

Happy 101st Birthday to the Division of Organic Chemistry of the American Chemical Society (ORGN)

Organic chemistry, of course, began long before the founding of an ACS technical division devoted to this discipline of chemistry. But just as certainly, it can be argued that ORGN and *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* both have contributed in real ways to the development of the field. Science is a collegial endeavor, and scientists like to and need to communicate with each other on many levels, for many reasons, and in many forms. Scientific organizations and scientific journals play crucial roles in this collegiality.

It is thus fitting that ORGN and *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* have joined together to celebrate ORGN's Centennial Year, 2008. Led by its Chair Bob Volkmann, ORGN hosted a Centennial Symposium at the 237th ACS National Meeting & Exposition in Philadelphia. As shown in the program, 12 distinguished chemists presented a perspective of their research careers.

The organizers of the Centennial Symposium anticipated that the event would be very well attended, and indeed, it was. As part of the Symposium development plan, ORGN wanted to share the Symposium with all of its members as well as with the larger chemical community and, simultaneously, to archive these perspectives for future generations of scientists and historians of science. By happy circumstance, Dale Poulter, Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of Organic Chemistry* was brought into the early stages of ORGN's Centennial planning process. The result: ORGN and *JOC* are delighted to publish, as Perspectives, expanded versions of the talks presented on August 18, 2008 at the ACS National meeting.

Each Perspective is intended to give insight and understanding into the career and research contributions of each of these chemists, leaders in their respective and diverse fields. Together, the collection of Perspectives is intended to provide an overview of the growth and progress of organic chemistry over the past 50 years.

Certainly, if you are reading this editorial—and these Perspectives—in 2009 or any year shortly thereafter, you are aware of the spectacular growth of organic chemistry over the past century and the importance of the discipline in the 21st century. Indeed, you likely participated in these very events and advancements. I hardly need to list for you the transformations now possible in organic synthesis, the complexity of compounds now synthesized, the remarkable analytical capabilities and structure determinations performed, the intricate mechanisms and molecular details now understood, the power and wide utilization of theory, and the fundamental and essential applications of organic chemistry to so many other disciplines. Just pick up any issue of *JOC*—this very issue—and the state of the science is evident. We are all associated with a wonderful discipline.

I was and am pleased that Dale asked me to serve as Perspectives Special Editor of *JOC* for these autobiographical reviews. *JOC*'s commitment to the Perspectives project and Dale's flexibility resulted in a much-expanded boundary to the authors, in terms of number of pages and photographs permitted. We have also urged the authors to include more about their philosophies of science

Division of Organic Chemistry Centennial Symposium Monday, August 18, 2008

Organizers:	Robert A. Volkmann, Cynthia A. Maryanoff, Michael P. Doyle, Franklin A. Davis Albert Padwa
Presiding:	Introductory Remarks
8:00 AM	Gilbert Stork, Derek Barton, Carl Djerassi, and Koji Nakanishi
8:05 AM	on video: The Human Side of Eminent Chemists Jeff Seeman
8:50 AM	Bioorganic Chemistry: A Natural Reunion of the Physical and Life Sciences C. Dale Poulter
9:25 AM	Homogeneous Catalyst for the Synthesis of Large and Small Molecules Robert H. Grubbs
10:00 AM	From Solvolysis to Self-Assembly Peter J. Stang
10:35 AM	Deciphering the Chemistry of Biotic Interactions: An Underappreciated Source of "Useful Knowledge" Jerrold Meinwald
11:10 AM	The Evolution of Drug Discovery Paul Anderson
11:45 AM	Reactive Intermediates and Excited States on Surfaces and in Solution Marye Anne Fox
Presiding:	Clayton H. Heathcock
1:10 PM	Introductory Remarks
1:15 PM	At the Right Place at the Right Time Revisited John D. Roberts
1:50 PM	The Advent and Development of Organocatalysis David W. C. MacMillan
2:30 PM	Molecules That Changed the World: Evolution of the Art of Total Synthesis over the Last Century Kyriacos C. Nicolau
3:10 PM	Theoretical and Computational Organic Chemistry K. N. Houk
3:50 PM	New Transformations: Invention and Serendipitous Discovery Larry E. Overman
4:30 PM	An Asymmetric Odyssey K. Barry Sharpless

and their individual, unique experiences in this wonderfully human endeavor of scientific creativity. What they have not said in these pages may well be found in the video interviews that will appear soon on ORGN's website, another aspect of ORGN's celebratory plans.

Our plan is to publish a Perspective each month beginning with this issue of *JOC*. We are pleased to present this special documentation of the state of organic chemistry as of 2009 from the eyes of many of this generation's pioneers in our discipline. Happy reading!

Jeffrey I. Seeman, *JOC* Perspectives Special Editor
University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia 23173

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