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From the Editors

Since its inception, *Heteroatom Chemistry* has honored distinguished main group chemists by dedicating certain issues to them. You will recall the names of our esteemed colleagues who have been so honored: Jan Michalski, 1991; Rolf Appel, 1991; Marianne Baudler, 1991; Alexander V. Kirsanov, 1991; Leopold Horner, 1991; Ernest Eliel, 1992; Herbert C. Brown, 1992; Yao-Zeng Huang, 1992; James Cullen Martin, 1993; Antonino Fava, 1993; Adrian Gibbs Brooks, 1994; Shigeru Oae, 1995; Louis D. Quin, 1996; William E. McEwen, 1997; Heinrich Nöth, 1998; Robert R. Holmes, 1998; and Alfred Schmidpeter, 1999. We now plan to add Professor Naoki Inamoto to this "Hall of Fame."

The first step in the scientific career of Naoki Inamoto, born in 1929, was the completion of a Doctoral Dissertation "On Decomposition Reactions of α,α'-Azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN) in Solutions" (1959) at the University of Tokyo under the direction of Professor Osamu Simamura. He was appointed Research Assistant in 1954, Lecturer in 1961, Associate Professor in 1964, and then Professor in 1965 at the same university.

In 1965, he started his work on heteroatom chemistry, especially phosphorus, sulfur, and selenium compounds. During his career, he has published about 330 original articles, as well as a number of reviews. He had served on the editorial board of *Heterocycles* from its inception (1973) until 1998, and has also served on the editorial board of *Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon* since 1983.

Professor Inamoto's many scientific accomplishments will be spelled out in more detail in a special issue dedicated to him, but they are summarized briefly here. His earlier topics of interest included novel radical reactions using AIBN, syntheses of C-14 labeled compounds, and elucidation of reaction mechanisms using tracer methods. His main topics of more recent years include new reactions of phosphorus ylides, diphosphanes, oxo- and thioxophosphines, R–P=O, R–P=S, as intermediates; olefination using phosphonates prepared from heterocyclic cations; phospha- and azaphospha-Cope rearrangements; reactions (including photolysis and cycloaddition) of *S*-containing heterocycles such as 2,3-dihydrothiazoles, dithiolethiones, Hector's base, and related compounds, such as α-oxo and α-thioxo ketene thioacetals and *o*-thioquinomethanes; kinetic stabilization and reactions of unstable nitroxide radicals, nitrosoarene monomers, *N*-thiosulfinylanilines, thio- and seleno-ketones and aldehydes, and the *o*-thioquinomethane monomer; spectroscopic detection and reactions of a thionitrosoarene.

Many distinguished heteroatom chemists were trained in his laboratories. For example, Professors K. Akiba and R. Okazai were staff members of his laboratories, and Professors M. Yoshifuji, T. Kawashima, Y. Yamamoto, and M. Tokitoh were students who obtained doctoral degrees under his supervision.

We invite you to submit manuscripts dedicated to Inamoto to one of the editors of *Heteroatom Chemistry* (see inside front cover for their addresses) by December 15, 2000. The papers will be collected in a special issue, number 4 of volume 12. Contributions to this issue will certainly receive particular recognition.