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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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I was pleased to read in a May issue of *Chemical and Engineering News* a summary of the lectures presented at the recent ACS meeting in San Francisco, where one day was devoted to process R&D issues. My thanks go out to Steve Stinson of *C&EN* for helping—both in the May, 2000, issue and in previous issues in 1999—to publicise the excellent work that is being carried out in process R&D, which is often presented at symposia.

The next major event in the process R&D calendar is in Montreal, Canada, on July 10–12, 2000, where 200 or more chemists and engineers will congregate to hear 20 case studies—most of which have not been published. The conference is entitled Organic Process R&D—the same as the journal.

The following week, the Gordon conference on Organic Reactions and Processes takes place in New Hampshire, and this usually contains some interesting process R&D case studies.

The major chemical development event in Europe is The Scale Up of Chemical Processes in Jersey (UK) in September, 2000, which explores the chemistry/chemical engineering interface and focuses on chemical reaction hazards and other safety issues.

An annual meeting in the process R&D calendar is the MPPCC organised 1–2 day symposium in October in the Midwest U.S.A. which is usually by invitation only, being restricted to the companies involved in the Midwest Pharmaceutical Process Chemistry Consortium and their invitees. This was one of the successful events, which encouraged chemists and engineers to make representations to ACS to found the *Organic Process Research & Development* journal. The other event in the UK, which demonstrated the need for a process chemistry journal, was SCI's annual Process

Development Symposium, which began as a one-day event with six speakers in the early 1980s. This meeting has now expanded to a three-day event with 15–20 speakers and is a major meeting. This year's event will be held on December 11–13, 2000, in the UK (further details from the Society of Chemical Industry). The participation tends to be predominantly UK; therefore, I hope by giving SCI some publicity that attendees from outside Europe will be encouraged to participate.

As far as 2001 is concerned, an Organic Process R&D Symposium is being held in Hong Kong on March 18–21, 2001. This is the first (I believe) international process chemistry meeting to be held in Asia, although there was a Japanese meeting held in 1999, with the papers being published in the May, 1999, edition of *Journal of Synthetic Organic Chemistry* of Japan. Unfortunately, for non-Japanese readers, these papers were in Japanese, with abstracts in English.

It is clear that interest is growing in the subject. Most of these highlighted meetings are well-attended and provide a useful forum for chemists and engineers working in process R&D to get together and discuss issues:

- Scale-up problems
- Synthetic routes
- Crystallisation and other unit operations

Our journal, *Organic Process Research & Development*, and the efforts of ACS and RSC in this field have done much to build up this interest. With the assistance of the Readers in writing up the excellent work and submitting it for publication, or in giving lectures at these important Symposia (preferably both!), the subject of process R&D will continue to prosper. Thank you for your help in publicising this important field of science and technology.

Trevor Laird

*Editor*

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