

## Preface

John Bryan Jones was born at Colwyn Bay in North Wales. He entered the University of Wales, Cardiff, and obtained his Ph.D. in alkaloid chemistry under Dr A. R. Pinder in 1958. He carried out post-doctoral work as ICI Fellow, investigating polyacetylene synthesis under Professor Sir Ewart Jones in the Dyson Perrins Laboratories at Oxford, for which he was awarded a D.Phil. Professor Jones undertook further post-doctoral studies, first at MIT on amine oxides with Professor A. C. Cope, and then at Caltech where he performed his first enzymatic research (using  $\alpha$ -chymotrypsin) with Professor C. Niemann. He returned to Oxford as ICI Fellow, and in 1963 joined the Chemistry Department at the University of Toronto where he was named Professor of Chemistry in 1974.

When Professor Jones began his work to show isolated enzymes would catalyze non-physiological, synthetically useful reactions, biological catalysis was simply not present in the armamentarium of organic chemists. By taking enzyme catalysis from a sub-discipline of biochemistry to a technology available to chemists for performing synthetic reactions, Professor Jones made a fundamental intellectual and valuable material contribution to the practice of organic synthesis. The field of biocatalysis and its application to synthetic problems is now well established in both academic and industrial laboratories.

Professor Jones has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada, and Killam Fellow of the Canada Council. Other honours include the Perlman Award of the American Chemical Society, the Labatt Award and the Bader Award of the Canadian Society of Chemistry, and the Chairman Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He has also been honoured as Visiting Professor of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Dow Lecturer of the Ottawa-Carleton Chemistry Institute, Suisse-Romande Lecturer, and Austrian Chemical Society Lecturer. In 1994, Professor Jones was appointed University Professor at the University of Toronto.

We have the honour of congratulating Professor Jones on his 60th birthday on behalf of all his friends and colleagues.

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