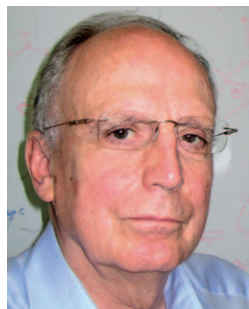


## Congratulations to Professor Josep M. Ribó on the occasion of his 70th birthday

**J**osep M. Ribó was born in Barcelona in 1940. He studied Chemistry at the University of Barcelona, where he got a PhD in 1968 and went on to be made a Full Professor in 1989. It was Prof. H. Falk (1975, Vienna) who introduced him to the chemistry of linear pyrrole pigments. Between 1988 and 1991 he was President of the Catalan Society of Chemistry, and Head of the Department of Organic Chemistry between 2003 and 2006. He has recently been nominated Emeritus Professor at the University of Barcelona. In chronological order, his main research interests have been natural



Professor Josep M. Ribó

products, oligopyrrole chemistry (reactivity and structure), polypyrroles as organic conducting polymers, self-assembly of amphiphilic porphyrins and their processes of chiral symmetry breaking, and the role of hydrodynamical forces in supramolecular chemistry. He has supervised 13 Ph.D. theses, authored more than 100 research articles, and has been a regular reviewer for *Angewandte Chemie* and the journals of ChemPubSoc Europe. His principal scientific achievements in the last

years have been as follows. 1) The work initiated in 1993 on the homoassociation towards J-aggregates of water-soluble porphyrins (C. Escudero, J. Crusat, I. Diez-Perez, Z. El-Hachemi, J. M. Ribó, *Angew. Chem.* **2006**, *118*, 8200–8203; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2006**, *45*, 8032–8035), which helped to understand the behavior of hierarchical self-assembly processes and since then has fostered an ever increasing interest in the field, as evinced by the numerous citations it has received and the large number of publications still appearing on this topic. 2) The work first published in *Science*

in 2001, concerning the effect of hydrodynamical mechanical forces as polarizing fields in supramolecular systems to induce chirality at the molecular level (J. M. Ribó, J. Crusats, F. Sagues, J. Claret, R. Rubires, *Science* **2001**, *292*, 2063–2066), which is currently being extended to related fields by other researchers.

**T**his issue contains a cluster of papers dedicated to Professor Josep M Ribó on the occasion of his 70th birthday including three Minireviews by G. Cravotto and P. Cintas (p. 5246) on the sonication-assisted fabrication and post-synthetic modifications of graphene-like materials; by D. A. Alonso, I. M. Pastor et al. (p. 5274) on transition-metal-catalyzed synthesis of hydroxylated arenes; and by A. Moyano et al. (p. 5260) on asymmetric organocatalytic rearrangement reactions. The cluster also includes a Communication by J. C. Carretero (p. 5286) on catalytic asymmetric 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of  $\alpha$ -iminonitriles and five Full Papers by C. Palomo et al. (p. 5333) on a 4-hydroxy pyrrolidine-catalyzed Mannich reaction of aldehydes; by R. Rios, A. Moyano et al. (p. 5354) on enantioselective organocatalytic addition of oxazolones to 1,1-bis(phenylsulfonyl)ethylene; D. V. Laurents et al. (p. 5314, highlighted with a frontispiece) on putative one-pot prebiotic polypeptides with ribonucleolytic activity; by A. M. Echavarren et al. (p. 5324; also featured on the front cover) on metal–arene interactions in dialkylbiarylphosphane complexes of copper, silver, and gold; and by N. Martín, D. M. Guldi, S. H. Strauss, O. V. Boltalina, T. Akasaka et al. (p. 5343) on electron donor–acceptor interactions in regioselectively synthesized exTTF<sub>2</sub>–C<sub>70</sub>(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>10</sub> dyads. We wish Professor Ribó all the best on this auspicious occasion and thank Professor Ramon Rios for helping with the organization of submissions for this cluster.