

“Help! I Need Somebody”¹

Those of you around the same age as I will recognise the title from a famous Beatles song in the 1960s.¹ Both Sue and I at the editorial office in the UK are Beatles fans, and Sue even has a picture of John Lennon above her desk! The help we need is, to quote the song “not just anybody” but someone very special. I am referring to our “Highlights from the Literature” section, which appears in each issue, and is in need of new contributors to replace Silvina García Rubio and Ulf Tilstam, who have both given outstanding service to *Organic Process Research & Development* (OPRD) over many years.

The persons that are needed should be avid readers of the literature, not just of organic chemistry but also of other areas of interest to process chemists and engineers. For each issue of the journal 3–8 abstracts or “highlights” of important pieces of research of interest to readers of the journal are required. Sometimes this will be an interesting piece of synthetic chemistry which the highlighter feels is useful from a development and scale-up viewpoint; other times it could be a new technique or an analytical method or even a potential safety issue (these are the ones I often highlight myself). At present we have one engineer who contributes regularly (Andrei Zlota), but we could do with another engineer to widen the scope of the highlights.

In addition, the Safety of Chemical Processes special section, which always occurs in the last issue of the year, is losing Paul Vogt. He has moved to another job and can no longer continue to contribute to the Safety Highlights/Notables which appear as the first article in this section. So I (and Rich Barnhart and Mike Ironside who are the other coauthors) could do with additional help to compile these highlights. Clearly, the best person for this role is someone who is involved with assessing the safety of chemical processes especially with relevance to scale-up and manufacture.

I know all of you working in process R&D are very busy but, as the saying goes, “when you want something done, ask a busy person”. A busy person always seems to be able to fit in an extra job on top of his/her demanding schedule. Thus, I ask all readers of OPRD to think about volunteering for one of these extra jobs. It will take only a couple of hours a month but will help to provide a service not only to the journal but also to your colleagues in academia and industry.

The last time this message went out in 2010, I received some quick responses, and you see these volunteers’ names at the end of the current Highlights from the Literature section. Thanks to those people for their work and many thanks to those contributors who are retiring for all their hard work over the years.

One additional note to add in this final Editorial of Volume 15 is that I am pleased to announce that OPRD will be published in 12 monthly issues beginning in 2012. I hope you’ll look forward to seeing issues more frequently.

Trevor Laird
Editor

REFERENCES

(1) Lennon, J.; McCartney, P. *Help!*; EMI Studios, Parlophone: London, 1965.

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