SYNLETT

Editorial

Dear Readers and Authors,

Each December is a time to look ahead to new developments in the coming year and to reflect upon the last twelve months. The highlights of 2006 are not hard to spot: the massive special issue (330 pages) dedicated to Professor Richard Heck and our first-ever issue dedicated to a region (China) were both published this year. These invited papers, coupled with an increase in regular submissions, resulted in *Synlett* surpassing the 3500-page milestone for the first time. The final tally of 3564 published pages is an increase of 12% compared with 2005.

The majority of submissions originated in Asia, with China, India, and Japan accounting for 48% of all submissions, followed by Iran, the USA, and Germany. The primary goal of *Synlett* is the rapid dissemination of high-quality research results in synthetic organic chemistry and closely related disciplines. The ISI Impact Factor of 2.693, which keeps *Synlett* within the top three of organic chemistry communications journals, indicates that the journal is on the right track.

Although most articles in *Synlett* are original research papers, the most popular articles other than the freely available Spotlights are the Accounts. The retrospective Account, written by Richard Heck as an opening to his special issue, created an overwhelming resonance within the *Synlett* community. From the statistics available at the time of writing, John Hartwig's Account on the "Discovery and Understanding of Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Aromatic Substitution Reactions" (issue 9) was the most downloaded article from 2006. The most popular Letter of the year so far is the contribution by Chuan He and co-workers entitled "Gold(I)-Catalyzed Synthesis of Dihydrobenzofurans from Aryl Allyl Ethers", published in the very successful special issue on Organic Chemistry in China. The five most popular Accounts and Letters that appeared between January and November 2006 are listed in the following table.

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Most downloaded Accounts and original contributions of the time period January–November 2006

	Title	Corresponding Author	Article Type
1	Discovery and Understanding of Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Aromatic Substitution Reactions	J. F. Hartwig	Account on page 1283
2	Expanding the Utility of Lithiated Epoxides and Aziridines in Synthesis	D. M. Hodgson	Account on page 1
3	Synthetic Use of Molecular Iodine for Organic Synthesis	H. Togo	Account on page 2159
4	2-Pyridylsilyl Group: A Useful Multifunctional Group in Organic Synthesis	K. Itami, J. Yoshida	Account on page 157
5	New Developments in Stereoselective Palladium-Catalyzed Allylic Alkylations of Preformed Enolates	M. Braun	Account on page 661
6	Gold(I)-Catalyzed Synthesis of Dihydrobenzofurans from Aryl Allyl Ethers	C. He	Letter on page 1278
7	Enantioselective Aza-Diels–Alder Reaction Catalyzed by a Chiral Brønsted Acid: Effect of the Additive on the Enantioselectivity	T. Akiyama	Cluster on page 141
8	Practical Synthesis of (*S*)-Pyrrolidin-2-yl-1*H*-tetrazole, Incorporating Efficient Protecting Group Removal by Flow-Reactor Hydrogenolysis	S. V. Ley	Letter on page 889
9	A Brønsted Acid and Lewis Base Organocatalyst for the Aza-Morita–Baylis–Hillman Reaction	H. Sasai	Letter on page 761
10	Phosphorodiamidic Acid as a Novel Structural Motif of Brønsted Acid Catalysts for Direct Mannich Reaction of *N*-Acyl Imines with 1,3-Dicarbonyl Compounds	M. Terada	Cluster on page 133

In addition to the well-established Accounts and Spotlights appearing in each regular issue, the Cluster section has developed into a popular recurring feature of *Synlett*. Topics we plan to cover in 2007 include "Organofluorine Chemistry", "Gold and Silver Chemistry" and "C–H Activation", organized by Hisashi Yamamoto and Victor Snieckus.

As mentioned above, quality of research and its presentation remain top priorities at *Synlett*. The journal currently has a rejection rate of 51%. Only manuscripts that fit within the scientific parameters of *Synlett* and meet the high quality standards of the journal are accepted for publication by one of the regional editors with the help of at least two referees. Many thanks go to the regional editors for their fine and enthusiastic work in handling the manuscript submissions, soliciting special articles, and overseeing the peer-review process. Credit and appreciation also go to the referees, whose unseen contributions help us to maintain our high scientific standard.

The most obvious change you will note for 2007 is the layout of the table of contents for each issue. Due to the ever-increasing amount of primary literature published every year and the convenience of electronic access, many of today's scientists have adapted their approach to browsing the literature and rely evermore on abstracts to help them gauge the aptness of an article to their own interests. As a result, the importance of a well-designed graphical abstract has intensified – it has truly become a "billboard" for the article. Our new layout answers to the implied requirement by providing more space per article, thereby permitting a better fit for larger molecules and offering enhanced readability. We continue to encourage the effective use of color to boost the explanatory power of graphical abstracts. A document with several sample graphical abstracts is available next to the updated version of the Instructions for Authors in the "For Authors" section on the *Synlett* web site (www.thieme-chemistry.com).

We will continue to keep you, our readers and authors, informed about any other new features and developments throughout 2007. We look forward to publishing your exciting new discoveries that encompass all aspects and trends in synthetic organic chemistry, and to continued fruitful collaboration.

On behalf of the editors and the editorial office team in Stuttgart, I thank you, our authors and referees, for your contributions, help and valuable comments, and you, our readers, for your continued interest in the content of *Synlett*.

With my best wishes for success, peace, and happiness in the New Year!

Susanne Haak
Managing Editor
December 2006

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