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Preface

Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry

The Executive Board of Editors for *Tetrahedron* Publications and Elsevier is pleased to dedicate this special Symposium-in-Print issue to Professor K. C. Nicolaou of The Scripps Research Institute and the University of California, San Diego, on the occasion of his receipt of the Tetrahedron Prize for 2002. Professor Nicolaou is being recognized for his extensive and innovative work in organic synthesis, especially in the development of useful methods and reagents and the total synthesis of complex natural products. In celebration of Professor Nicolaou's accomplishments, this special issue is entitled, 'Art, Science and Technology in Total Synthesis.' This theme is meant to reflect the varied and creative contributions made to the field of organic chemistry by those who have accepted the challenges associated with the synthesis of complex molecular targets.

In the first portion of this Symposium-in-Print, Professor Nicolaou provides a personal description of a number of his fascinating journeys in the dual realms of total synthesis and chemical biology. Following this colorful account is a series of articles from co-workers, colleagues and friends who have been associated with him over the course of his distinguished career. These reports describe in rich detail some of the most exciting recent advances in contemporary synthetic organic and bioorganic chemistry.

A reading of the articles in this special Symposium-in-Print clearly reveals that target oriented organic synthesis remains a fertile field for creative study. Such research invariably leads to expanding the scope of known methods and reactions. It also provides an opportunity for inventing and testing new tactics and strategies for the enantioselective generation of new stereogenic centers and for the construction of important functional and structural arrays. By continuing to develop the tools of organic synthesis, we will be able to address the important future goals in the diverse fields of chemistry, biology, material science, and the exciting applications that lie at their interfaces.

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