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Preface to the Tetrahedron Letters 50th Anniversary Special Issue

To Our Readers:

Beginning three years ago, as the fiftieth anniversary of our companion journal, *Tetrahedron*, was rapidly approaching, the Editors and Publisher of *Tetrahedron Publications* began meeting to discuss how best to recognize this important anniversary in the history of modern organic chemistry.

Tetrahedron Letters was launched in March, 1959 to facilitate the rapid publication of "preliminary communications" in camera-ready format. Robert B. Woodward and Sir Robert Robinson recognized that new developments in organic chemistry, and particularly in organic synthesis, could best be disseminated in a timely fashion to interested readers worldwide in a rapid publication format.

Since then, the format and modes of scientific publication and communication have undergone an extensive evolution. The family of *Tetrahedron Journals*, now five in number, continues to embrace the latest technological developments in online and electronic publication.

For fifty years *Tetrahedron Letters* has upheld its commitment to publish outstanding science in all areas of organic chemistry. The journal continues to be regarded as one of the preeminent publica-

tions in its field, and will undoubtedly maintain this leadership position in the years to come.

This expectation is underscored by the scientific scope and quality of the communications assembled in this commemorative issue and by the group of eminent contributors who made it possible. The topics addressed span the full range of organic chemistry, including new developments in synthetic methodology, objectives in total synthesis, functional and mechanistic studies of biological systems, and advances in new materials.

We are delighted to recognize our fellow Editors, past and present, and the Publisher for the unstinting service these individuals have provided to the scientific community over the past half-century. We also wish to thank our loyal readers for their enthusiastic and continuing support. We very much hope you enjoy this special issue commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of *Tetrahedron Letters*.

Bruce Ganem

Co-Executive Editor for North America, *Tetrahedron Letters*

Herbert Waldmann

Chairman of the Board of Executive Editors, *Tetrahedron Publications*