

Preface

Tetrahedron Prize for Creativity in Organic Chemistry

The Executive Board of Editors for Tetrahedron publications and Elsevier Science Ltd have already announced that two Tetrahedron Prizes in 1995 have been awarded to Professor Alan R. Battersby (University of Cambridge) and Professor A. Ian Scott (Texas A&M University). Professors Battersby and Scott have been recognized as leaders in the field of natural product chemistry. Both have worked on biosynthetic problems for over 40 years, and through their work using the combined approaches of organic chemistry, high field NMR spectroscopy and molecular biology, the field of natural product biosynthesis has been revolutionized. Of particular significance is their work on vitamin B₁₂ biosynthesis. This has helped to fuse organic chemistry and molecular biology and has reshaped the field of bioorganic chemistry.

In recognition of their accomplishments, the journal, *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry*, publishes this special issue entitled, "Contemporary Natural Product Chemistry." In this issue, Professors Battersby and Scott first describe how they elegantly elucidate the biosynthetic pathways of Nature. Then there is presented their curriculum vitae and finally the important contributions of other authors. The subjects covered in this issue include structural determinations and biosynthetic studies of natural products, design and synthesis of natural product mimetics, and development of synthetic receptors.

Because of the space limitations, articles were invited from distinguished scientists who have personal connections with the Prizewinners, or with their field of study. Of course, there was also the constraint of time and some potential authors were not able to present their articles at this time. This special issue only represents a small part of this important and rapidly developing field of Science. We hope, however, that the reader will agree that the quality of what is presented is of the best that is available.

Derek H. R. Barton
Department of Chemistry
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843 U.S.A.

Chi-Huey Wong
Department of Chemistry
The Scripps Research Institute
La Jolla, CA 92037 U.S.A.