SYNTHESIS

Editorial

Dear Readers and Authors,

This Special Issue of *Synthesis* highlights on-going advances in natural products inspired investigations in the realm of chemical synthesis. The polyketides, alkaloids, peptides, terpenes, and heterocycles that form the basis of the studies are representative of the challenging structures that make up the panoply of modern natural products synthesis endeavors. Thus, numerous ingenious methods and approaches are found in this treasure-chest of papers that are representative of contemporary themes in this evolving field. Consequently, careful study of the work will be richly rewarding in revealing innovation at the tactical and strategic levels. This includes inter alia cyclizations, annulations, cascade transformations, aldol addition reactions, metal-mediated couplings, rearrangements, and asymmetric metal-mediated and organic catalysis. Professor J.-M. Lehn has written "The essence of chemical science thus finds its full expression in the words of Leonardo da Vinci: 'Where nature finishes producing its own species, man begins, using natural things and in harmony with this very nature, to create an infinity of species.'" (*Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1990**, *29*, 1304). Indeed, the collection of articles that comprise this Special Issue amply attest to the power of chemical synthesis not only to create new structures but also its dynamism as it evolves in the hands of its modern practitioners.

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