
Organic Process

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Editorial

As we start the fourth year of *Organic Process Research & Development* (OPRD), it is a pleasure to welcome a new associate editor, Dr. Chris Schmid from Lilly Research Laboratories, in Indianapolis. Chris was involved at the start of OPRD in many of the discussions, which convinced the American Chemical Society and the Royal Chemical Society to back the idea of a journal specifically for process chemists and engineers. Since the launch of OPRD, Chris has been active as a member of the editorial advisory board and in the promotion of the journal. Chris will be working closely with Richard Pariza to try to increase the number of publications arising from U.S. companies and universities. When the journal started in 1996, it was anticipated that the number of articles from the American continent would be high compared to those from the rest of the world. Whereas in the early days this was true, in the last year, the articles from Europe and Asia have increased, and those from the U.S.A. have fallen. There may be a number of reasons for this—I would welcome your ideas on the subject. One factor is possibly the willingness of other journals (with a higher impact factor) to take process-related articles, whereas in the past these papers were rejected. Whatever the reasons, it is our intention to try to reverse the trend and to encourage U.S.-based authors to submit papers to OPRD in 2000 and beyond. Any help readers can give towards this goal are most welcome.

I have discussed with many chemists whether the journal size needs to be increased in the future and have been surprised that many chemists have said NO! The reason given is that, in contrast to other journals, which are merely scanned quickly for relevant papers, OPRD is read cover to cover since the important issues may be in the detail—a single paragraph which explains how a problem was solved may be vital information to a process chemist or engineer. Therefore, an increase in pages may not be an advantage to everyone. A contrasting view is that an increase in the number of articles submitted should be used to increase the quality of papers published, that is to have a higher rejection rate, whilst maintaining the same number of pages. Of course an increase in submitted papers could be used simply to increase the journal size, providing a wider range of issues or greater depth. These topics will have been discussed at our editorial board meetings in December and January. The ideas from readers of the journal, however, are always of interest to the editors—your e-mails are awaited!

Trevor Laird

Editor

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