

# Preface

Today, chemistry textbooks tend to become bigger and bigger, following the development of the field. This trend has two consequences: these books become more and more useful for researchers and, at the same time, more and more frightening for students. After having taught transition metal chemistry for more than 20 years in France, California, and Singapore, I am convinced that there is room for a concise textbook focusing on the main products, reactions, and key concepts of the field. This philosophy means that this book necessarily will not be comprehensive and will treat only the core of the subject. In practice, the text is based on the course given to the students of NTU. Brevity does not mean superficiality. The level of this book is not elementary. Whenever possible, it blends theoretical explanations and experimental description. The student using this book should know basic organic chemistry and molecular orbital theory. In spite of its conciseness, it is hoped that this book will help students to quickly grasp the essence of the current developments in the field. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the help of Dr. Matthew P. Duffy who read the initial manuscript and suggested some improvements and all those who worked on the proofs. I dedicate this book to my wife Dominique who faithfully supported me during a long and sometimes difficult career.

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