



Science of Synthesis News

Volume 1, Issue 1 March 2001

Welcome from the Managing Editor

guido.herrmann@thieme.de

Dear Reader,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you today to the first issue of *Science of Synthesis News*. With this newsletter we would like to take the opportunity to inform you quarterly about the latest developments. It is our hope that the newsletter will further strengthen the close personal ties of the editorial office to the editors, volume editors and authors of *Science of Synthesis*. Already at this point in time they form a group of several hundred individuals comprising the leaders of synthetic science.



Science of Synthesis. Fiona will also bring interesting news from the editorial office to your attention.

Dr. Joe P. Richmond will inform you about which volumes are planned for the next years and who has been selected by the editorial board as the new volume editors.

Alexandra Williams will keep you updated at which conferences

we will be present, if receptions are planned, and what other kinds of marketing activities we are engaged in. As a scientist involved in *Science of Synthesis* you will also be the first to be offered a complimentary copy of any merchandise we produce with the *Science of Synthesis* logo.

Dr. Rolf Hoppe, our project leader for software development, will talk about the electronic version of *Science of Synthesis* and his current preparations for the launch of the final electronic product.

We sincerely hope that this newsletter will address a pertinent need brought forward to us by many authors. We also hope that it will reflect the great enthusiasm and devotion of those contributing to *Science of Synthesis* and to the exciting field of synthetic chemistry.

Guido F. Herrmann
Managing Editor
Science of Synthesis

Science of Synthesis will not only be the first point of entry into the literature for scientists involved in synthesis, but also one of the most elite clubs in science. The objective of *Science of Synthesis* is to be the most comprehensive and critical treatment of synthetic chemistry, thus helping to constantly improve the sophistication of synthetic methods available to scientists. The objective of this newsletter is to show you the individuals involved in *Science of Synthesis* and how they create the unique spirit of the project.

In our newsletter, Dr. M. Fiona Shortt will inform you about published volumes and those which are planned to be published next. She will also talk about the experiences we had in publishing the first volumes of

Editorial Update

Dr. M. Fiona Shortt, Deputy Managing Editor

fiona.shortt@thieme.de

The editorial office delivered as promised in the year 2000 the first two *Science of Synthesis* volumes: Volume 9 (Fully Unsaturated Small-Ring Heterocycles and Monocyclic Five-Membered Heteroarenes with One Heteroatom) and Volume 10 (Fused Five-Membered Heteroarenes with One Heteroatom). This success is the result of the combined efforts of the editorial board, advisory board, volume editors, authors, and the editorial office.

We in the editorial office are especially grateful to the authors of *Science of Synthesis*, whose continual perseverance and dedication throughout the editorial process is much appreciated.

The editorial office itself has had to undergo some significant changes over the last 3 years so that it could establish a fully electronic, interactive operation at the forefront of technology. With these changes, the



Editorial Meeting, July 2000, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany. From left to right: Jim Thomas, Guido F. Herrmann, Andreas Barth, Joe Richmond, Rolf Hoppe, Susan Trost, Barry Trost, Daniel Bellus, Angela Huttelmaier, Ernst Schaumann, Fiona Shortt, Alex Williams, Karen Muirhead, Lindsey Sturdy, Ichiro Shinkai, Steve Ley.

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Visit us on the Internet:

www.science-of-synthesis.com

Do you have information about yourself or a *Science of Synthesis* colleague for the next newsletter? Write to us science-of-synthesis@thieme.de

Pictures are welcome!

The Editorial Team

Deputy Managing Editor

Dr. M. Fiona Shortt

Scientific Editors

Dr. Philip J. Langley
Lindsey A. Sturdy

Assistant Scientific Editor

Dr. Karen M. Muirhead

Editorial/Production Assistant

Leigh Murray

Project Administrator and Controller

Angela Huttelmaier

Editorial Secretary

Angela Gilden

Freelance Scientific Editors

Dr. Jutta Backes
Dr. Keith Baggaley
Dr. Colin J. Drayton
Dr. Karen E. du Plooy
Dr. Kay L. Greenfield
Dr. Carmel Hayes
Dr. Rupert Purchase
Dr. Joe P. Richmond
Dr. Elizabeth Smeaton

Drawers

Hanne Haeusler
Ruth Hammelehle
Hilpi Segnitz
Lisa Ulbrich
Kornelia Wagenblast

Operations Assistant

Jennifer Mazzuchi

Editorial Office

Georg Thieme Verlag
Rüdigerstrasse 14
D-70469 Stuttgart
Germany

Phone + 49 (711) 89 31-774
Fax + 49 (711) 89 31-777
E-mail science-of-synthesis@thieme.de
WWW www.science-of-synthesis.com

editorial office is now more efficient than ever and is producing high quality organic chemistry reference books within short time frames. Not only that, but the content produced can be used in parallel to produce the electronic product, which will be available later this year.

