Organic Process Research & Development

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Editorial

As I write my first editorial offering for *Organic Process Research & Development*, business-driven changes continue throughout the organic chemical industry, from the proposed and completed mergers of oil companies, to the spin-offs, consolidations, and reorganizations taking place in the specialty organic industry. The pharmaceutical industry in particular finds itself in the midst of significant consolidations, with several recently completed and pending mergers and acquisitions creating industrial titans with tens of billions in annual sales. The trend looks to continue.

This change impacts our research and development efforts as well. The continued emphasis on shorter development cycle times using fewer people poses a challenge to the balance of basic and applied research needed to deliver products for a company's future. On the individual level, employee development, mentoring, even staying current with the scientific literature may increasingly be viewed as non-necessities in the workplace.

In such an environment, scientific publication may fall even lower on the priority list. Yet few activities do more to sharpen one's science, thinking, and focus than organizing and writing a manuscript for submission to a journal. Although such activities may often be viewed as extracurricular, in reality they can serve as an excellent means of keeping scientists in top form. And of course, a company's scientific publication record is a key consideration in its ongoing effort to recruit and retain top talent.

We are also all members of the larger community of organic chemists. Along with our academic colleagues, we can contribute to a growing body of scientific knowledge that will continue to find use in developing new products, processes, and technology. Writing for publication is one of the contributions we make as individuals to our scientific community.

Therefore, I encourage you to participate in *OPR&D* not only in reading the articles but in providing them as well. The end result will be a lasting contribution to our scientific colleagues, our companies, and ourselves. As this issue's special section on polymorphism illustrates, the interdisciplinary nature of commercial organic research and development will often combine materials science, physics, and engineering with synthetic organic chemistry. The resulting scientific accounts are quite interesting, as are the possibilities for their publication.

Finally, continuing on the theme of change, colleague and friend Richard Pariza has found it necessary to resign as Associate Editor for the journal. His new role as Vice President of Chemistry at Protarga, Inc. has required a substantial time commitment and extensive travel, leaving him little time for other activities, including his efforts as associate editor for *OPR&D*. Rich's extensive involvement in the formation and launch of the journal are well-known; he will join the journal's editorial advisory board, where he will continue to offer his wisdom and perspective as we move ahead with the journal.

Christopher Schmid
Associate Editor

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