

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Despite the economic downturn, 2009 has been a banner year for *SYNLETT*. It is clear that the productivity of professors or group leaders and their associated groups of researchers and graduate students has continued unabated. We are gratified that an increasing number of these groups have chosen the journal as a venue for disseminating their results. Similarly, we are happy to note that our readership has increased correspondingly. Thus, an ever increasing number of synthetic papers appeared in *SYNLETT* last year, leading to a new record of 3395 published pages. This corresponds to a 4% increase compared to 2008. While the majority of papers came from Asia and Western Europe, we note an increasing proportion from North America.

SYNLETT celebrated its 20th birthday and, to commemorate this event, several Special Accounts written by senior researchers and Special Letter contributions from former Thieme Chemistry Journal Awardees were published throughout the year. Those articles, in addition to the CLUSTER collections, have created high interest among our readers, as illustrated in Table 1 showing the most-downloaded articles up to November 2009.

Table 1 Most-Downloaded Articles from 2009 (January to November), DL = Downloads

DL	Article
LETTERS and CLUSTERS	
915	Thieme Chemistry Journal Awardees – Where are They Now? Efforts towards the Total Synthesis of Vinigrol J. T. Njardarson et al. 2009 , 23 (Letter)
549	<i>N</i> -Alkylimidazoleas Amphiphilic Organocatalyst: ‘Catalytic’ Morita–Baylis–Hillman Reaction on Water without Organic Solvent K. Asano, S. Matsubara 2009 , 35 (Letter)
517	FeCl ₃ -Catalyzed Reduction of Ketones and Aldehydes to Alkane Compounds J.-M. Campagne et al. 2009 , 276 (Letter)
509	Enantioselective Mannich-Type Reaction Catalyzed by a Chiral Phosphoric Acid Bearing an (<i>S</i>)-Biphenol Backbone T. Akiyama et al. 2009 , 1664 (Cluster)
505	Efficient Asymmetric Synthesis of Oseltamivir from D-Mannitol T. Mandai, T. Oshitari 2009 , 783 (Letter)
489	Synthesis of Lysergic Acid Methyl Ester via the Double Cyclization Strategy T. Fukuyama et al. 2009 , 775 (Letter)
471	Synthesis of 1-Methylbenzimidazoles from Carbonitriles J. Sluiter, J. Christoffers 2009 , 63 (Letter)
469	An Improved Synthesis of Resorcylic Acid Macrolactone Inhibitors of Hsp90 C. J. Moody et al. 2009 , 1567 (Letter)
ACCOUNTS	
1147	The Design of Novel, Synthetically Useful (Thio)urea-Based Organocatalysts S. J. Connon 2009 , 354
1074	Rediscovering Organocopper Chemistry Through Copper Hydride. It’s All About the Ligand B. H. Lipshutz 2009 , 509
938	The Art of the Soluble: Synthetic Problems from Industry as a Springboard for the Discovery of New Chemical Reactions S. Z. Zard 2009 , 333
720	The Catalytic Asymmetric Intramolecular Stetter Reaction J. Read de Alaniz, T. Rovis 2009 , 1189
710	Highly Stereoselective Aldol Reactions in the Total Syntheses of Complex Natural Products M. Kalesse et al. 2009 , 174
666	Nitrogen-Containing Organofluorine Derivatives: An Overview S. Fustero et al. 2009 , 525
664	Celebrating 20 Years of <i>SYNLETT</i> – Special Account On the Merits of Biocatalysis and the Impact of Arene <i>cis</i> -Dihydrodiols on Enantioselective Synthesis T. Hudlicky, J. W. Reed 2009 , 685
628	In Pursuit of an Ideal Carbon–Carbon Bond-Forming Reaction: Development and Applications of the Hydrovinylation of Olefins T. V. RajanBabu 2009 , 853

As download figures and the numbers of citations generally correlate, the above-mentioned articles are predicted to be highlights of 2009. Most of the articles collected in Table 2, particularly in the Account section, support this assumption. They have been within the top 20 of articles in terms of popularity in their respective years of publication and account for the most-cited *SYNLETT* papers in 2009.

