

PREFACE TO SERIES

Most stable compounds and functional groups have benefited from numerous monographs and series devoted to their unique chemistry, and most biological materials and processes have received similar attention. Chemical and biological mechanisms have also been the subject of individual reviews and compilations. When reactive intermediates are given center stage, presentations often focus on the details and approaches of one discipline despite their common prominence in the primary literature of physical, theoretical, organic, inorganic, and biological disciplines. The *Wiley Series on Reactive Intermediates in Chemistry and Biology* is designed to supply a complementary perspective from current publications by focusing each volume on a specific reactive intermediate or target and endowing it with the broadest possible context and outlook. Individual volumes may serve to supplement an advanced course, sustain a special topics course, and provide a ready resource for the research community. Readers should feel equally reassured by reviews in their specialty, inspired by helpful updates in allied areas, and intrigued by topics not yet familiar.

This series revels in the diversity of its perspectives and expertise. Where some books draw strength from their focused details, this series draws strength from the breadth of its presentations. The goal is to illustrate the widest possible range of literature that covers the subject of each volume. When appropriate, topics may span theoretical approaches for predicting reactivity, physical methods of analysis, strategies for generating intermediates, utility for chemical synthesis, applications in biochemistry and medicine, impact on the environment, occurrence in biology, and more. Experimental systems used to explore these topics may be equally broad and range from simple models to complex arrays and mixtures such as those found in the final frontiers of cells, organisms, earth, and space.

Advances in chemistry and biology gain from a mutual synergy. As new methods are developed for one field, they are often rapidly adapted for application in the other. Biological transformations and pathways often inspire analogous development of new procedures in chemical synthesis, and likewise, chemical characterization and identification of transient intermediates often provide the foundation for understanding the biosynthesis and reactivity of many new biological materials. While individual chapters may draw from a single expertise, the range of contributions contained within each volume should collectively offer readers with a multidisciplinary analysis and exposure to the full range of activities in the field. As this series grows, individualized compilations may also be created through electronic access to highlight a particular approach or application across many volumes that, together, cover a variety of different reactive intermediates.

Interest in starting this series came easily, but the creation of each volume of this series required vision, hard work, enthusiasm, and persistence. I thank all of the contributors and editors who graciously accepted the challenge.

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