The editorial team is made up of many experienced copy editors whose aim is to carry out their editorial work effectively and efficiently while maintaining high quality standards. All manuscripts submitted to the *Science of Synthesis* editorial office are edited by highly qualified professional chemists whose mother tongue is English.

The editorial team works hard to achieve a high level of consistency in presentation throughout all *Science of Synthesis* volumes. This involves taking a close look at the nomenclature used, checking references, checking experimental procedures, checking spelling, and checking the scientific content. The thoroughness of our scientific editing has already prompted very posi-



tive feedback from many of our authors and volume editors.

It should also be mentioned that working to produce 48 volumes within the next 10 years with hundreds of well-known chemists is a challenge which the team very much enjoys.

We hope that this newsletter will help to keep you abreast of the progress made by the editorial team on a regular basis. We also hope that it will further strengthen the good relations between the editorial office and our authors.



From left: Philip Langley, Alex Williams, Guido F. Herrmann, Rolf Hoppe, Leigh Murray, Angela Gilden, Lindsey Sturdy, Fiona Shortt, Karen Muirhead.

Awards and Honors



Editorial board member **Prof. Steve Ley** (Cambridge, UK) has been awarded the Davy Medal by the Royal Society in recognition of his invention of "new synthetic methods applied to the synthesis of complex natural products" (*Chemistry in Britain*, November 2000).

Prof. Ryoji Noyori (Nagoya, Japan), member of the *Science of Synthesis* editorial board and *Synthesis* advisory board, was awarded the Order of Culture in Japan on 3. 11. 2000 from the Emperor at the Imperial Palace. The Order of Culture (Bunka Kunsho) is presented annually to honor individuals who have made a significant

contribution to the arts and sciences. Recipients usually number four or five each year. The award was first established in 1937 to encourage creativity in the cultural sphere.

The Order of Culture is the greatest possible honor for Japanese scholars and artists.

In addition, it was recently announced that Prof. Noyori will receive the 2001 Wolf Prize in chemistry. The Israeli-based Wolf Foundation has presented awards each year since 1978 to honor achievement in agriculture, mathematics, chemistry, physics, medicine, and the arts. The foundation was established in 1976 by Dr. Ricardo Wolf, a German-born diplomat and philanthropist, and his wife Francisca Subirana-Wolf, "to promote science and art for the benefit of mankind."



Editorial board member **Prof. Ernst Schaumann** (Clausthal, Germany) was inaugurated dean of Clausthal University on October 27th. The inauguration was attended by over 200 people and included a torchlit procession by the students of Clausthal University. Among the guests who attended were Prof. Dieter Kaufmann (volume editor for Volume 6) and Dr. M. Fiona Shortt.

Pacifichem 2000

News from the meeting of *Science of Synthesis* editors and volume editors in attendance at Pacifichem 2000, 15 December 2000.



As the sun set slowly in the west and many tired Pacifichem conference attendees were returning to their hotels to sip an exotic tropical cocktail after a long day at the numerous sympos-

iums, one dedicated group was busy refuting the hypothesis that no one goes to Waikiki to work. No less than 12 *Science of Synthesis* editors and volume editors were in attendance at Pacifichem, and all came to the meeting held late Friday afternoon at the Halekulani Hotel. The participants included experienced, new, and prospective volume editors. We discussed the current status of the *Science of Synthesis* project, which after 10 years of careful planning has indeed stayed on track and produced two volumes in 2000, Hetarene Vol-

umes 9 and 10. The more experienced volume editors had many useful comments and suggestions. The information exchange between the editors and experienced volume editors on the one hand, and the new volume editors on the other, was both lively and instructive. A highlight of the meeting was a demon-

stration of the electronic version of Volume 10, which we had on a laptop computer. It was actually more of a testing session, since several of the attendees jumped at the opportunity to get a hands-on look at this electronic product, which constitutes a breakthrough in tertiary literature publication.



Standing from left: Rick Danheiser (Vol. 23, invited), Hisashi Yamamoto (Vol. 7), Steve Weinreb (Vols. 17 and 21), Yoshinori Yamamoto (Vol. 7), Junzo Otera (Vol. 30), Tsuneo Imamoto (Vol. 2), Nobuaki Kambe (Vol. 39). Seated from left: Shun-ichi Murahashi (Vol. 19), David Black (Vol. 15), Ichiro Shinkai (Editorial Board), Barry Trost (Editorial Board), Victor Snieckus (Vol. 8).

