

## Preface

**Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award**

Last year the Executive Board of Editors for Tetrahedron Publications announced that the inaugural recipients of the Tetrahedron Young Investigator Awards were Professors David W. MacMillan and Laura Kiessling in recognition of their exceptional creativity and dedication in the respective fields of organic synthesis and bioorganic and medicinal chemistry. Professors MacMillan and Kiessling presented their award addresses at the Tetrahedron Symposium that was held in Bordeaux, France in June of 2005. Separate Symposia-in-Print were organized to honor both awardees.

This special Symposium-in-Print entitled 'Organocatalysis and New Chemical Concepts' was organized for Professor MacMillan, who will become a Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University in September of 2006. Professor MacMillan was born in 1968 in Bellshill, Scotland. He received his undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of Glasgow, where he worked with the late Dr. Ernest Colvin. In 1990, David left the UK to begin his doctoral studies under the direction of Professor Larry Overman at the University of California, Irvine. During this time Dave focused on the development of new reaction methodologies directed toward the total synthesis of marine metabolites. In 1996, Dave moved to a postdoctoral position with Professor David Evans at Harvard University where his studies centered on enantioselective catalysis. Dave began his independent career at the University of California, Berkeley in July of 1998 before moving to the California Institute of Technology in June of 2000. In 2004, Professor MacMillan became the Earle C. Anthony Chair in Chemistry at Caltech. Despite a self-professed 'love for Caltech and California', Dave will relocate to Princeton University in September of this year to become the Barton Hepburn Chair of Organic Synthesis and Director of the new Merck Center for Catalysis at Princeton University.

The papers collected in this special Symposium-in-Print are provided by a large representation of the pioneers of reaction engineering and complex target synthesis in the modern era. Collectively, this special issue spans the realm of organic synthesis with contributions in the important areas of metal catalysis (Rh, Ni, Pd), organocatalysis (iminium-, acyl anion-, phase-transfer-, Brønsted acid-, nucleophilic catalysis), C–H bond functionalization, ligand design, pharmacophore synthesis, heterocycle construction, new catalytic methods for natural product synthesis (norcarene, xanthatin, cedrone), as well as the introduction of a new activation mode for enantioselective catalysis that relies upon Si-centered strain release. Professor MacMillan has asked me to extend his deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of the contributors for their substantial efforts in helping to create this unique issue.

It is clear that David MacMillan has been a pioneer in changing the face of organic chemistry. He has made innovative contributions to the general area of catalysis, particularly organic catalysis, and has inspired the work of others in developing this and other new chemical concepts. These are the kinds of achievements that the Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award is proud to recognize.

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