

Editorial

Dear Readers,

At the end of 2013, we reflect on another prosperous year for **SYNLETT**, and this Editorial presents some of its highlights as well as gives you a glimpse of some of the developments planned for 2014.

One of the scientific and cultural highlights of this year was the annual Editorial Board meeting of **SYNLETT**, **SYNTHESIS**, and **SYNFACTS**, which, courtesy of Hisashi Yamamoto and colleagues Yasuhiro Uozumi and Kazuaki Ishihara, took place in late May in the beautiful ancient city of Kanazawa, located at the coast of the Sea of Japan. Our meeting was preceded by a one-day symposium in Nagoya at Nagoya University (The “Nagoya Symposium 2013”), featuring as speakers all Editorial Board members present. The audience consisted of over 250 researchers, especially students, from Japan and an eclectic collection of other countries. A poster session gave participants, in particular graduate and postgraduate students, an opportunity to present their latest results. The editors had the enjoyable (albeit difficult) task of selecting three posters for prizes from a sizeable group of excellent contributions.

Our new article type **Synpacts**, in which young researchers are given the opportunity to highlight a recent (often first) breakthrough from their laboratory, has continued to be extremely popular among authors and readers alike. The former welcome the chance to outline their emerging research program, the latter enjoy reading about new up-and-coming investigators. Table 1 summarizes the most popular **Synpacts** articles during this year. Similar statistics for our **Accounts** and **Letters** are presented in Table 2.

Similarly, our **Cluster** sections have maintained their high level of popularity. For example, the cluster on “Process Chemistry” in **SYNLETT** issue 3 contained three papers from the Eisai pharmaceutical group on the manufacture of Halaven[®], which have so far accumulated 3049 downloads. Issue 10 presented 16 state-of-the-art papers in a **Cluster** on “N-Heterocyclic Carbenes”, and issue 19 gave a similar glimpse of the frontiers of “Organic Superbases”. The menu for 2014 and beyond includes “Unnatural Products” (Laurence Harwood), “Frustrated Lewis Pairs” (Ben List), “Late-Stage Fluorination” (Steve Ley), “Directed *ortho*-Metalation” (Vic Snieckus), and “Catalysis Using Sustainable Metals” (Hak-Fun Chow).

Table 1 Most Popular **Synpacts** Articles from 2013 and 2012 within the last 12 months (CT = Citations by December 5, 2013; DL = Total Downloads)

CT	DL	Synpacts Article
14	904	A Photo Touch on Amines: New Synthetic Adventures of Nitrogen Radical Cations S. Maity, N. Zheng 2012 , 23, 1851
12	1428	Metal-Free Oxidative C–H Bond Amination at Ambient Temperature R. Samanta, A. P. Antonchick 2012 , 23, 809
10	609	Overcoming Molecular Strain: Synthesis of [7]Cycloparaphenylene T. J. Sisto, R. Jasti 2012 , 23, 483
9	1056	Expanding Structural Diversity; Removable and Manipulable Directing Groups for C–H Activation C. Wang, Y. Huang 2013 , 24, 145
7	702	Metal-Free Oxidative C(sp ³)–H Bond Couplings as Valuable Synthetic Tools for C–C Bond Formations R. Rohlmann, O. García Mancheño 2013 , 24, 6
4	979	Advancing Tetrazine Bioorthogonal Reactions through the Development of New Synthetic Tools N. K. Devaraj 2012 , 23, 2147
2	1280	Ketone-Based Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Carbon–Carbon and Carbon–Hydrogen Bond Activation: Exploratory Studies G. Dong 2013 , 24, 1
2	1119	Activating Group Recycling: A Fresh Approach to Arene Functionalization J. M. Schomaker, R. D. Grigg 2013 , 24, 401
2	788	Frustrated Lewis Pair Catalyzed Hydrogenations J. Paradies 2013 , 24, 777
-	723	Chiral Phosphoric Acid Catalyzed Stereoselective Spiroketalizations P. Nagorny, Z. Sun, G. A. Winschel 2013 , 24, 661

Authors who would like to contribute to one of those topics are invited to contact the responsible Editor or submit a manuscript directly through <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/synlett>.

Table 2 Most-Downloaded **Accounts** and **Letters** from 2013 within the last 11 months

DL	Article
ACCOUNTS	
925	Efficiency, Diversity, and Complexity with Multi-component Reactions G. van der Heijden, E. Ruijter, R. V. A. Orru 2013 , 24, 666
902	Hypervalent Iodine Reagents as Powerful Electrophiles M. Brown, U. Farid, T. Wirth 2013 , 24, 424
773	A New Tool in the Toolbox: Electron-Withdrawing Group Activated Ruthenium Catalysts for Olefin Metathesis T. K. Olszewski, M. Bieniek, K. Skowerski, K. Grela 2013 , 24, 903
590	Stereoselective Organocatalytic Alkylations with Carbenium Ions A. Gualandi, P. G. Cozzi 2013 , 24, 281
552	Organocatalytic Asymmetric Synthesis and Use of Organoselenium Compounds F. Marini, S. Sternativo 2013 , 24, 11
LETTERS	
1083	Microwave-Assisted Synthesis of Nonsymmetrical Aryl Ethers Using Nitroarenes A. P. Sarkate, S. S. Bahekar, V. M. Wadhai, G. N. Ghandge, P. S. Wakte, D. B. Shinde 2013 , 24, 1513
659	Studies Towards the Synthesis of Crotoquinone D. B. Ushakov, M. E. Maier 2013 , 24, 705
648	Synthesis of (–)-Hennoxazole A: Integrating Batch and Flow Chemistry Methods A. Fernández, Z. G. Levine, M. Baumann, S. Sulzer-Mossé, C. Sparr, S. Schläger, A. Metzger, I. R. Baxendale, S. V. Ley 2013 , 24, 514
605	Catalytic Asymmetric Cyclopropanation with Diazoindole A. Awata, T. Arai 2013 , 24, 29
538	Straightforward Synthesis of 2-Acetyl-Substituted Benzo[<i>b</i>]thiophenes J. Debray, M. Lemaire, F. Popowycz 2013 , 24, 37

Our tradition of selecting candidates for the Thieme Chemistry Journal Award by the Editorial Board members of **SYNLETT**, **SYNTHESIS**, and **SYNFACTS** is now in its 16th year, and again a number of young investigators around the globe will receive this award for 2014. All of us at **SYNLETT** congratulate the recipients, and we hope to see them publish their research in our journals in the future!

In 2013, Thieme also started a new collaboration with the EuChemS Organic Division by supporting the annually held Young Investigators Workshop, an event created to promote academic excellence in organic chemistry within

(and outside) Europe. As a result of this workshop, a Special Issue was published in **SYNLETT** (issue 18) with contributions of all participants spanning the entire field of organic chemistry. We already look forward to the 2014 Young Investigators Workshop, to be held in Cyprus at the end of August, as well as the Special Issue dedicated to it.

Last, but not least, in Japan we took the opportunity to reconstitute our common Editorial Advisory Board that had been in place for the past five years. We are grateful to the new members for agreeing to serve, to the continuing members for maintaining their commitment to the journals, and to the “retiring” members for their help and advice in the past.

New **SYNLETT** and **SYNTHESIS** Editorial Advisory Board

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On behalf of all the Editors and Advisory Board members as well as the staff of the Editorial Office in Stuttgart, we thank our authors, readers, and reviewers for their contributions and continuing support and wish you a successful and peaceful New Year!

Peter Vollhardt
 Editor-in-Chief

Berkeley, December 2013