VIP Report (Volumes in Planning)

Dr. Joe Richmond, Scientific Editor

joe.richmond@t-online.de

During the year 2000, the last volume on Organometallics (Category 1), and the last 4 volumes on Heteroarenes (Category 2) went through the volume planning stage. The first volumes of Category 3, Compounds with Four and Three Carbon-Heteroatom Bonds, are now being planned and will be reported on in the spring issue of the newsletter.



Volume 8, Compounds of Group 1 (Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs)

Victor Snieckus is a synthetic chemist of many talents and a world leader in the areas of organolithium, synthetic aromatic, and heterocyclic chemistry, especially in the develop-

ment of synthetic methodologies based on directed ortho metalation reactions. His methods have been applied by medicinal and process chemists on scales from milligrams to multi-kilograms. Snieckus is also an active organizer of symposia and has served the chemistry community as chair of the ASC Division of Organic Chemistry and as president of the International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry (ICHC). He has edited two books and serves as regional editor of *Synlett* and general organic editor of the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry*. Snieckus is well-known for his didactic abilities. He enjoys teaching and has regularly presented short courses to industrial chemists in North America and Europe. An avid world traveler, he constantly surprises his hosts by speaking their own language. The fundamental advances and considerable utility of the metalation chemistry in the Snieckus

laboratories place him in high demand for consulting and lecturing: he has delivered over 50 plenary and 150 invited lectures in the last decade. He has received a number of awards and currently holds the Bader Chair in Organic Chemistry at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. Recently, in recognition of his scholarly work, he has been awarded the Killiam Research Fellowship, an Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award of the American Chemical Society, and the Award in Heterocyclic Chemistry of the International Congress of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry. Victor Snieckus is a lover of music and we look forward to his orchestration of Volume 8 of *Science of Synthesis*.

► <http://www.chem.queensu.ca/people/faculty/snieckus/>



Volume 14, Six-Membered Heteroarenes with One Chalcogen

Jim Thomas is both a member of the editorial board of *Science of Synthesis* and volume editor

for this heteroarene volume. Since research in the Thomas laboratories straddles organometallic chemistry and natural product synthesis, it is not surprising that he has taken over responsibility for volumes in both the organometallic group (Volume 5, with Mark Moloney) and in the heteroarene group (Volumes 10 and 14). Considering his many appointments and responsibilities, the fact that he can manage these volumes so well attests to his masterful organizational abilities. On top of his exciting research program, he is head of the Department of Chemistry at Manchester, president of the Perkin Council of the British Royal Society of Chemistry, regional editor of *Tetrahedron Letters* and member of the Executive Board of Editors for Tetrahedron Publications. He was the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Tilden Lecturer in 1995 and the RSC Simonsen Lecturer for 2000. Current synthetic targets in the Thomas group include the bryostatins, the pamamycins, the phomactins, and the epothilones. The development of stereoselective synthetic methodologies involving organotin reagents and the synthesis of specifically designed receptor antagonists round out his research program.

🏠 <http://www.ch.man.ac.uk/people/academic/ejt.html>



Volume 15, Six-Membered Heteroarenes with One Nitrogen or Phosphorus Atom

David Black was author of the major chapter on pyrroles in Volume 9 of *Science of Synthesis*, which was published in October 2000. This experience will certainly be of great help to his own authors now that he has taken on the editorship of Volume 15, which covers pyridines, annulated pyridines, and phosphorus analogs. Black is

well-known on all continents, although his home base is at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. He spent periods of study leave at the ETH Zürich in 1968–1969, Würzburg University in 1974 (as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow), and Cambridge University in 1980. He has also held visiting professorships at the Science University of Tokyo (1988), the University of Auckland (1992), Göttingen University (1994) and Innsbruck (1999), and has given numerous invited lectures at international conferences and major universities. His research interests are as broad as his travels, ranging from methods of synthesis to self-assembly, from heterocyclic chemistry and indole alkaloids to organometallic chemistry, from polymer chemistry and modified peptides to photochemistry. He served as president of The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (1998) and is currently chairman of the National Committee for Chemistry. He is secretary of the IUPAC Division of Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry (2000–2001). Black has won the Royal Australian Chemical Institute's Rennie Medal (1970) and H. G. Smith Medal (1993), and in 1990 was the Liversidge Lecturer of the Royal Society of New South Wales and the Royal Society of Chemistry Lecturer. In addition, he is recognized as a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher.

