

Organic Process Research & Development

Organic Process Research & Development **2007**, 11, 1

Editorial

Review of 2006

Organic Process Research & Development (OPRD) continues to thrive, and at the time of this writing, 265 submissions have been received (Jan–Nov 2006)—32% of these manuscripts were rejected, however. The geographical sources of the submitted papers were, as expected, mainly from the United States (90 papers), and the United Kingdom (50 papers), with India (29), China (24), Japan (15), and Belgium (10) being the countries also submitting most papers. When the distribution is examined from a company perspective, Pfizer (12 papers), Lilly (10), Novartis (7), AstraZeneca (7), Johnson & Johnson (7), Merck (5), and Abbott (5) were the leading contributors. In all, 48 different companies submitted papers.

This is good—but not good enough. There are some major multinational corporations whose names are missing from the above list. I know that excellent work is being carried out in these corporations since we see excellent presentations at events of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and Scientific Update, at Gordon Conferences, and at SCI Process Development Symposia. But these presentations need to be converted into OPRD publications; otherwise the details of the work will be lost forever. Can I therefore encourage process R&D chemists and engineers from companies not mentioned here to write up your work in 2007 and submit it for publication? I would also like to see more contributions from the nonpharmaceutical industries: flavour & fragrances, colour and electronics chemicals, agrochemicals, etc., as well as from the fine chemicals and intermediates and speciality chemicals business areas. Please put “writing article for OPRD” at the top of your list of New Year’s Resolutions.

By the time you read this editorial, OPRD will have changed over to the new ACS Paragon Plus environment, which we believe will offer many advantages for authors and referees/reviewers as well as for the editors. The key points are these:

- an integrated web-based peer review environment for authors, reviewers, and editors
- enhanced speed, reliability, and overall efficiency of ACS’s digital publishing processes
- submission and review technology tightly integrated with the technology used to manage the peer review process in the editorial offices
- tools and technology to support all the key players in the publication process
- simplicity of Paragon but enhancements for authors and reviewers, including the ability for users to track individual publishing and reviewing activity, automated conversion of manuscripts to PDF and HTML files, ability to upload multiple manuscript files at the same time, and external search capability on Google, PubMed, and HighWire for reviewers
- accommodation for today’s needs as well as strategic direction for future needs

The official changeover day was December 11—my apologies to those authors/reviewers who were unable to access OPRD during the downtime needed to change over to the new, improved environment. My thanks to all ACS staff for their assistance during the changeover.

Trevor Laird
Editor

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