

PREFACE

It has now been a little over ten years since the renaissance surfaced in asymmetric synthesis and related processes to furnish enantiomerically pure compounds. The major force behind this effort is, in the editor's opinion, the timely monograph by H. S. Mosher and J. D. Morrison in 1971 which exposed the pathetic lack of efficient methods available to the chemist. It may now be stated that organic chemists have met this challenge in a most admirable fashion and the literature now abounds with synthetic approaches to enantiomerically enriched compounds (EEC) and enantiomerically pure compounds (EPC). It is currently commonplace to pick up a prime journal and find a synthetic approach to EEC's or EPC's in greater than 90% enantiomeric excess.

The current volume of *Tetrahedron Symposium-in-Print* contains 19 papers from laboratories throughout the world which address the issue of preparing compounds of various sorts in *greater than 90% ee*.

The synthetic methods include the four main areas accessible to the researcher for acquiring enantiomerically pure (or almost so) compounds:

(a) *Resolution* via enzymes (Jones) and selective bond formation (Johnson, Fujita).

(b) *Catalytically promoted asymmetric induction* (Ojima, Noyori).

(c) *Use of chiral starting materials* (chiral pool) (Seebach, Frater, Koga, Hanessian, Fraser-Reid).

(d) *Chiral auxiliaries to induce asymmetry and later removed* (Posner, Mukaiyama, Schollkopf, Midland, Brown, Enders, Eliel, Oppolzer, Meyers).

It is by no means intended to convey to the reader that these fine contributions are the only ones worthy of inclusion. There are, indeed, a number of other laboratories which have made major contributions to this field but space, timing and various other factors have precluded their inclusion. Undoubtedly, they will appear in other journals in the future.

It only remains for the editor to thank those who have contributed to this volume. Their efforts in providing these manuscripts are greatly appreciated.

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