

Editorial

A new feature to our *SYNLETT* Journal



Dear Readers,

In this issue, we are introducing a new feature to our journal: ***SYNLETT* Clusters**.

Clusters, which will appear periodically, will bring to the attention of the chemical community topics that are increasingly evident, both in the literature and at conferences. Rather than accomplishing this goal comprehensively through the publication of a dedicated issue, we chose a more concentrated approach in the form of a collection of Letters by foremost protagonists in a designated area of research. The Editors hope that such clusters of reports will allow greater appreciation of rapidly evolving topics, in addition to providing graduate students and postdoctoral co-workers a brief, yet broader than normal, introductory glimpse of emerging fields.

It is with these aims in mind that we are publishing in this issue our first *Synlett* Cluster on **Organic Catalysis**, assembled by Professor Hisashi Yamamoto of the University of Chicago, with contributions from Barbas, Deng, Jacobsen, Jørgensen, List, Lectka, Maruoka, Miller, and Rovis. The Editors of *Synlett* hope that you will browse these with interest.

A further Cluster will appear later this year in the area of The Synthesis of New Materials, with C–H Activation and more being planned for 2004. Look forward to the next ***SYNLETT* Cluster!**

Peter Vollhardt
Editor in Chief

Cluster

Hisashi Yamamoto
Editor of Synlett Cluster Papers
The University of Chicago

In 1999, an expert multi-author book on Comprehensive Asymmetric Catalysis I – III (Springer) appeared in which Professor H. Kagan, in excellent historical perspective of asymmetric catalysis, devoted only two pages on organic catalysis: phase transfer catalysis as well as the historically important hydrocyanation reaction. Activity in these areas has grown by leaps and bounds in the past four years. With the fruitful gains disclosed by a collection of the Synlett Cluster papers, the vast potential for molecular design using organic catalyst appears crystal clear!

