
SYNTHESIS

Editorial



Dear Authors and Readers,

With **SYNTHESIS** entering its 35th year as a leading international journal we pursue with the philosophy set out in 1969 to provide a journal of synthetic organic chemistry. What will this bring to you the readership? Of course we will continue to publish outstanding research results in modern synthetic chemistry. Also there are some highlights you have to look forward to, read on to find out what is ahead in 2004 and what we achieved for you in 2003.

As a measure of the quality and success of **SYNTHESIS** we saw a rise in impact factor to 2.2 last year. We will maintain this success and high quality by continuing to provide our broad readership, besides the regular sections of our journal including Reviews, Feature Articles and Synthesis Alerts, with several Special Topics (including allenes and organosilanes), again edited by Erick Carreira. In 2002 we introduced as a new feature 'Practical Synthetic Procedures' (PSP) and in the meantime 18 PSPs have been published. PSPs are useful and reliable synthetic procedures presented in a compact form and we encourage our authors to submit manuscripts under this section, which will continue to cover on a regular basis.

As an indication of the popularity of **SYNTHESIS** the number of printed pages reached an all time peak of 2908 in 2003 while keeping our high standards. This positive development may well allow us to increase again the number of issues, from 18 per year to a biweekly publication rate in the near future. On top of this increase in printed pages our efforts to reach even shorter publication times came to fruition with the introduction of **e•First** – our advanced online publication platform. In 2003 a 27% decrease in publication times compared to 2002 was achieved, with an average of 95 days from reception to online publication. We are confident that the envisaged 90 days estimated will soon be realized.

We have seen a vast increase in the number of visits to the online version of **SYNTHESIS** to roughly 50,000 per month at the end of 2003, a jump of 133% compared to 2002. In addition, the hits to the journals pages on the Web site increased by ca. 100%. Our newly introduced user friendly template for manuscript preparation, available for download via www.thieme-chemistry.com, has turned out to be a great help and is used by 60% of our authors at present.

Following on from the successful and well-received Special Issues dedicated to Professor Dieter Seebach in 2002 (issue 14) and on Organic Synthesis in Industry in 2003 (issue 11), we will continue our tradition this year by honoring Professor Teruaki Mukaiyama on the occasion of his 77th birthday ('kiju').

On behalf of my co-editors and the staff of the editorial office in Stuttgart I would like to take this opportunity to thank our authors and referees for their efforts during the past year in keeping the high standards of **SYNTHESIS** as a leading internationally journal in synthetic organic chemistry. We are looking forward to continuing with you our successful editorial cooperation.

With best wishes for a peaceful and happy New Year.

Aachen, January 2004

Dieter Enders

Editor in Chief