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Preface

The definition of synthetic organic chemistry continues to evolve as its borders expand and dissolve into new frontiers when interfaced with inorganic chemistry, biochemistry and polymer chemistry. The excitement and potential of these opportunities fuels the current debate about the future of organic synthesis (*cf.* Seebach, D. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1990**, *29*, 1320). Yet, as advances are made at the periphery, it can safely be argued that a *central* mission of synthetic organic chemistry is (and will continue to be) the development of new, mild and selective reactions. The most logical and appropriate arena for reaction invention and development rests squarely in the center of the discipline in the interplay among structure, reactivity and selectivity.

The contributions contained in this *Symposium-in-Print* represent some of the most active and most exciting areas of reaction development such as asymmetric catalysis, acyclic stereoselection, radical annulations, synthesis of heterocycles and new pericyclic reactions. The richness of the discipline is reflected in the diversity of reactions based on transition series and main group elements. Represented herein are methods that employ boron, cobalt, copper, gold, lithium, niobium, palladium, rhenium, silicon, tin and zinc. While this may reflect a bias on the part of the Editor, it is undeniable that synthetic methodology will continue to take advantage of the unique reactivity opportunities afforded by organoelement chemistry in the future.

It is hoped that this *Symposium-in-Print* on New Synthetic Methods, like its two famous predecessors, will be successful in showcasing the state of the art and providing both a resource of useful information and inspiration for future developments in synthetic organic chemistry.

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