

---

# SYNTHESIS

Editorial



## Dear Authors and Readers,

An aspect of research in chemical synthesis that has always found great appeal is the tight coupling of fundamental, basic studies in chemistry with their application, thus providing new insights in the field as well as solutions to pressing problems in a wide range of areas. Thus, in modern chemical synthesis the study of the fundamental issues of molecular structure and reactivity, which has always defined the core of its practice, is typically never far from the end-user. Organic synthesis has always been a particularly attractive discipline of study as a consequence of the multitude of applications that can be envisioned to directly result in

the form of novel functional materials or biologically active agents. Given the ongoing revolution in these areas it is thus especially timely that the current issue of Synthesis is focused on industrial research as it pertains to the synthesis of biologically-active molecules. The issue reflects the rich diversity of the discipline, which encompasses or spans the synthesis of small molecules, which may serve as versatile intermediates for further elaboration or as useful end products in and of themselves. Additionally, it includes research in the design of novel strategies for the preparation of complex structures along with, significantly, the discovery of new synthetic transformations. The identification of novel processes for asymmetric synthesis and designed ligands and their derived complexes that serve as catalysts is of noteworthy relevance currently. The collection of manuscripts in this issue, although only a tiny fraction of the superb work being carried out in the community at large, amply demonstrates the vibrant state of basic research in organic synthesis in industry. This not only includes all of the major areas of current importance in basic research but also illustrates the diversity of problems and applications whose solutions rely on the science of synthesis. It is also interesting to note that this small sample attests to the fact that organic synthesis is science whose reach is global. It is thus appropriate and with great satisfaction that Synthesis which has always proudly represented the scientific and national diversity of research in synthesis dedicates an issue to the exciting new discoveries in organic synthesis in industry.

Erick Carreira  
ETH, Zürich