Table 2 Most-Cited Articles from 2007 and 2008 in 2009 (January to November), CT = Citations

CT	Article
LETTERS and CLUSTERS	
30	Asymmetric Organocatalytic Domino Reactions of γ -Nitroketones and Enals D. Enders et al. 2007 , 1667 (Letter)
27	Gold-Catalyzed Cyclization of <i>N</i> -Alkynyl Carbamates A. S. K. Hashmi et al. 2007 , 1763 (Cluster)
26	Asymmetric Electrophilic Fluorination of α -Cyanoalkylphosphonates Catalyzed by Chiral Palladium Complexes D. Y. Kim et al. 2007 , 1135 (Cluster)
24	Golden Opportunities in Stereoselective Catalysis: Optimization of Chirality Transfer and Catalyst Efficiency in the Gold-Catalyzed Cycloisomerization of α -Hydroxyallenes to 2,5-Dihydrofurans N. Krause et al. 2007 , 1790 (Cluster)
23	Biorenewable Resources in the Biginelli Reaction: Cerium(III)-Catalyzed Synthesis of Novel Iminosugar-Annulated Perhydropyrimidines L. D. S. Yadav et al. 2007 , 1905 (Letter)
ACCOUNTS	
66	Catalytic Arylations with Challenging Substrates: From Air-Stable HASPO Preligands to Indole Syntheses and C–H-Bond Functionalizations L. Ackermann 2007 , 507
60	Recent Advances in Direct Arylation via Palladium-Catalyzed Aromatic C–H Activation Z.-J. Shi et al. 2008 , 949
41	Cationic Rhodium(I)/BINAP-Type Bisphosphine Complexes: Versatile New Catalysts for Highly Chemo-, Regio-, and Enantioselective [2+2+2] Cycloadditions K. Tanaka 2007 , 1977
39	Oxidative Dearomatization of Phenols: Why, How and What For? S. Quideau et al. 2008 , 467
39	Adventures in Inner Space: Microflow Systems for Practical Organic Synthesis I. Ryu et al. 2008 , 151

One highlight in 2010 will be the Special Issue dedicated to Gerry Pattenden on the occasion of his 70th birthday in March. I am certain that we will find many articles from that issue in our most-cited and most-downloaded lists when looking back at 2010 in one year's time.

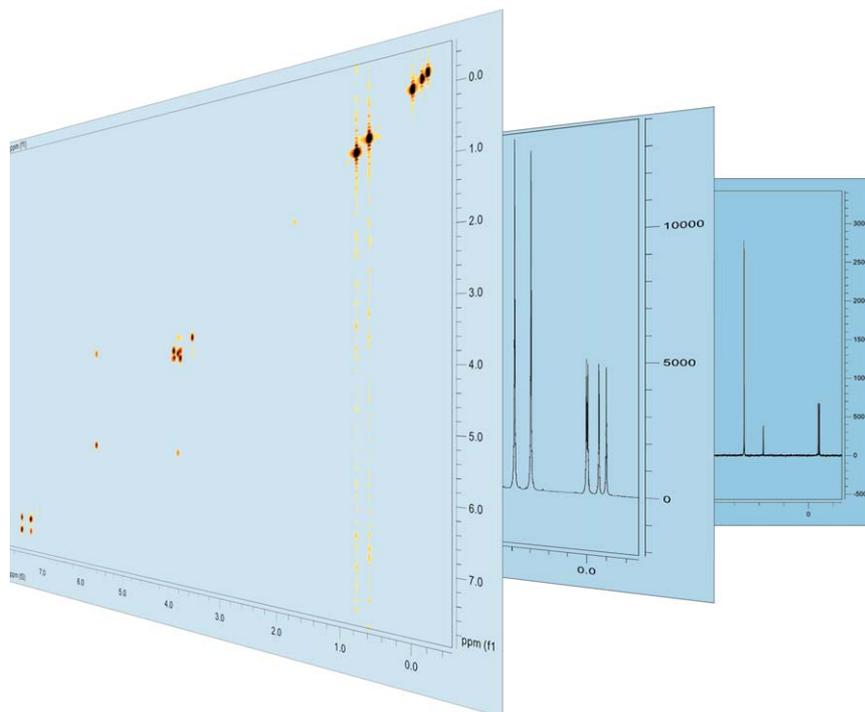
In keeping with our now 12-year-old tradition, a selection of 38 young assistant and associate professors from Europe, Asia and America will receive the Thieme Chemistry Journal Award in 2010. We are very glad and fortunate – since we started the program in 1999 – that we can call 85% of all awardees our authors – be it for *SYNLETT* or its sister journal *SYNTHESIS*. In the meantime, many of them have quickly climbed up the ladder and turned from young, promising researchers into internationally well-respected chemists and group leaders.

