Thieme Publishers, IUPAC, and the Editors of SYNTHESIS, *SYNLETT, SYNFACTS, and Science of Synthesis announce the recipient of the*

2010 Thieme–IUPAC Prize in Synthetic Organic Chemistry

Phil S. Baran

We are pleased to announce that the 2010 Thieme–IUPAC Prize has been awarded to Phil S. Baran of the Scripps Research Institute. Professor Baran becomes the 10th recipient of the prize, and joins a select group of scientists under the age of 40 years whose research has had a major impact on the field of synthetic organic chemistry. The prize, which is presented every two years and includes an award of €5000, will be given to Phil Baran at the Thieme–IUPAC lecture on August 3, 2010, at the ICOS-18 conference in Bergen, Norway.

After completing a B.S. in Chemistry at New York University during which he carried out research with David Schuster, Phil Baran undertook Ph.D. studies at the Scripps Research Institute under the supervision of K.C. Nicolaou. He then moved to Harvard University for two years of postdoctoral study with E.J. Corey, before returning to the Scripps Institute in 2003 to begin his independent career as an Assistant Professor. Promotion to full Professor followed in 2008.

Phil Baran's research is focused on the discovery and invention of useful chemistry in the course of the design and execution of efficient total syntheses of complex natural products. His approach, characterized by imaginative planning of synthetic routes, with minimal use of protecting groups and redox transformations, has met with remarkable success. To date, Baran's group has completed the syntheses of members of over 15 classes of highly complex and biologically active natural products. Notable examples include welwitindolinone A and fischerindoles I and G (assembled in just 7–9 steps from commercial material, protecting group free), psychotrimine (5 steps, one protecting group), kapakahines B and F (12–14 steps, two protecting group manipulations), and sceptrin (12 steps, one protecting group). The total syntheses of some of the most challenging alkaloid structures known have been achieved by the Baran group: avrainvillamide and the stephacidins, the massadines, the complex terpene vinigrol, and, most recently, palau'amine, a target for some of the best synthetic groups for several years.

Mechanistic insight and reaction design are distinguishing components of Phil Baran's research. He has made fundamental additions to synthetic methodology in the context of intermolecular enolate coupling with iron and copper salts and the development of directed CH-oxidation reactions using carbamates. He has also made noteworthy contributions to the elucidation of biosynthetic pathways for a number of the molecules whose synthesis he has studied.

To summarize, while still at a very early state in his career, Phil Baran has set new benchmarks for brevity and efficiency in the total synthesis of a variety of classes of molecules and, in so doing, has set a new paradigm in the pursuit and achievement of protecting-group-free synthesis. His commitment to fundamental methodological developments, perceptive analysis of the challenges posed by the synthesis of complex molecules, and bold execution of his plans serve as an inspiration to the synthetic organic community and reaffirm the excitement and significance of the science of organic chemistry.

We congratulate Phil Baran and look forward to hearing the latest exciting developments from his laboratories, an Account of which will be published in *SYNLETT,* at his award lecture in Bergen, Norway.

Phil S. Baran

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2006	**David W. C. MacMillan** California Institute of Technology	
2004	**John F. Hartwig** Yale	
2002	**Erick M. Carreira** ETH Zürich	
2000	**Alois Fürstner** Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung	
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