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## Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713617200>

### Editorial

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To cite this Article Binkley, Roger W.(1988) 'Editorial', Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry, 7: 2, v

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/07328308808058923

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07328308808058923>

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## EDITORIAL

This edition of the Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry is focused on "Synthesis of Oligosaccharides" and is the fourth in a series of special issues devoted to topics of current interest to carbohydrate chemists. Interest in oligosaccharide synthesis has grown rapidly in recent years due, in large part, to the increasing number of biochemical (and often health-related) problems for which solutions depend upon synthesizing complex, carbohydrate-containing compounds. In recognition of the importance of this area of synthetic chemistry and the many changes and improvements which recently have occurred, a natural choice for this issue of the Journal was a collection of papers describing current thinking and findings on the synthesis of oligosaccharides.

Although previous special editions of the Journal each have contained a review article on the chosen topic, such a review is absent from this issue. Although a comprehensive review of oligosaccharide synthesis would be a welcome addition to the literature on carbohydrate chemistry, the magnitude of such a work would greatly exceed that of normal review articles in special editions. Fortunately, there are a number of reviews on oligosaccharide synthesis which have been published in recent years. Some are fairly general in their coverage while others are limited either in subject matter or time period covered; however, when these reviews are taken together, they provide a reasonably comprehensive and up-to-date description of the "state of the art" in oligosaccharide synthesis. Since people interested in this topic may wish to consult these reviews, a list is provided in the first article in this special edition.

Roger W. Binkley  
January 1988