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# Organic Process

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## Research &

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## Development

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### *Editorial*

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When chemists and engineers do a literature search, they often mean a search of the “academic” literature and do not include patents which are more difficult to search, and sometimes it is even harder to extract the relevant information, being couched in legal terminology. It is often difficult to see which experiments have been carried out, and spectroscopic data is often minimal. Patents serve an excellent purpose, but communication of information to scientists and engineers is not always of highest priority. However, there is much of value to the process chemist/chemical engineer, and thus we ignore the patent literature at our peril. In my Highlights section I have been guilty of ignoring the patent literature but have now recognised that *Organic Process Research & Development* can provide a service to readers by highlighting process patents. In this issue we see the first Patent Highlights, compiled by Keith Turner of Kappa Tau Consulting, UK, with minor assistance (or should that be hindrance?) from me in the selection process. He has chosen 20 patents to highlight—a further 20 will be summarised in the July/August and November/December editions, and I hope that readers will find this additional section of use and of interest.

I would welcome some feedback from readers: Is the section useful? How can it be improved? If in your reading of the patent literature, you come across patents which you feel should be highlighted, then please let me know. This section will be run in the year 2000 for a trial period—whether we continue depends to some extent on readership perception of its value. The Highlights section has been well-received—I hope the Patent Highlights will have the same reception.

Dr. Trevor Laird

*Editor*

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