

**SARAH E. O'CONNOR**  
 Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology  
 Department of Natural Product Biosynthesis  
 Hans-Knöll-Straße 8  
 07745 Jena DE  
[oconnor@ice.mpg.de](mailto:oconnor@ice.mpg.de)  
 49 (0)3641 57 1200  
<http://www.sarahoconnor.org/>  
<https://www.ice.mpg.de/ext/index.php?id=natural-product-biosynthesis>

### Education

2001 PhD, Organic Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA  
 1995 BS, Chemistry, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

### Positions held

2019-	Director, Department of Natural Product Biosynthesis, Max Planck Institute of Chemical Ecology, Jena, Germany
2022-	Honorary Professor of Chemistry, Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany
2011-2019	Project Leader, The John Innes Centre, Department of Biological Chemistry, Norwich, UK
2011-2019	The University of East Anglia, School of Chemistry, Norwich, UK (Honorary Professor (2015-2019), Professor (2012-2014), Lecturer (2011-2012))
2007-2011	Associate Professor of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA
2003-2007	Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA
2000-2003	Post-doctoral Fellow in Biochemistry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

### Honours and Prizes

2024	Honoris causa, University of Tours
2024	Prelog Medal
2024	Elected Member of the Germany Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
2023	Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz-Preis
2023	Elected Fellow of the Royal Society
2023	Elected Fellow of the American Society of Pharmacognosy
2022	ACS Ernest Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products
2019	RSC Perkin Prize for Organic Chemistry
2017	Elected to EMBO membership
2017	ERC Advanced Grant
2013	Wain Medal
2012	ERC Consolidator Grant
2011	Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award
2011	ACS Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry
2007	Sloan Research Fellowship
2007	Arthur Neisch Award of the North American Phytochemical Society
2007	American Cancer Society Research Scholar
2005	Beckman Young Investigator
2004	Latham Family Career Development Professor
2003	Smith Family Medical Foundation New Investigator
2000	ACS Irving S. Sigal Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard Medical School
1998	ACS Organic Division Graduate Fellowship, California Institute of Technology
1998	Distinguished Graduate Student Everhart Lecture, California Institute of Technology

### Panels and Committees

Chair of the Perspective Committee, BMS Section, Max Planck Society  
 Associate Editor, Journal of Biological Chemistry (2022-)

Associate Editor, Science Advances (2018-2024)  
Associate Editor ACS Synthetic Biology (2017- 2019)  
Editorial Advisory Board ACS Central Science  
Editorial Advisory Board ACS Chemical Biology  
Editorial Advisory Board ACS Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry  
Editorial Advisory Board Natural Products Reports  
Editorial Advisory Board Metabolic Engineering  
Editorial Advisory Board ChemBioChem  
Scientific Advisory Board, Ayana (2022-)  
Scientific Advisory Board, Entheos (2022-)  
Scientific Advisory Board, Terpnet (2015-)  
Scientific Advisory Board, Helmholtz Foundation, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (2015-2018)  
Member, European Research Council Grant Review Panel (2018-)  
Member, Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy Strategy Advisory Panel (BBSRC) (2016-2019)  
Member, Newton Foundation Fellowship Committee (2015-2021)  
Member, BBSRC Panel D (2013-2016)  
Chair of the Plant Metabolic Gordon Research Conference (2015)

**Representative Lectures since 2020**

- Emerging applications of Microbes, Plenary Speaker, Leuven, 11/25
- Yale, Chemical Biology Retreat Keynote, Department of Molecular Cell Biology, New Haven, 10/25
- DGMS, Plenary Speaker, Göttingen, 03/25
- EMBL Chemical Biology Symposium, Keynote Speaker, Heidelberg, 09/24
- Academic Lecture Program of the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung, Munich, 06/24
- ETH, Department of Plant Biology, Zurich, 05/24
- University of North Texas, BioDiscovery Institute Distinguished Lecture series, Denton, 02/24
- 2023 GRC for Plant Herbivore Interactions, Ventura, 03/23
- 2023 GRC for Natural Products, Andover, 7/23
- 2022 International Symposium on Chemical Biology, Geneva, 11/22
- 17th Belgian Organic Synthesis Symposium, Namur, 07/22
- Taito Soine Memorial Lecture in Medicinal Chemistry, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 03/22
- Harvard Medical School, Department of Biological Chemistry, Boston, 04/22
- Scripps Research Institute, Department of Chemistry, La Jolla, 04/22
- Oxford, School of Plant Sciences, Oxford, 03/22
- Enzyme Mechanisms Conference, Tucson, 01/22
- University of British Columbia, Department of Chemistry, Vancouver, 12/21
- McGill, Department of Chemistry, Montreal, 11/21
- KAUST, Department of Chemistry, online, 10/21
- German Conference on Synthetic Biology, online, 09/21
- CeBeTech Plenary Lecture, Bielefeld, 09/21
- University of Briston, Synthetic Biology Center, online, 07/21
- European Conference of Natural Products, Plenary Lecture, online, 07/21
- Metabolic Engineering 14, Opening Plenary Lecture, online, 07/21
- NobelGen, Ontario, 12/20
- University of Zurich Department of Plant Biology, 09/20
- EMBL Workshop in Chemical Biology, online 09/20
- Vienna Biocenter, 06/20
- CHEMSYS Conference, Blankenberg, 02/20