Editorial

Let's Start the New Year Right

Attentive readers might have noticed that Synfacts has had a slight facelift: from the cover page in blue-blue-white Thieme design to the new embedded fonts – everything looks fresher and shinier. But the true beauty lies within the chemistry described and the new categories/features *Peptide Chemistry, Flow Chemistry, Metals in Synthesis*, and *Synfact Classic*.

In the brand-new Synfacts category *Peptide Chemistry*, Hisashi Yamamoto highlights advances in the synthesis and application of peptides and oligomers. The revolutionary field of *Flow Chemistry* gets its own Synfacts category. Monthly, Erick Carreira, Philip Kocienski, Victor Snieckus, Timothy Swager, Mark Lautens, Hisashi Yamamoto, Paul Knochel, Benjamin List, and Yasuhiro Uozumi (who we from now on shall refer to as 'Synfactors') screen, select, evaluate, and summarize the current flow chemistry literature; *Flow Chemistry* gets 'synfacted'.

Paul Knochel and Mark Lautens present the best metal-mediated reactions in the new combined category *Metals in Synthesis*.

Manuscripts with the *Synfact Classic* logo highlight seminal papers from the last decades; from the pre-Synfacts era (pre-2005) back to the very beginning of organic synthesis – maybe back to 1828 when Wöhler synthesized urea from ammonium cyanate. *Synfact Classic* covers papers that provided a landmark and paved the way for breakthroughs in chemical synthesis. In this issue, for example, Benjamin List sheds light on 'The Dawn of Directed Evolution' by highlighting one of Frances Arnold's articles that led to her winning the Nobel prize, Mark Lautens highlights Buchwald's discovery of JohnPhos that enabled aminations and Suzuki couplings under mild conditions, and Erick Carreira examines Corey's landmark total synthesis of prostaglandins $PGF_{2\alpha}$ and PGE_2. In the materials section, Tim Swager highlights Scott's corannulene synthesis, and Philip Kocienski focuses on the classic DuPont-Merck synthesis of Efavirenz.

There is also a new name on the board: We are delighted to welcome Professor Dirk Trauner, the Janice Cutler Chair in Chemistry and Adjunct Professor of Neuroscience and Physiology, New York University, as a new Synfactor. From March onwards, he will highlight *Chemistry in Medicine and Biology* for you.

In the last 15 years, Synfacts has garnered a reputation as the venue for keeping up with the literature. May it continue to provide inspiration for your research, lecturing, and examination preparation.

Season's greetings from
Dr. Michael Binanzer and The Editorial Office of Synfacts

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