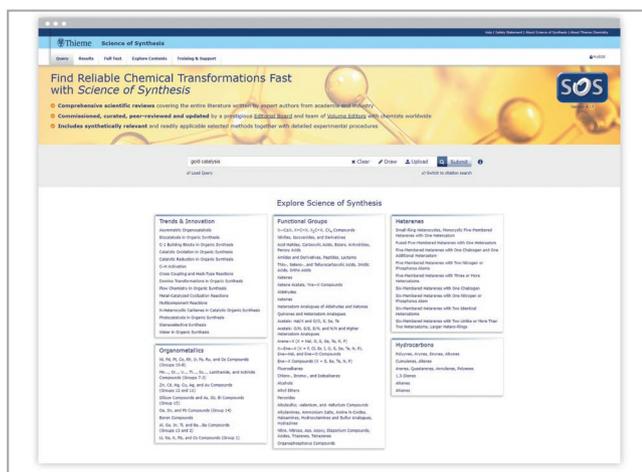


## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Science of Synthesis: Your Expert Guide to Making Molecules

*Chimia Report/Company News CHIMIA 2020, 74, 214*



2020 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Science of Synthesis (SOS), the online synthetic methodology review compendium used by synthetic chemists worldwide. SOS, the successor to the well-known Houben-Weyl series, was established in 2000 by an esteemed Editorial Board of international chemistry experts including Nobel Prize winner Ryoji Noyori. Today under the guidance of Editor-in-Chief Alois Fürstner, a team of eminent editors commission quality content from expert authors and ensure the selection of useful and practical methods. Chemists therefore have quick access to thorough and quality overviews on the entire range of organic synthesis topics saving them hours of searching and literature research. SOS is considered the place to begin when writing a thesis, preparing a talk, writing a paper, starting out in a new area of chemistry or preparing consultancy work.



### A Place to Begin

SOS is a multi-authored reference work of synthetic methods that offers “a place to begin”. It comprises the largest collection of evaluated methods in organic synthesis worldwide. Its ele-

gant, didactic presentation of synthetic methodology means it is an essential treatise for organic chemistry students, lecturers, and researchers.

SOS is organized in a logical hierarchical system based on the target molecule to be synthesized. The critical coverage of methods is supported by information intended to help the user choose the most suitable methods for their application, thus providing a strong foundation from which to develop a successful synthetic route. Within each category of product, illuminating background information, such as history, nomenclature, structure, stability, reactivity, properties, safety, and environmental aspects, is presented along with a detailed selection of reliable methods. Each method and variation is accompanied by reaction schemes, tables of examples, experimental procedures, and a background discussion of mechanistic rationale, stereochemistry, scope of the reaction described and its limitations, and functional group compatibility. All published results from journals, books, and patent literature from the early 1800s until the year of publication are considered by the authors, who are among the leading experts in their field.

### Evaluation of Methods by Experts

The SOS Editorial Board comprises expert chemists from academia and industry: E. M. Carreira (ETH Zurich), M. Faul (Amgen Inc.), A. Fürstner (Editor-in-Chief, MPI/Mülheim), S. Kobayashi (University of Tokyo), G. Koch (Topadur Pharma AG), G. Molander (University of Pennsylvania), C. Nevado (University of Zurich), B. M. Trost (Stanford University), and S.-L. You (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry). The Editorial Board's overarching goal is to make the suite of SOS resources the first and foremost focal point for critically evaluated information on chemical transformations for those individuals involved in the design and synthesis of organic molecules. Over 56 volume editors and 2,000 authors worldwide have contributed to the series over the last 20 years.



### Online, Updated, and Topical

The online version (web-based interface) of SOS enables text, structure, substructure, and reaction searching via a simple interface with powerful functionality. Continual updating of the

electronic version means that the content of SOS remains pertinent and relevant to the synthetic organic chemist's needs. Also supplementing current content with special topics acknowledges the broad spectrum of organic chemistry today and the need for chemists to appreciate many different peripheral scientific fields in addition to the core subject area. The electronic product is designed so that it:

- Provides an exclusive overview of the synthetic chemistry literature
- Provides easy access to the best and most reliable synthetic methods in organic and organometallic chemistry
- Allows researchers to tailor their structure, text and reaction searches to accommodate their chemical information needs
- Provides personalized support for scientific queries through a professionally staffed (PhD chemists) Editorial Office and technical support desk
- Supports the chemical community by responding to its need for relevant and value-added synthetic chemistry information

The SOS Advisory Board comprises experts who have significant experience of chemical information systems in both industry and academia: G. Baysinger (Stanford Univ.), L. Betschart (ETH Zurich), J. Currano (Univ. of Pennsylvania), J. Goodman (Univ. of Cambridge), C. Keil (Pfizer), Ye Li (MIT), Xiaoxia Li (CAS, China), and Donna Wrublewski (Caltech). They regularly contribute to discussions regarding the development of the electronic product.

#### Women in Chemistry Award

In addition to providing an important editorial contribution for the chemistry community, the dynamic and forward-thinking SOS Editorial Board founded the first major international synthetic chemistry award for Women in Chemistry. As a result, the first award was presented to Sarah Reisman (Caltech) at the 21<sup>st</sup> ESOC in Vienna in 2019.

#### SOS: *We Transform Synthesis!*

Over 20 years some 96,000 "pages" of evaluated information have been published, including over 2 million molecules, 425,000 selected reactions and no fewer than 54,000 experimental procedures. SOS has proven to be the perfect research companion for the organic synthetic chemist and will continue to provide the chemistry community with valuable synthetic methodology reviews in the years to come! Anyone interested in having free trial access to the online product for two weeks at their institution should contact the publisher.

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