In addition to all the services you are used to receiving from *SYNLETT*, we are delighted to announce that Thieme is the first publisher worldwide to make primary experimental chemistry data available at your desktop. As already communicated through a press release in early October 2009, Thieme and the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) in Hanover have started a collaboration regarding the publication and durable storage of such data.

You know it from your daily experience – millions of experimental data sets are collected when chemists characterize compounds, intermediates and new products, or test their properties for further applications. Analytical data, spectra of all kinds (NMR, IR, MS, GC, UV-Vis, etc.) and structure information from X-ray analyses are produced and usually stored locally at the institution's or company's servers. But what happens to those data in the long run? Since the workup of such data currently receives no credit, primary data are often poorly documented, insufficiently maintained, and difficult to access. They are thus unused beyond their initial acquisition purpose – and cursory representation in research articles or supporting information files – and their existence is known only to a small group of scientists.

Together with the TIB, Thieme has developed a uniform structure for publishing such primary experimental data. Through clear structuring and central data registration – a unique, Germany-wide service provided by the TIB – valuable knowledge will be harnessed. With immediate effect, primary data submitted by authors will be registered and made available online through Thieme's e-journals web site www.thieme-connect.com/ejournals using digital object recognition. Currently, the TIB is the only official registration agency for primary research data worldwide and therefore entitled to assign digital object identifiers (DOI) to such data. Thus, primary data sets are, in the same way as published research papers, not only easily accessible and searchable but also permanently saved and citable, even independently of the original article to which they belong.

Who will benefit from this new service? Everyone involved, from author to reader. Authors can give clear proof for the accuracy of their research results, referees can bet-



Primary experimental data now available online

ter evaluate the presented research during the peer-review process, and the scientific community as a whole will profit from the easy traceability of articles that include accompanying experimental data and a more productive use of scientific content by comparing their own results with the accessible original data directly on their computers.

Hence, we encourage our authors to supply, in addition to the regular manuscript, primary experimental data in a logically structured form that allows users to correctly assign data sets to specific compounds. Enriched with additional information describing the software that allows the data to be processed, as well as giving the structures and corresponding compound numbers for all provided data sets, the data will be published online in zip format, linked to the corresponding article but with its own DOI.

More details on the preparation and submission of primary data can be found in the Instructions for Authors at the end of this first 2010 issue of *SYNLETT* as well as on our web site http://www.thieme-chemistry.com/primary_data. You are also invited to check out the first such article by Philip Kocienski and co-workers on www.thieme-connect.com/ejournals/toc/synthesis:

Jarowicki, K.; Kilner, C.; Kocienski, P. J.; Komsta, Z.; Milne, J. E.; Wojtasiewicz, A.; Coombs, V. *Synthesis* **2008**, 2747.

Dear readers, authors, and referees – on behalf of the Editorial Board members and the Stuttgart Editorial Office staff, I thank you for your ongoing support and excellent contributions to *SYNLETT* over the past year. We look forward to continued fruitful collaborations and wish you all the best for a successful, peaceful and happy New Year!

Susanne Haak

Susanne Haak
 Managing Editor
 January 2010