SPECIAL FEATURE SECTION: OXIDATION CHEMISTRY

Editorial

Special Oxidation Chemistry Feature Section

Although oxidation chemistry is taught in high school, it is not used as often as one might think in the pharmaceutical industry. In fact, it makes up less than 5% of the transformations carried out in pharma. There are probably two major reasons for this. First, we are all taught that moving up and down oxidation states is wasteful in terms of increasing steps, and second, many of the current oxidation technologies are viewed as either hazardous or environmentally unfriendly. Some of these views are unfounded; hence, the reason for focussing a special feature section on oxidation chemistry.

It has been very difficult to get articles submitted for this special section. Although this area has been recently reviewed very well by Caron et al.,[1] the value of many of the articles in *Org. Process Res. Dev.* (OPRD) is that they often give much more detail about more subtle aspects such as process hazard evaluation and process monitoring. Most big pharmaceutical companies outsource a significant part of their oxidation chemistry which then makes life very hard for an editor because our outsourcing partners are reluctant or forbidden to publish work on their clients' compounds.

This leaves a large knowledge gap which is not in the industry's interest, as it often perpetuates myths about certain technologies that can become lore all too quickly. We also owe it to the academic community to give an accurate assessment of what challenges remain to be addressed. With groups such as the American Chemical Society's Green Chemistry Institute Pharmaceutical Round Table being set up, there has never been a better time for the process community to engage academia. Thus, as a plea on behalf of future editors, if you are asked to supply an article, please try and find the time to do so. I know the process departments around the world are less resourced than they used to be, but learning from others is one of the most important labour savings any chemist can make.

David Lathbury
Invited Editor

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(1) Caron, S.; Dugger, R. W.; Ruggeri, S. G.; Ragan, J. A.; Brown Ripin, D. H. *Chem. Rev.* **2006**, *106*, 2943–2989.

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