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Preface

The 2006 Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry

The Executive Board of Editors for Tetrahedron Publications is pleased to announce that the 2006 Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry has been awarded to Professor Hisashi Yamamoto, who is presently the Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. The Prize was awarded in recognition of Professor Yamamoto's creative and revolutionary contributions to the field of organic chemistry, especially for the design and development of new novel and useful achiral and chiral Lewis acid catalysts. His numerous contributions to the area have had a major impact on the development and application of Lewis and Brønsted acid catalyzed organic reactions in organic synthesis.

In celebration of Professor Yamamoto's accomplishments, a special Symposium-in-Print has been assembled that is entitled, 'New Reactions and Catalysts: Development and Applications'. This theme is meant to capture the varied and creative contributions made to the field of organic chemistry by those who venture to expand the capabilities of synthetic methodology. In the first portion of this Symposium-in-Print and following a brief biographical sketch and list of his publications, Professor Yamamoto provides a lucid account of the journey that has led him from his work with simple cooperative Lewis acid–Lewis base systems and sterically hindered Lewis acids to his more recent work with designer Lewis and Brønsted acid catalysts that are even more versatile, selective, and reactive.

Following Professor Yamamoto's wonderful summary of his work is a series of papers from a few of the many

co-workers, colleagues, and friends who have been associated with him over the course of his distinguished career. These contributions represent the wide range of activities that are conducted within the general arena of the design, development, and application of useful synthetic methodology, and reading these articles reveals that significant problems in the field of organic synthesis have been solved. However, there remain deficiencies in the art as there are many important constructions and transformations for which satisfactory methods are lacking. These challenges certainly constitute a fertile field for the further discovery of new and exciting chemistry. Indeed, this sentiment is echoed by Professor Yamamoto in his concluding remarks where he quotes the late Mr. Kozo Masuda, one of the most famous of the Japanese chess (Shogi) players who wrote in the sunset of his life: "Even after a long journey, the goal remains far away." Professor Yamamoto also believes that 'the optimal designing in organic synthesis is still distant from the ultimate goal and... that wonderful golden ages are yet to be experienced'. Hopefully the articles contained herein will inspire some of those new inquiries and further advance the science of synthetic organic chemistry.

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