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Catalysis and Synthetic Organic Chemistry

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Message from the Guest Editors

An unsymmetrical arrangement of atoms in a molecule determines a discriminatory interaction with molecules with the same property and generates positive, negative or sometimes neutral effects. As a result, many biological events are greatly influenced by the chirality of molecules. Many drugs, phytodrugs, nutraceuticals, aromas, and fragrances have this characteristic, and cells of living organisms can sense this “surface chirality” and exhibit much different adhesion and activation behaviors on enantiomorphic surfaces. For a synthetic organic chemist, the preparation of these enantioenriched molecules may be a challenge, and chemo- and/or bio-catalysis is a useful tool in their hands. For a more sustainable production of these targets with fewer waste by-products, catalyzed enantio- or diastereoselective synthesis, as well as catalyzed racemization of unwanted stereoisomers, are required, but without neglecting an economic assessment.

Papers and reviews on efficient catalyzed methodologies as well as contributions for identifying cost and technical bottlenecks in catalyzed processes are welcome.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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