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EDITORIAL

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The development of efficient methods of resolution, stereoselective synthesis and catalysis is an area of continuous and intensive research activity in academic and industrial laboratories due to the importance of obtaining the single stereoisomers of chiral molecules. Efficient analysis of the enantiomeric purity of chiral compounds and the determination of their absolute configuration remain also two of the foremost challenges in chemistry. Nowadays, chirality has become an essential feature for a wide range of application fields. For instance, the development of chiral drugs, fragrances and crop protection compounds would be unconceivable without preparation and extensive evaluation of the biological activity of the single stereoisomers, involving the utilization of a broad range of synthetic, preparative and analytical methods.

This special issue presents state-of-the-art research activities in chirality-related fields currently running in Switzerland. Contributions from groups affiliated with universities, federal research institutes and industries are presented covering a wide range of areas.

The compilation is centered around a rich and diverse collection of articles detailing recent advances in the field of stereoselective synthesis and enantioselective catalysis with contributions from the research groups of Alexakis, Hoge, Knopff, Peters, Pfaltz, Renaud and Vogel. The use of chiroptical methods (VOA and ECD) is another major topic addressed in this issue with papers by Haesler and Hug, and the Matile group. The article by Therrien and Süss-Fink illustrates that chirality is not centered on carbon only. Last but not least, chirality can be bestowed onto achiral surfaces by adsorption of chiral molecules as elegantly shown by Bürgi and Ernst.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue and we warmly thank all authors for these splendid contributions.

Finally, this special issue of CHIMIA dedicated to Chirality & Chemistry in Switzerland is also the best possible prologue to the Chirality 2008 (ISCD-20) symposium that will be held in Geneva this Summer (July 6–9). We hope to see you there.

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