



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover™

# Department of Chemistry

## Special Seminar

4:15 p.m. Monday, February 28 • 331 Smith Hall



Assistant Professor

**Sukwon  
Hong**

Department of Chemistry  
University of Florida

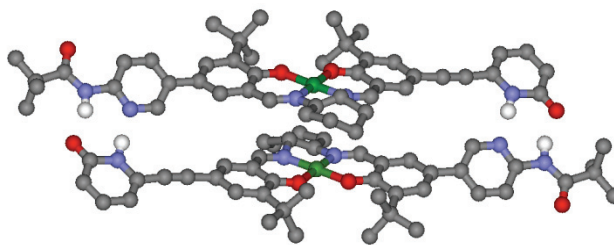
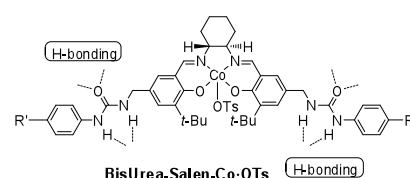
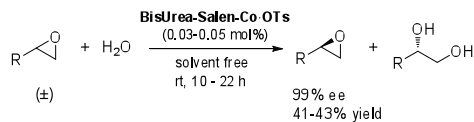
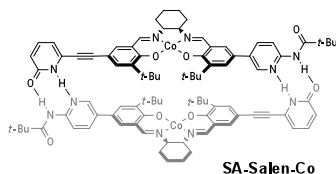
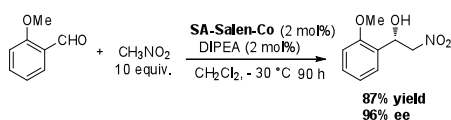
### Exploring New Ligand Designs for Asymmetric Catalysis

Research interests:  
Asymmetric catalysis for  
organic synthesis,  
including chiral  
diaminocarbene ligands and  
self-assembled dinuclear  
catalysts; development of  
small molecule anti-cancer  
agents; and total synthesis  
of complex molecules with  
interesting biological  
activities.

Website: <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~shong/group>

#### Abstract

Novel chiral Co-salen catalysts capable of self-assembly through hydrogen bonding have been developed. First, a self-assembled dinuclear Co(II)-Salen catalyst featuring the pyridone/aminopyridine H-bonding pair results in significant rate acceleration (48 times faster rate) as well as excellent enantioselectivity (96% ee vs 55% ee) in nitro-aldol reaction, compared to the corresponding monomeric catalyst.<sup>1</sup> Second, bis-urea functionalized salen-Co(III) complexes have been designed to form self assembled structures in solution through self-complementary urea-urea hydrogen bonding interactions. Bis-urea functionalized salen-Co catalysts result in rate acceleration (up to 14 times) in hydrolytic kinetic resolution of terminal epoxides, compared to the corresponding monomeric catalyst.<sup>2</sup> Detailed kinetic and mechanistic study results will be discussed.



<sup>1</sup>Park, J.; Lang, K.; Abboud, K. A.; Hong, S. Self-Assembled Dinuclear Cobalt(II)-Salen Catalyst Through Hydrogen-Bonding and Its Application to Enantioselective Nitro-Aldol (Henry) Reaction. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2008, 130, 16484-16485.

<sup>2</sup>Park, J.; Lang, K.; Abboud, K. A.; Hong, S. Self-Assembly Approach toward Chiral Bimetallic Catalyst: Bis-Urea Functionalized (Salen)Cobalt Complexes for the Hydrolytic Kinetic Resolution of Epoxides. *Chem.-Eur. J.* 2011, Early View (DOI: 10.1002/chem.201002600).

Host: Professor Thomas Hoye