

SYNTHESIS

Editorial



Dear Authors and Readers,

Over the past two to three decades chemists in the field of organic synthesis have borne witness to a tremendous increase in the use of organometallic reagents and catalysts. Metal-based compounds are now a well accepted and widely used category of reagents, which form an indispensable part of many chemist's 'tool box'. Today one is hard-pressed to find a synthesis of a complex natural product or a multifunctional pharmaceutical where a metal is not involved in one way or another! The last thirty years have seen huge increases in the amount of organometallic research around the globe and readers of *SYNTHESIS* may like to note that over 30% of the papers published in the journal contain organometallic chemistry. Indeed, much of the ground-breaking research that has made organometallic chemistry what it is today has been carried out in my home country of Canada. Well known figures such as Edward Piers, Howard Alper, and Victor Snieckus have all contributed to the emergence of this subject.

Canada is not only home to well established researchers, it also plays host to a new generation of researchers that are making their mark in the world of organometallic chemistry. It is with this background, of bright new prospects and a well established chemical heritage, that I am excited to note that the University of Toronto will host the IUPAC/OMCOS-12.

This series of conferences on organometallic chemistry directed towards organic synthesis arose from an appreciation of the importance of metal-based reagents by several pioneers in the area, J. K. Stille, G. Modena, L.S. Hegedus and A. I. Meyers (two of whom have been publishing with *SYNTHESIS* since 1978). The inaugural meeting was held in Fort Collins, Colorado to an audience of more than 400 and now, nearly 25 years later, OMCOS-12 will be held in Toronto, Canada from July 6-10, 2003.

Readers of *SYNTHESIS* and *SYNLETT* who attend the conference will find that this year's OMCOS has the following foci:

- Asymmetric Synthesis via Organometallics
- Structural and Mechanistic Aspects Related to Synthesis
- Catalytic Processes Involving Organometallics
- Organometallics in Materials Research

Hence, the conference addresses some of the most significant areas of organometallic chemistry.

This is an exciting time for organometallic chemists everywhere. As an editor for both *SYNTHESIS* and Volume 1 of *Science of Synthesis* (also published by Thieme) I am made acutely aware of the significance of this field of chemistry through contact with contributors from all over the world. Furthermore I would like to extend an invitation to all of these contributors, researchers, and our readers to come and visit us in Toronto!

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For more information about OMCOS-12 please visit
<http://www.chem.utoronto.ca/symposium/omcos12/>