



Preface

Olefin metathesis has evolved from a laboratory curiosity to become an intricate part of the synthetic chemist's arsenal of molecular assembly strategies. Many chemists are now trained to think "retro-synthetically" in terms of olefin metathesis. Since the method has gained so much popularity in the last 10 years and since numerous catalysts allow for one or another of the many variants of olefin metathesis to be used with such amazing efficiency, the decision to publish a special issue on metathesis was made shortly after the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry announcement. Indeed the importance of developments brought to the area by Chauvin, with his insightful description of the mechanism at play in olefin metathesis, by Schrock with the development of well-defined molybdenum-based systems and by Grubbs with the development and commercialization of ruthenium-based systems cannot be overstated. Obviously a multitude of researchers has contributed to the development of the science and to this day metathesis, that might be considered by some as a very

mature area of research, still affords many surprises. Metathesis continues to amaze with the development of catalyst with ever growing reaction profiles, mechanistic studies providing insight into catalyst activation and decomposition and novel uses of the method in organic and polymer chemistry. This Journal issue attempts to provide the reader with a taste of the many aspects of olefin metathesis examined nowadays.

The pioneering work of the Nobel Laureates and others has permitted the community to make significant advances in olefin metathesis but as is the case of major discoveries these essential developments represent the foundation to further developments. We are convinced that more advances will emerge from this fascinating area of chemistry.

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