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Symmetry/Asymmetry in Molecular Medicinal Chemistry

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
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Message from the Guest Editors

The world contains a vast array of natural products, many of which have also become indispensable drugs for humans. However, many of these pharmaceutically active substances exist in two possible configurations (a phenomenon known as chirality) and are only effective in one of them, akin to mirror images of each other (enantiomers), and may even be harmful in the other form. The concept of chirality is the pillar of asymmetric synthesis, which is one of most intriguing areas in medicinal chemistry.

Since the tragedy of racemic thalidomide usage, chiral separation and enantioselective synthesis have become prominent areas of research in chemistry. Most drugs on the market today have chiral compounds in them, and the number of enantiomerically pure drugs currently on the market is on the rise. At the same time, a full chirality analysis, including determination of absolute configuration and enantiomeric excess, becomes essential in pharmaceutical industry for quality control and in every step in the development of new drugs.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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