Organic Process Research & Development **2008,** *12,* 304

SPECIAL FEATURE SECTION: FLUORINE CHEMISTRY

Editorial

Fluorine Cluster

A significant proportion of today's drugs, both on the market and in development, contain fluorine, and this is also true of agrochemicals and speciality chemicals (e.g., liquid crystal formers) though rarely (never?) in the flavour/fragrance field. Fluorine chemistry is an important business area, since process chemists would prefer to buy the building blocks with the fluorine already in its correct position in the molecule, wherever possible. Occasionally, there is no source of the appropriate molecule, and introduction of fluorine has to be undertaken.

This Fluorine "Cluster" was the brainchild of Vic Snieckus at the University of Kingston, Ontario, and he has helped to put together a collection of papers on the subject, with contributions from both academia and industry. Professor Kenneth Kirk (NIH), has provided a comprehensive review which details the synthetic methods used to introduce fluorine into a molecule, methods useful in medicinal chemistry too. The cluster contains contributions from two well-known names in the field, Professors Dolbier (Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A.) and Chambers (Durham, U.K.), the latter in collaboration with Asahi Glass, Japan. There are also industrial contributions from Bayer Schering (Germany) on oxyfluorination of a steroid, and from Nerviano Medical Sciences (Italy) on fluorinated proline derivatives.

So the Cluster has wide international authorship, as well as wide-ranging and interesting science. I hope you enjoy reading this fluorine cluster. My thanks go to Vic Snieckus for the initial idea and for persuading authors to contribute.

Trevor Laird
Editor

OP800044G

10.1021/op800044g CCC: $40.75
Published on Web 03/06/2008