

Editorial

Dear Readers,

As we start the New Year of 2011, **SYNLETT** has, at 21, “come of age”. I am pleased to report on the state of the journal, with a brief summary of highlights of the past year and some of our plans for the new one.

SYNLETT continues to thrive. Thus, in 2010, we published 653 papers, and electronic access to the journal on the Thieme-connect ejournals platform reached a new high by October: 76573 hits. For illustration, the Table shows the most-downloaded articles from 2010 as of November.

The 2010 Special Issue was dedicated to Gerry Pattenden (issue 4) on the occasion of his seventieth birthday and was very well received, with 41 papers from colleagues and former students and postdoctorals. Another special issue is planned for 2011, organized by guest editors Professors Xue-Long Hou and Shengming Ma, dedicated to Professors Li-Xin Dai and Xiyang Lu and highlighting their influence in the fields of asymmetric catalysis and palladium coupling chemistry.

Our **SYNLETT** Clusters, coordinated by Hisashi Yamamoto, have maintained their high profile. During 2010, we covered the topics of Grignard Reagents (issue 2), Stereoselective Synthesis of Quaternary Carbon Centers (issue 11), and Green Chemistry (issue 14). Topics planned for 2011 are Organocatalysis, Gold Chemistry, and an encore on Brønsted Acid Catalysis.

Continuing our tradition of encouraging young investigators, 50 individuals were chosen as Thieme Chemistry Journal Awardees. Recipients have responded enthusiastically to being “noted” by our Editorial Board members and are pleased to receive free subscriptions to **SYNLETT**, **SYNTHESIS**, and **SYNFACTS**. We hope to see them all as future authors!

Most-Downloaded Reviews and Papers from 2010 (January to November), DL = Downloads; CT = Citations by December 15, 2010

DL	CT	Article
ACCOUNTS		
2782	-	Two-Phase Terpene Total Synthesis: Historical Perspective and Application to the Taxol® Problem Y. Ishihara, P. S. Baran 2010 , 1733
2752	18	A Reactivity-Driven Approach to the Discovery and Development of Gold-Catalyzed Organic Reactions N. D. Shapiro, F. D. Toste 2010 , 675
2077	-	On the Practical Limits of Determining Isolated Product Yields and Ratios of Stereoisomers: Reflections, Analysis, and Redemption M. Wernerova, T. Hudlicky 2010 , 2701
898	-	Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Oxidative Cross-Coupling Reactions A. Lei et al. 2010 , 2527
886	7	Enantioselective Phosphine Organocatalysis A. Marinetti, A. Voituriez 2010 , 174
LETTERS		
694	5	A Flow Process Using Microreactors for the Preparation of a Quinolone Derivative as a Potent 5HT _{1B} Antagonist S. V. Ley et al. 2010 , 505
570	-	Room-Temperature Copper-Catalyzed Synthesis of Primary Arylamines from Aryl Halides and Aqueous Ammonia C. Tao, J. Zhao et al. 2010 , 1355
529	1	Thieme Chemistry Journal Awardees – Where Are They Now? Bifunctional Organocatalysis with <i>N</i> -Formyl-L-Proline: A Novel Approach to Epoxide Ring Opening and Sulfide Oxidation S. B. Tsogoeva et al. 2010 , 707
448	7	Asymmetric Brønsted Acid Catalyzed Nucleophilic Addition to in situ Generated Chiral <i>N</i> -Acylium Ions M. Rueping, B. J. Nachtsheim 2010 , 119
432	1	Amide Activation by Tf ₂ O: Reduction of Amides to Amines by NaBH ₄ under Mild Conditions P.-Q. Huang et al. 2010 , 1829

Our Impact Factor increased from 2.66 (in 2008) to 2.72, and we hope to accelerate this upward trend by our continuing efforts to attract ever higher quality papers, applying our rigorous standards of quality, and adding new features to entice more members of the community to publish in our journal. With these aims in mind,

- We have launched a new feature called **Synpacts**, comprised of short articles in which authors are given the opportunity to highlight a recently published breakthrough from their own groups, by delineating on how it impacts their field and by placing their work into a broader context. You will enjoy the first **Synpacts** article by Theo Agapie of Caltech in this issue.
- In mid-2011, we will introduce “ScholarOne Manuscripts”, an automated online submission and peer review system. While there will be no changes regarding the preparation of manuscripts, the system will ensure the completeness of a submission (all documents, including original ChemDraw files in one zip folder), thus avoiding delays in processing. Authors (and all co-authors) will receive an immediate confirmation of receipt, and they will be able to follow the status of their manuscript during all stages of the peer-reviewing process. Although implementation of this feature will move us toward further automation, we will maintain our regional approach to receiving manuscripts, in order to maintain and foster the (often) long-standing relationships between editors and authors. Indeed, authors will still be able to select their regional (or preferred) editor and, conversely, editors will retain the option of personal communications via e-mail.
- We continue to encourage authors to submit supplementary experimental (SI) data in the form of pdf files, an option that is now used by many of our authors. We also remind our authors to supply primary experimental data (raw, unprocessed data files such as FIDs) along with their manuscripts. For more details, see the Instructions for Authors included in this issue or our website http://www.thieme-chemistry.com/primary_data.

Finally, after Steve Ley and Hisashi Yamamoto, a third member of the 1988 “Gang of Four” group of founding editors, **Bernd Giese**, decided to step down from day-to-day operations. As one of the Regional Editors for Europe

and “all other countries”, Bernd, aided during the past 7 years by the indefatigable Thomas Wirth of Cardiff University (UK), processed thousands of manuscripts from many different countries, a task he and Thomas accomplished with efficiency, tact, diplomacy, and fairness. Fortunately, like Steve and Hisashi, we managed to persuade Bernd to stay with us to take up new responsibilities as Co-Editor for **SYNLETT** Accounts and **SYNTHESIS** Reviews in the areas of biochemistry, medicinal chemistry, and organo(bio)catalysis. Thomas Wirth will also support our journal in the future as he was appointed to the joint **SYNTHESIS/SYNLETT** Advisory Board.

I am also delighted to report that **Ben List** from the MPI Mülheim (Germany) has agreed to be Bernd’s successor, as of January 1, 2011. With Ben we are adding another internationally highly recognized researcher to our illustrious cadre of Editors, whose input into shaping the future of **SYNLETT** will be invaluable. From now on, all authors who previously submitted their contributions to Bernd Giese should send their manuscripts to Ben List.



On behalf of all the Editors, Advisory Board members, and the staff of the Editorial Office in Stuttgart, I thank you for your support and wish you a successful and peaceful New Year!

Peter Vollhardt
Editor in Chief
Berkeley, January 2011