🏠 <http://www.chem.unsw.edu.au/staffprofiles/black.html>



Volume 16, Six-Membered Heteroarenes with Two Identical Heteroatoms

The laboratory of **Yoshinori Yamamoto** is part of the Tohoku University Graduate School of Science Division of Interdisciplinary Chemistry. The interdisciplinary nature of Yamamoto's work is seen by the fact that he is an international leader in the fields of transition metal catalysis, boron chemistry, asymmetric synthesis, natural product synthesis, and heterocyclic chemistry. His group is engaged in the development of novel synthetic reactions and their application to the stereoselective synthesis of natural products and therapeutic

agents. The breadth and inventiveness of his research, his astute intelligence, and his open character have led to international recognition and acclaim. He is greatly sought after as plenary or invited lecturer and has given almost 70 invited or plenary lectures at international symposiums. He is a regional editor of *Tetrahedron Letters*, is president of the International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry (2000–2001), and serves on committees of numerous scientific organizations. He received the Award of the Chemical Society of Japan for Young Chemists in 1976 and the Award of the Chemical Society of Japan in 1996. Yoshinori Yamamoto brings fresh wind into the field of heterocyclic chemistry and is ideally suited, as editor of *Science of Synthesis* Heteroarene Volume 16, to help orient this work toward the current and future needs of researchers at the forefront of this field.

🏠 <http://www.chem.tohoku.ac.jp/labo/hannouyuuki/e.html>



Volume 17, Six-Membered Heteroarenes with Two Unlike or More than Two Heteroatoms and Fully Unsaturated Larger-Ring Heterocycles

Steve Weinreb is known internationally because of his research on cycloadditions and pericyclic reactions in heterocyclic synthesis, his development of synthetic methodologies, such as Weinreb amides, and his many contributions to natural product synthesis, especially that of complex heterocyclic natural products with pharmacological activity. With roots in alkaloid natural product chemistry, he appreciates the long tradition of classical heterocyclic chemistry; at the same time, his broad research interests at the forefront of organic chemistry and synthesis make him one of the leaders in the modern heterocyclic chemistry community. Weinreb's international reputation is attested to by his over 250 plenary and invited lectures at conferences, universities, and companies. In addition to over 150 publications in the primary literature, he is the author of numerous reviews and co-author of the classic book *Het-*

ero Diels–Alder Methodology in Organic Synthesis. His services to scientific societies include being senior editor of *Journal of Organic Chemistry* (1990–1997); in addition, he is currently president elect of the International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry. Recognition of his work include an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow-

ship, 1975–1979; an NIH Research Career Development Award, 1975–1980; and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, 1983–1984. Since 1987, he has been the Russell and Mildred Marker Professor of Natural Products Chemistry at The Pennsylvania State University. Steve Weinreb acquired the last au-

thor for Volume 17 in December 2000, and the best news is that he has now taken on the editorship of Volume 21, which is quite fittingly dedicated to the amide linkage.

http://www.chem.psu.edu/profs/weinreb.html

Marketing News *Alex Williams, Marketing Assistant*

alex.williams@thieme.de

The Marketing and Sales Team

Marketing Manager

Dr. Thomas Krimmer

Marketing Assistant

Alexandra L. Williams

Sales Manager

Dr. Kristina Kurz (New York, USA)

Marketing and Sales Office

Phone +49 (711) 89 31-772

Fax +49 (711) 89 31-777

E-mail marketing@science-of-synthesis.com

The first volume of *Science of Synthesis* was released in October 2000, launching a unique resource for scientists involved in chemical synthesis. We are thrilled that *Science of Synthesis* was launched with such success. The response from the market has been very encouraging worldwide. However, like the editorial concept and the involved editorial and production process, the marketing of *Science of Synthesis* has been underway for some time.

Right from the conception of the project, we have been working hard to establish a strong brand image and widespread awareness of the project at all levels in the chemistry and information communities. Marketing covers a broad range of activities that service our customers and authors, two sectors that we consider interchangeable. A primary function of the marketing department is to communicate all aspects of the developing project to the market. Through a series of advertising campaigns, mailings, and presence at conferences we

have been in constant contact with scientists and information professionals. Our marketing activities thus far have been very successful in achieving our initial aim, with the result that *Science of Synthesis* is widely talked about and perceived as an exciting and ambitious project that will make a dramatic impact on the future of synthetic chemistry. Our ultimate goal of a smooth and high-profile entrance into the market was undoubtedly successful. We are thrilled by the response from the market, particularly in a time of shrinking library budgets and the growing trend from print to electronic media. This strong entry into the market signifies the quality of *Science of Synthesis* and provides us with a strong position for the future launch of the electronic version.

