



SYNLETT

Editorial

Dear Authors and Readers,

2004 celebrates **SYNLETT**'s **15th** as a publication for exciting research results in synthetic organic chemistry, and this Editorial will bring you up-to-date on recent developments and future projects.

The popularity of the journal as a publishing venue is ever increasing, resulting in a 15% expansion of the number of printed pages to 2,453 and, with it, for the first time, an increase in the number of issues from 12 to 15 per annum. I am pleased to report that this expansion was achieved without any lowering of our standards for acceptance, and, indeed, our rejection rate has remained constant. As expected, this change together with the introduction of eFirst – our advanced online publication platform – has contributed to our efforts to shorten the time required to process manuscripts, currently at an average of 67 days from reception to eFirst publication, a 25% decrease from 2002. We are very confident that this number will fall below 60 days soon.

As tenuous (and contentious) as this measure of success may be, our impact factor has increased again, now at 2.70. Perhaps more tangibly, the number of hits to the online version of the journal have jumped by 113% to ~40,000 and, similarly, our Web site has seen a ~100% increase in popularity. Helpful has been our newly introduced user-friendly template for composing manuscripts, available for download via www.thieme-chemistry.com and used by about 2/3 of our authors.

A new feature has been introduced that promises to be highly popular: **SYNLETT** Clusters. Its goal is to bring “hot” topics to the attention of the chemical community in the form of a cluster of reports that give a brief, yet broader and perhaps prognostic glimpse of emerging research in a collection of short papers. The first such Cluster, “Organic Catalysts”, appeared in issue 12 of 2003 and was edited by Hisashi Yamamoto. The second, edited by myself, is featured in this issue and deals with “Strategies in the Service of New Materials”. More Clusters will follow throughout the year 2004.

Finally, after the very successful Special Issue (issue 9/2003) dedicated to Professor Raymond Lemieux and edited by Victor Snieckus (with invaluable assistance from Ole Hindsgaul), we are jumping the gun this year by honoring Professor Clayton Heathcock on the occasion of his retirement on July 1, 2004, one year early in our two-year cycle for Special Issue publications.

On behalf of my co-editors and the staff of the editorial office in Stuttgart, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you, the authors and referees, for your efforts during the past year in maintaining the excellence of **SYNLETT** as a vital journal. We are looking forward to working with you in the future!

With best wishes for the New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Vollhardt".

Peter Vollhardt, Editor in Chief