in a certain way, one must think like a molecule.
4. More difficult tasks require more luck.
5. Everyone is as lucky as they think they are.
6. The sacrifice of life for work might lead to extraordinary results but also mental issues.
7. Research teams not only should provide mutual support but also verify each other's ideas, results, and conclusions to avoid misleading concepts.
8. Although criticism is an important part of learning and self-development, it must be constructive and include positive aspects.
9. The design of new autocatalysis must begin with a thorough reading of an organic chemistry book to find inspiration in reported reactions.
10. Nucleophilic addition of organometallic reagents to various electrophiles often leads to an increase in the Lewis acidity of the metal.
11. Amides are generally taught to be unreactive in the reduction by borane. Surprisingly, amides have been found reduced by borane via two autocatalytic cycles.
12. The elucidation of a reaction mechanism must be a tool to improve yields and regioselectivity but not the main and only aim of experimental research.