

Editorial

The Editorial Advisory Board of *Organic Process Research and Development* is constantly looking at ways to improve the journal and we are always pleased to receive views from readers suggesting changes for the future. One area we have been looking at very closely is the topic of “themed” issues, where most of the articles in a single issue will be related to a “hot” topic. The first of these issues will appear next year and will be on the theme of oligonucleotides and particularly the special requirements for scale-up of these difficult-to-synthesise molecules. If any readers wish to contribute to this special issue, please contact the editor as soon as possible, since we hope to receive submitted articles soon.

Our second theme will be on the subject of crystallisation and polymorphism. I have recently attended a conference in the U.K. on this topic and many of the papers presented should form the basis of the articles for this journal. This is certainly a hot topic at present—several companies have found a new polymorph of their product whilst in late development or even, in one case, after the launch of the product. The consequences of this late appearance of a new physical form can be a delay in the development or even withdrawal of the product from the market. Thus, the result is always expensive for the company concerned. The accelerated time-lines in new product development often mean that this topic is not adequately researched—until it is too late. Even early screening of possible polymorphs cannot rule out the appearance of new form, particularly as the product purity increases with development. I am sure this topic is of vital interest to most companies, and I invite submission of case studies in this area, particularly where innovative solutions to problems have been found.

Suggestions for other themes for the future editions of OPRD are always welcome.

Dr. Trevor Laird

Editor

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