

SYNTHESIS

Editorial

Dear Authors and Readers,

The start of a new year is a good moment to reflect on the past twelve months and look ahead to upcoming future developments. Thanks to the combined efforts of the SYNTHESIS Editorial Board under the guidance of Dieter Enders, our referees involved in the peer-reviewing process, and foremost you, the authors, we can look back on a very successful year 2002. The number of pages published in SYNTHESIS increased by 10% in 2002 compared to 2001 while maintaining our overall rejection rate.

In continuation of our tradition, the next Special Issue will be published in summer 2003, focusing on recent developments of modern research in industrial chemistry. Of course, the Special Topics program will be continued starting in spring with a collection of articles on the subject 'Indium in Synthesis'. Having introduced the new section on Practical Synthetic Procedures (PSP) with contributions from four different research groups we look forward to receiving more papers dealing with important and reliable procedures for the benefit of both academic and industrial chemists.

There is also good news for all authors who order their article reprints in PDF format. From 2003 on, you will receive one sample issue containing your article in addition to the electronic file, which will be delivered with the same cover page as the traditional hardcopy reprints.

Rapid publication of high quality scientific information is more important than ever to you and us, in order to be at the forefront of the most recent research in all fields related to synthetic organic chemistry. Since the inception of the journal, it has been one of our main aims to further shorten the time frame between submission and publication of articles. Currently the average manuscript passes through the different production stages in 130 days until its electronic publication and additional 10 days until its appearance in the printed issue. In spring 2003, Thieme introduces a new service on Thieme-connect – our forum for electronic journals – called 'e-first' where articles will be available in advance of print publication. It will allow us to significantly reduce the time from submission to electronic publication to an average of 90 days, at the optimal extreme to 30 days. An optimized production schedule in the editorial office forms the basis on which publication times are kept at a minimum; however, with the introduction of 'e-first' prompt manuscript revision and correction of the galley proofs will become increasingly important.

In addition, a new Word-based manuscript template will be available shortly via our Web site www.thieme-chemistry.com, which will provide authors with the support they need



The Editorial Office Team (from left to right): Susanne Haak, Thomas Loop, Sabine Koschnitzke, Herbert Krieg, Deirdre Potts

for composing their manuscripts in an expeditious manner. Readily usable functions for insertion and placement of artwork and tables, as well as widely used symbols will be provided to ensure correct representations independent of the language configuration of the user's software. The capability to place all manuscript segments in the authors' preferred positions should render a document

that matches as closely as possible that of the final layout. The general guidelines for authors, which can be found at the end of this issue as well as (regularly updated) on www.thieme-chemistry.com, should nevertheless be regarded as the basic source of information before starting to compose a manuscript. Additional instructions and information on how to download and use the template will be available on the Web site.

Of course, the SYNTHESIS Web site has more to offer; the future manuscript template is a feature to be added to many others already available. The news section informs readers and authors about the latest developments of SYNTHESIS and its sister journal *SYNLETT* as well as other important updates on Thieme Chemistry products. The well-established Synthesis Reviews database (updated in December 2002) is as popular as ever with more than 700 hits per month. Direct links to the tables of contents of every single issue of SYNTHESIS on Thieme-connect are also given. Since the complete set of SYNTHESIS back files is uploaded onto Thieme-connect the number of page impressions and downloads has almost tripled to nearly 20,000 per month. We have also observed a significant increase of additional visits to the SYNTHESIS/*SYNLETT* Web sites following their redesign in spring 2002, encouraging continued improvement. Extensions of the current content will be carried out on a regular basis, beginning with a more detailed presentation of the editorial office team. I think that in our time of fast data and information exchange authors and readers would like to know that there is a friendly face at the end of the electronic tunnel.

With this thought in mind and with a lot to look forward to in 2003, I want to thank you for your continued support and wish you a very successful and Happy New Year on behalf of all members of the Editorial Board and Editorial Office!

Susanne Haak
Managing Editor
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