

Organic Process Research & Development

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Editorial

Chris Randall Schmid 1959–2007

Chris Schmid was born in 1959 in New Jersey and completed his PhD at Princeton before carrying out postdoctoral work at Berkeley with Clayton Heathcock. He joined Eli Lilly in 1987 where he spent 20 years as a process chemist contributing to the development of drugs such as Gemzar and Evista. After a long illness he passed away December 26, 2007.

Chris will be most remembered by readers of *Organic Process Research & Development* (OPRD) as its Associate Editor and as a keen promoter of process chemistry as a critical discipline. He was also an active participant in the Gordon Conference on Organic Reactions and Processes and a past Chairman of that prestigious event.

I remember Chris as one of the chemists who, in the early 1990s, was passionate about the need for a new journal for process chemistry, who was prepared to fight for that goal, and who played a significant part in persuading the American Chemical Society to put up the initial funding for the project and the journal's subsequent launch 1996–1997.

I also remember Chris as a fun person to be with both at work and play. Most of the tributes I have received in e-mails, from OPRD readers, mention him as a gentle person of compassion and great dignity who commanded respect from all. He always wanted to do what was right, but this was natural for him as a true believer in God.

I visited Chris in December shortly before his passing, and despite his being in some pain, there was still the same Chris Schmid wonderful smile. He was clearly struggling to stay alive, but his focus was never on his personal difficulties, only what other's problems were and if he could help. He was a lovely man who conducted his life with humility and personal integrity.

Most readers will not know of Chris's work for the church, where he was not only active in his local church in Indianapolis

but also provided scholarships for and travelled to the Nairobi Graduate School of Theology in Kenya. In addition he was a founding member of Christian Leaders for Africa and an officer for Light of the World Ministries. This was an important part of his life.

Returning to the theme of process chemistry, Chris challenged the process chemistry community to “contribute to the growing body of scientific knowledge.... Writing for publication is one of the contributions we make as individuals to our scientific community”. It seems fitting, therefore, that in Chris's honour we will be dedicating a special issue of OPRD in 2009. There will be no special scientific theme. We invite friends, colleagues, and all those who came into contact with Chris to write a paper—be it a communication, note, lecture transcript, review, or full paper—in his honour. Already many members of the OPRD Editorial Advisory Board have pledged papers. We want to make this the largest ever issue of OPRD containing some fantastic process chemistry, an issue that will be highly cited, an issue that remains a true memorial to Chris's work in the area of process chemistry. My target is for 50 papers or more.

Scientists interested in contributing a paper to this special issue should contact me as soon as possible by e-mail at oprd@scientificupdate.co.uk. I urge you all to contribute to this issue and make it a fitting memorial to the life of Chris Schmid as a process chemist.

Trevor Laird
Editor

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