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TETRAHEDRON

Perspectives

With the publication of *The Chemical Synthesis of Oligo- and Poly-nucleotides: A Personal Commentary* by Colin B. Reese, we present the first in a series of invited articles published under the heading *Tetrahedron Perspectives*.

The primary objective of these accounts is to stimulate an increased awareness of the unity of organic chemistry by highlighting those aspects of the field which will have appeal to all of its practitioners. This includes an appreciation of the role of individuals and circumstances in the history of the subject, the dynamic of current activity, and the prospects for the future.

This remit also encourages personal recollections from eminent organic chemists, young and old, of discovery and significant developments in organic chemistry, and of the roles of conception, misconception and accident in creative research.

L. Ghosez



Colin Reese is a graduate of Cambridge University. He also received his Ph.D. training (under the supervision of George Kenner) in Alexander Todd's laboratory at Cambridge. Following a postdoctoral year in R. B. Woodward's laboratory at Harvard University, he returned to Cambridge and held faculty positions (as a University Demonstrator, an Assistant Director of Research and a University Lecturer) for a period of over 14 years. Throughout this time, he was an Official Fellow and Director of Studies in Chemistry at Clare College. In 1973, he was appointed to the Daniell Professorship of Chemistry at King's College London, a post that he held for 25 years. In 1981, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Throughout his career, his principal field of interest has been the chemistry of nucleosides, nucleotides and nucleic acids with an emphasis on synthesis. Other research interests have included inositol phosphate chemistry and aspects of the chemistry of heterocyclic and small- and medium-ring alicyclic compounds.