

Preface

In the normal course of scientific progress, there arise times when the existing definitions and boundaries between disciplines no longer suffice and new areas are recognized. The recent coining of the term Chemical Biology is an acknowledgment of a new discipline that bridges chemistry and biology. This burgeoning field is the focus of the current Tetrahedron Symposium-in-Print.

Chemical Biology, as we have already alluded, arose when the terms chemistry, biology, biochemistry, cell and molecular biology no longer adequately described the scientific endeavors of chemists, who embraced the techniques of biology and of biologists who used the tools and basic principles more often associated with chemistry. Chemical biologists know how to synthesize complex molecules, clone genes and solve biomolecular structures.

In this issue, we have assembled a selection of papers from the leading practitioners of Chemical Biology. While no single collection of papers can fully represent the breadth of research being carried out in this young field, we hope that the reports presented here will serve as a sampling of the rich diversity to be found in Chemical Biology.

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