

SYNLETT

Editorial

Dear Authors and Readers,

With the beginning of 2003 *SYNLETT* is entering its 14th year, and, for the first time since 1989, the publication frequency will increase significantly from 12 to, in future, 15 issues. Thanks to the efforts of our Editorial Board on the one hand and the gratifying response of you as authors on the other, the amount of published information rose by 20 pages per issue in 2002 to an all time record. At the same time, the rejection rate has increased from 47% in 2001 to over 50% in 2002. The maintenance of such high standards would not have been possible without the superior expertise and diligent scrutiny of our referees, to whom I extend my deepest gratitude.

In continuation of our biennial tradition, the next Special Issue will be published in June 2003, in memory of Ray Lemieux and highlighting his fundamental impact on modern carbohydrate chemistry. The organizing editor of this issue is Victor Snieckus.

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 it takes approximately 85 days from submission to electronic publication and 95 days to print publication. 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 60 days, at the optimal extreme to 20 days. An optimized production schedule in the editorial office forms the basis on which publication times are kept at a minimum; however, prompt correction of the galley proofs will also add to faster publication.

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 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



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

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 be consulted as the starting point for composing a manuscript. Additional details on how to down-

load and use the template will be available on the Web site. The future manuscript template is a feature to be added to the many others already available on the *SYNLETT* Web site. The news section informs our readers and authors about the latest developments of *SYNLETT* and its sister journal *SYNTHESIS* and provides important updates for other Thieme Chemistry products. The Synthesis Reviews database (updated in December 2002) is as popular as ever with more than 700 hits per month. Direct links to the table of contents of every single issue of *SYNLETT* on Thieme-connect are also given. The incorporation of the complete set of *SYNLETT* back files on Thieme-connect in March 2002 has increased the number of downloads by 100%.

Following the redesign of *SYNLETT*’s and *SYNTHESIS*’ Web appearance in spring 2002, the number of hits to the journals Web sites has also increased significantly. Further improvements will follow on a regular basis, beginning with a more detailed presentation of the editorial office team. I believe 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.

Last but not least there is 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.

As you can see, there is a lot to look forward to in 2003. On behalf of all members of the Editorial Board and Editorial Office, I want to thank you for your continued support and wish you a very successful and Happy New Year!

Susanne Haak
Managing Editor
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