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Preface

Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award 2008

The Executive Board of Directors for Tetrahedron Publications is pleased to recognize the outstanding achievements of Professor Justin Du Bois of Stanford University and has awarded him a Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award in recognition of his exceptional creativity and dedication in the field of organic synthesis, especially the elucidation and application of new reactions for carbon-heteroatom bond formation. Professor Du Bois presented his award address at the Tetrahedron Symposium that was held in Berkeley, California in July 2008. In honor of his receipt of this award, this special *Symposium-in-Print* entitled "Recent Advances in Synthetic Methodology: Development and Applications" has been organized. We are grateful to the many contributors for their substantial efforts in helping to create this unique issue and for their own creative contributions to organic synthesis.



Professor Du Bois received his undergraduate degree in chemistry at The University of California, Berkeley, in 1992 where he worked in the laboratories of Professor Kenneth Raymond. He then went to Caltech where he received his Ph.D. degree working with Professor Erick Carreira. Upon completion of his formal

schooling, he performed postdoctoral research at MIT where he worked with Professor Stephen J. Lippard. In 1999 he began his independent career joining the faculty in the Department of Chemistry at Stanford University where he is currently an Associate Professor. Since that time he has received numerous other major awards, including the Arthur C. Cope Young Scholar Award, the Elias J. Corey Award for Outstanding Original Contribution in Organic Synthesis by a Young Investigator, and the Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Japan (SSOCJ) Mukaiyama Award. His major research interests are in the area of methods discovery and development and chemical synthesis. In particular, he is well-known for his pioneering synthetic and mechanistic achievements in the area of selective and catalytic C–H functionalization with nitrogen and oxygen atoms and the enantioselective synthesis of complex, heterocyclic amine-derived natural products. He is also keenly interested in the use of some natural products as molecular probes to study structure and function of selected protein targets, including ion channels.

The first paper in this special *Symposium-in-Print* is an important contribution from Professor Du Bois wherein he presents some of the mechanistic issues associated with his recent discoveries in the area of C–H functionalization with heteroatoms. The remaining papers collected in this special issue represent the broad cross-section of contemporary synthetic organic chemistry. There are some fascinating accounts detailing the development of synthetic methods based on transition metal catalyzed reactions, including C–H functionalization, and organocatalysis. Elegant applications of methods to the total synthesis of natural products, a key step in the validation of new synthetic methodologies, are also reported.

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