

**Dear SYNTHESIS readers,**

First of all, I would like to wish you all the best for the New Year 2020; in particular, good health and happiness in your personal and professional life.

2019 has been a year full of important events for our journal. The celebration '50 Years of SYNTHESIS' was very successful and we published a Golden Issue dedicated to this anniversary (*Synthesis* **2019**, 51, 1–302 and 985–1292). More than 50 famous chemists sent us reviews and research articles, all of which we published in an open access format. Along with their submissions for this Golden Anniversary Issue, many authors sent us their personal congratulations and their comments on over 50 years of publishing experience with SYNTHESIS. It was most gratifying for us to read their kind messages, and it gave our all editorial team members new motivation and energy for further improving our journal for you.

Many articles that we published in 2019 are already well cited, among them reviews by Ming-Yu Ngai on aryl radical chemistry via visible-light photoredox catalysis (*Synthesis* **2019**, 51, 303), by Annette Bayer on sulfoxonium ylide derived metal carbenoids in organic synthesis (*Synthesis* **2019**, 51, 612), and by Anthony G. M. Barrett on recent developments in polyene cyclizations and their applications in natural product synthesis (*Synthesis* **2019**, 51, 67), as well as the article by Thomas Wirth on enantioselective electrochemical lactonization using chiral iodoarenes as mediators (*Synthesis* **2019**, 51, 267).

The number of original and high-quality submissions is increasing, and our impact factor has increased, too. Two exceptional scientists joined our Editorial Board in 2019: Prof. Hideki Yorimitsu from Kyoto University (Japan) and Prof. Franziska Schoenebeck from RWTH Aachen (Germany). Prof. Schoenebeck is taking care of the organization of Special Topics and Special Issues. She has already successfully published a Special Topic on halogenation methods (with a view towards radioimaging applications) (*Synthesis* **2019**, 51, 4366–4416). We continued the tradition

established four years ago and published a Special Issue on articles from promising young chemists who reported their novel chemistry in the 2018 Bürgenstock Conference Special Issue (*Synthesis* **2019**, 51, 2737–2870).

Unfortunately, 2019 has also been marked by the passing of our friend Dieter Enders, who started as an editor of SYNTHESIS in 1985, serving as Editor-in-Chief from 1998 to 2013. From 2013 until his death, he continued working as the Editor for Reviews. Dieter was a passionate scientist and a key figure in our editorial team. He shaped our journal and had a decisive influence on new directions that our journal took. We all miss him and have lost a dear friend and colleague.

Looking towards the future, we are pleased to welcome Prof. Liu-Zhu Gong from the University of Science and Technology of China (P. R. of China) to our editorial board in January 2020. We warmly welcome Liu-Zhu to our Thieme family. He will replace Prof. Xue-Long Hou from the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (P. R. of China) who was a wonderful colleague and has greatly contributed to increase the submissions of manuscripts from China.



Prof. Liu-Zhu Gong

The year 2020, a year with perfect symmetry, will further be the occasion for SYNTHESIS to continue to publish stimulating contributions in organic synthesis from and for the whole world. I wish you inspirational reading and, when the time comes, we would be most happy to edit your latest scientific findings.

A happy and successful New Year 2020!

Prof. Paul Knochel  
SYNTHESIS Editor-in-Chief  
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich  
December 2019