Georg Thieme Verlag, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the Editors of Synthesis, Synlett, Science of Synthesis and Houben-Weyl are pleased to announce the recipient of the

Thieme–IUPAC Prize in Synthetic Organic Chemistry 1998

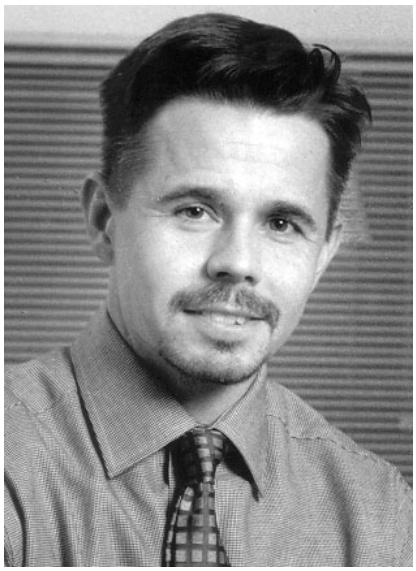
Andrew G. Myers

The Thieme–IUPAC Prize, consisting of DM 10 000, is awarded every two years on the occasion of the IUPAC International Conference on Organic Synthesis (ICOS) to a scientist under 40 years of age, whose research has had a major impact on the field of synthetic organic chemistry. The fourth Thieme–IUPAC Prize will be presented at an Award Lecture on 30 June 1998 at the ICOS-12 in Venice, Italy.

Andrew Myers was born on August 14, 1959 in Pasadena, USA. After completing his undergraduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981, he moved to Harvard University to work for his Ph. D. under the direction of E. J. Corey. This collaboration continued during his time there as postdoctoral research fellow from 1985-1986. He then moved to the California Institute of Technology where he took on the position of assistant professor. In 1991, he became an associate professor and was promoted to full professor in 1994.

Andrew Myers has distinguished himself in the multistep synthesis of natural products by producing truly beautiful and original syntheses of tunicamycins, dynemicin and dynemicin analogs and the chromophore of neocarzinostatin. These syntheses show a young chemist of great insight and creativity working at a level to be expected only from the leaders in synthesis.

Andrew Myers' work on the synthesis of enediyne antibiotics has been carried out in tandem with pioneering and decisive research on the mechanism of biological action of these novel antitumor agents. He first proposed the accepted mechanism for the nucleophilic activation of neocarzinostatin, and his mechanistic and bioorganic studies of



enediyne agents demonstrate clearly both his command of mechanistic chemistry and his versatility.

In addition, Andrew Myers has been extremely creative in the development of many new synthetic reagents and reactions, including silicon-directed aldol reactions, stereoselective synthesis of allenes and trisubstituted olefins, and lithium amido borohydride as a selective reducing agent for the conversion of tertiary amides to primary alcohols. He has also developed highly practical methodology for enantioselective α-alkylations, using pseudoephedrine as a chiral auxiliary. This route provides α-alkylated products with very high diastereoselectivity and as almost any alkylating agent can be used it is also an extremely flexible method.

Andrew Myers has taken synthetic chemistry to new heights during his independent research and it is perceived that his impact in this field will be even greater in the future. Practicality, convergence, limited steps, high yields, high stereoselectivity, careful product characterization, and generality are the demands he has consistently placed upon his syntheses, to the benefit of all who follow. He is already regarded as being one of the top young synthetic chemists worldwide in terms of creativity, productivity, and future promise.

Andrew Myers has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Presidential Young Investigator Award, the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, the ICI Excellence in Chemistry Award, the American Cyanamid Young Faculty Award in Organic Chemistry, the Pfizer Research Award in Synthetic Organic Chemistry, and the Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award.

Selection Committee

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