

# SYNFACTS

The Editors and Editorial Office welcome Professor Steven Ley, a new Editor for the *SYNFACTS* category “Synthesis of Natural Products and Potential Drugs”

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Professor Steven Ley from the University of Cambridge (UK) as the ninth member of the Board of Editors of *SYNFACTS*. Professor Ley and his team will be responsible for the “Synthesis of Natural Products”.

Professor Ley obtained his PhD degree from Loughborough University in 1972 with Harry Heaney. After post-doctoral appointments at Ohio State with Leo Paquette and Imperial College with Sir Derek Barton, he joined the staff at Imperial College in 1975 becoming Professor in 1983 and Head of Department in 1989. Since 1992 he has been the BP (1702) Professor of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge.

Professor Ley is renowned for the discovery and development of new synthetic methods and their application to biologically active systems. The TPAP catalytic oxidant that is now used worldwide was one of his inventions. His group has published extensively on the use of iron carbonyl complexes, organoselenium chemistry, the use of microwaves in organic chemistry, biotransformations for the synthesis of natural products, and strategies for oligosaccharide assembly. To date more than 120 natural products have been synthesised by the group. Current interests include the use of solid-supported reagents and scavenging agents in multistep syntheses and new frontiers in reactor technology. These diverse achievements have been recorded in over 680 papers.

Professor Ley's many contributions to organic synthesis have been recognised by 43 major awards including the Adolf Windaus Medal and the August-Wilhelm-von Hofmann Medal from the German Chemical Society; the Paul Janssen Prize for Creativity in Organic Synthesis; the Davy Medal from the Royal Society; the Yamada-Koga Prize from the Japan Research Foundation for Optically Active Compounds; the Robert Robinson, Tilden, Pedlar, Simonsen, Flintoff, and Haworth Medals of the Royal Society of Chemistry; the Nagoya Gold Medal from the Banyu Life Science Foundation; the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry; the



Steven V. Ley

Paul Karrer Gold Medal of the University of Zurich; the Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry; the Heinrich Wieland Prize, Boehringer-Ingelheim; and the Paracelsus Prize of the Swiss Chemical Society. In 1990 he was elected to the Royal Society (London) and from 2000–2002 he served as President of the Royal Society of Chemistry. For his distinguished services to science in the UK, he was made a Commander of the British Empire in 2002.

Professor Ley has been the recipient of 78 named lectureships and he has served on 42 national and international committees, 45 editorial boards and many industrial science advisory boards. He is no stranger to Thieme Verlag: he was one of the founding Editors of *SYNLETT* and he was a member of the Editorial Board of *Science of Synthesis*. It is therefore with great pleasure that we anticipate the incisive contributions of Professor Ley and his team to the success and high standards of *SYNFACTS*.

Philip J. Kocięński  
Leeds, UK