

Strategies and Tactics in Organic Synthesis

Edited by
MICHAEL HARMATA

Volume 7

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STRATEGIES AND TACTICS IN ORGANIC SYNTHESIS

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Edited by

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Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier



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Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier
84 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8RR, UK
Radarweg 29, PO Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Linacre House, Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8DP, UK
30 Corporate Drive, Suite 400, Burlington, MA 01803, USA
525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101-4495, USA

First edition 2008

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ISBN: 978-0-12-373903-2

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Printed in Hungary

08 09 10 11 12 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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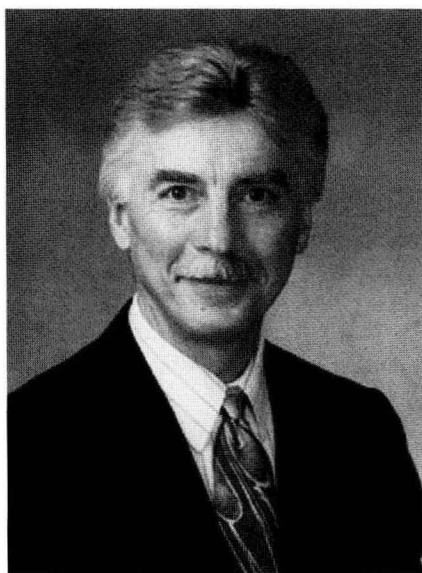
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**STRATEGIES AND TACTICS
IN ORGANIC SYNTHESIS**

Volume 7

Dedication

This volume is dedicated to Professor Paul A. Wender on the occasion of his 60th birthday and in recognition of the beautiful chemistry he has created.



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Preface

I believe I first saw Paul Wender speak at the University of Illinois–Champaign/Urbana on December 8, 1981. Having an intense love affair with organic chemistry at the time, I recall being utterly thrilled by the chemistry I saw. Photochemistry to do a [5+2]-cycloaddition, taking simple starting materials to complex structures in one step!! It remains very powerful chemistry.

Though not an easy thing to do, with the help of Scott Denmark and the NIH, I eventually became a postdoc in Paul's lab, and was, I believe, the first person he introduced to the neocarzinostatin chromophore. There was great science in those labs and many very talented people. It was fun.

Paul was a very interesting mentor. It became clear very early that he wanted his co-workers to think and think deeply about their research. More important, he often seemed willing to "wait it out" as someone struggled with a problem he believed they could handle. I always felt as though he knew an answer, but expected us to know, learn or discover an answer too. This is a rather daring way to run a research group, but it produces real thinkers.

Some things that really shocked me about Paul can be related in two stories. A few weeks into my postdoc I decided to head up to Muir Woods one weekend to see what I could see. While sitting and enjoying some ice cream, I looked up to see Paul standing right in front of me. Ouch! I should have been in lab, or so I thought. Paul happily introduced me to his companions and we went our separate ways. I expected some comments on Monday regarding my absence from lab. They never came.

Much later, I informed Paul that my girlfriend would be visiting me for a week and I would not be doing my 80 reactions per week as he had come to expect from me (editor's privilege!). Without hesitation, he suggested that I take the week off and do some touring of California. I accepted his offer.

Paul has always impressed me as someone who has an incredibly deep interest in chemistry and science in general. So deep, in fact, that he is willing to spend a great deal of time with people talking about it. I am one of those people. His ability to see in ways that are often unique, from my point of view at least, have no doubt opened new roads, not only for me, but for others as well. Especially important from my perspective is my observation that at meetings, unless a very tight travel schedule calls him away, Paul will visit with people at posters, empty tables, you name it, and pass along insights and give encouragement, whether they are doing a complex natural product synthesis or relatively simple chemistry. He does not have to do that; he chooses to and the chemistry community at large benefits from it.

I have heard physical chemists refer to synthetic organic chemists as reptiles who eat their own children. Paul is not that way. He takes great pleasure in seeing his "children" reach their highest potential and is willing to take steps to help them achieve that goal.

Happy Birthday, Paul!

As the editor of this book, I have many people to thank. The authors did a spectacular job in presenting some very nice chemistry. One of the perks of being an editor is getting to enjoy all of that science. My wife, Judy Snyder, (the "girlfriend" above) helped with proofing and for that I am extremely grateful. Thanks to Joan Anuels and all at Elsevier for their encouragement.

It is time to think about another volume in this series, but I also have papers and especially proposals to write to keep my own research alive. I hope to see another volume in 2009 or so. Until then, take care of your science and yourselves.

Michael Harmata

Foreword

This 7th volume of *Strategies and Tactics in Organic Synthesis* presents an extraordinary range of superb chemistry in the 13 chapters that follow. It also makes clear the great human effort involved in the construction of complex targets, and teaches us how a combination of perseverance and imagination can conquer the problems that always arise as the price of creativity.

For some 33 years, the combination of great art with great teaching has been the hallmark of Professor Paul Wender's chemistry. It is most fitting that this volume is dedicated to him.

Gilbert Stork
Columbia University, NY
May 2007

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