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Preface

Organic Synthesis—2011: Perspective, Journeys, and Accounts

The Executive Board of Directors for Tetrahedron Publications is pleased to honor Professor Gilbert Stork of Columbia University on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Professor Stork has had a close association with *Tetrahedron* since its inception more than fifty years ago. In recognition and commemoration of Professor Stork's many contributions to the journal and to the broad discipline of synthetic organic chemistry, a special two-part Symposium-in-Print has been organized, entitled *Organic Synthesis—2011*: *Perspective*, *Journeys*, *and Accounts*.

Born in Brussels, Belgium, Professor Stork obtained his secondary education in France, whereupon he traveled to the United States to pursue an undergraduate degree at the University of Florida. After graduating with a B.S. degree, he moved to the University of Wisconsin where he received his Ph.D. He began his independent career as a Senior Research Scientist at Lakeside Laboratories in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but after only a year, he moved to Harvard University as an Instructor. In 1953 he moved to Columbia University, where he remained throughout his professional career and is presently the Eugene Higgins Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus. Professor Stork has received a number of honorary degrees and has served on the Editorial Boards of the *Tetrahedron* journals as well as journals published by the American Chemical Society. In recognition of his many accomplishments, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1961, and he has received numerous awards. These include: the Award for Pure Chemistry from the American Chemical Society (1957), a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (1959), the Harrison Howe Award (1962), the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry (1967), the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufactures Association Gold Medal (1971), the Roussel Prize (1978), the Nichols Medal (1980), the Arthur C. Cope Award (1980), the Willard Gibbs Medal (1982), the National Academy of Sciences Award in Chemical Sciences (1982), the National Medal of Science (1983), the Pauling Award (1983), the Tetrahedron Prize (1985), the Robert Robinson Award (1992), the Robert A. Welch Foundation Award (1993), the Wolf Prize (1996), the first Barton Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2002), the Ryoji Noyori Prize (2004), the Herbert C. Brown Award from the American Chemical Society (2005), and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Award (2005).

Owing to Professor Stork's long career in synthetic chemistry, he has supervised numerous students and postdoctoral associates, and he has been a colleague and friend to many others. Space constraints in the journal made it impossible to invite all of these individuals to contribute to this unique Symposium-in-Print, and many were unable to contribute owing to time constraints. Nevertheless we have collected nearly 60 exciting papers representing the broad discipline of synthetic organic chemistry. There are papers describing creative total syntheses of complex natural products and other compounds having desirable biological or material properties. Other contributions provide accounts of the design, development, and application of useful methods. As you read the papers assembled in these two issues, you will discover that they represent some of the most exciting organic chemistry of the day; I trust you will enjoy reading them as much as I did.

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