Extensive market research through direct sales visits, contact with customers at conferences, discussion forums, and regular meetings with our advisory board has influenced the development of the product greatly. The feedback from these

channels indicates that our customers have a complete understanding of the uniqueness of *Science of Synthesis* and that the expertise and critically evaluated information provided by *Science of Synthesis* is unmatched by any other system. The assurance of reliable procedures and an expert perspective provided by such an esteemed collection of authors is highly appealing. It is this guarantee of quality which differentiates *Science of Synthesis* from all other reference series and databases on the market and addresses a pertinent need for information-overloaded researchers.

The features of the electronic version have been developed in close cooperation with our customers and advisory board. We have striven to accommodate our customers' suggestions to produce a user-friendly system with optimum functionality. In accordance with our customers'



Thieme Exhibit at the Online Information 2000 Meeting, London, UK.

wishes, the electronic system will have a highly intuitive search facility and the system will be flexible to individual requirements and fully compatible with existing electronic platforms.

Over the past year we have exhibited at a diverse range of conferences world-wide including specialized chemistry meetings, high-profile interdisciplinary conferences such as the American Chemical Society meetings, and information exhibitions like Online Information in London, in order to meet professionals in the areas of chemistry information. These events are a vital opportunity for us to interact with our authors and cus-

tomers. We endeavor to keep you informed of events that we will attend and encourage you to tell us of meetings that you will be present at. We are grateful for suggestions of any meetings that you consider important for the promotion of *Science of Synthesis*. Details of upcoming conferences can always be found on our website, www.science-of-synthesis.com.

In order to capitalize on the opportunity of having so many of our authors gathered in one place, we frequently hold social events at appropriate conferences. In these relaxed and enjoyable settings we invite you to share your experiences and discuss issues relating to your work. We value

highly these opportunities to further our personal relationships with you our authors and to show our appreciation for the commitment and effort you have devoted to the project.

To finish on a lighter note, the *Science of Synthesis* baseball caps have proven to be very popular at events in 2001. It is my pleasure to provide all contributors to the project with a complimentary baseball cap, which will be sent to you shortly. We will be happy to provide further samples for your colleagues and co-workers and hope that the *Science of Synthesis* logo will become a firm feature on the beaches this summer!

Electronic Digest Dr. Rolf Hoppe, Software Development Project Leader

rolf.hoppe@thieme.de

The E-Team

Software Development Project Leader

Dr. Rolf Hoppe

Production Assistant

Thomas Dambacher

Software Development Office

Phone + 49 (931) 3 53 98-11

Fax + 49 (931) 3 53 98-12

E-mail rolf.hoppe@thieme.de

Richmond, downloaded a fully-functional prototype of the electronic version of *Science of Synthesis* for the first time at Pacificchem 2000. The response of the editorial board and the volume editors has been enthusiastic. This overwhelmingly positive response can be attributed to the constant input that we receive from members of our advisory board:

Dr. Andreas Barth (Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany), Grace Baysinger (Stanford University, USA), Dr. Alexander Mullen (Bayer AG, Germany), Dr. Henry Rzepa (Imperial College, UK), and Dr. Engelbert Zass (ETH Zürich, Switzerland). Alpha- and beta-testing will start this

spring, and we expect to have the electronic interface of *Science of Synthesis* ready for launch in the third quarter of 2001. You can look forward to the first pictures of the software and a more detailed update in the next newsletter.

Please note also that we are currently revising our home page, www.science-of-synthesis.com, to make it more accessible to authors and users. I welcome you to contact me directly if you would like to share your ideas and suggestions.



As a computer and information specialist, it has been a rewarding experience to develop the electronic version of *Science of Synthesis* with and for the leading synthetic chemists. *Science of Synthesis* will be the first point of reference for all scientists searching for solutions to synthesis problems. The electronic product will combine the benefits of a powerful information retrieval system with *Houben-Weyl's* tradition of excellence, and will provide ready access to the contributions of hundreds of the world's leaders in synthetic chemistry.

A sneak preview of the electronic version has been shown at the July 2000 meeting of the editorial board in Stuttgart. My colleague, Dr. Joe



Rolf Hoppe at the Online Information 2000 Meeting, London, UK.