

# Preface

As we know, chirality has been well observed both in nature and in natural and artificial compounds. In 2001, three chemists (K.B. Sharpless, W.S. Knowles, and R. Noyori) were honored with Nobel prize for their contribution to the area of enantioselective epoxidation and hydrogenation. However, there are many unsolved issues in this area; thus, it is still and will continue to be a very hot and challenging topic in organic chemistry due to the importance of optically active compounds in life science and related disciplines. Although there are many original and outstanding contributions from chemists outside China, the contribution to this field from Chinese chemists had been very limited until 20 years ago. The situation has now changed dramatically. In 1995, Professors Lixin Dai (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry), Xiyun Lu (Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry), and Guangmei Zhu (National Natural Science Foundation of China) wrote a review article in Chinese for “Hue Xue Tong Bao (Chinese Bulletin in Chemistry, 1995, issue 6, pp 15–22)” to introduce the importance and the current state of the art of chiral technology. Subsequently, the National Natural Science Foundation of China started to actively support research in this area. From 2000, the Ministry of Science and Technology also started to support research in this area via the so-called 973 programs. Due to these increasing investments from the governmental agencies, demand from industry, and the involvement of more and more organic chemists, Chinese colleagues have also been making notable achievements in this area by developing alternative effective new chiral ligands for well-established enantioselective transformations, as well as new catalytic enantioselective reactions with known or new ligands. Currently there is no monograph dealing specifically with the contribution of China to this field.

Following the proposal from Springer, I have invited the following Chinese chemists to write an account on their own contribution in this area by briefly touching on the background for the contribution from the chemists outside China: Qilin Zhou, Albert S.C. Chan, Guoqiang Lin, Meixiang Wang, Dan Yang, Liuzhu Gong, Kuiling Ding, Xuelong Hou, Yong Tang, Yonggui Zhou. At this moment, I would

like to thank them and their coworkers whose names appear in each chapter for their efforts toward this task and wish them a very fruitful future investigating the science of chirality. Of course, we acknowledge that there is still a long way to go for our Chinese organic chemists in this area. In addition, I would like to thank the involved persons from Springer for their efforts toward this project.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-19471-9>

Asymmetric Catalysis from a Chinese Perspective

Ma, S. (Ed.)

2011, XII, 364 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-19471-9