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Preface

The 2008 Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry

The Executive Board of Editors for Tetrahedron Publications is pleased to announce that the 2008 Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry has been awarded to Professor Larry Overman, who is presently a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine. The Prize was awarded in recognition of Professor Overman's numerous creative accomplishments to the field of organic chemistry, especially the invention of new transformations and strategies in synthesis and their application to the total synthesis of complex natural products and their congeners.



In celebration of Professor Overman's accomplishments, a special Symposium in Print has been assembled that is entitled, 'The Art of Synthesis: Methods, Strategies and Applications.' This general theme is intended to capture the varied creative contributions to

the field of organic chemistry by those who work at the forefront to expand and extend available methods and by those who apply new reactions and strategies to target-directed synthesis. In the first portion of this Symposium-in-Print and following a brief biographical sketch and list of his publications, Professor Overman provides a captivating account of his personal journey in organic synthesis with a general focus on rearrangement reactions and their use in natural product synthesis.

Following Professor Overman's engaging summary of his work is a series of papers from a few of the many coworkers, colleagues and friends who have been associated with him over the course of his distinguished career. These exciting contributions represent the wide range of activities that are conducted within the general arena of the invention and development of useful methods and strategies and their application to the synthesis of natural products and other molecules having potentially useful properties. Although these accounts reveal solutions to a number of different chemical problems, one can also find reference to unsolved problems and challenges that constitute a fertile field for the further discovery of new and exciting chemistry. Indeed, I am confident that the articles collected herein will inspire new inquiries that further advance the science of synthetic organic chemistry. I hope you enjoy reading them as I did.

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