

## FOREWORD

The XXXI Attilio Corbella Summer Course will be held during the week of 19-23 June in its traditional home of Palazzo Feltrinelli, Gargnano (Brescia), overlooking Lake Garda.

The course is one of the major annual events in the calendar of the Italian Chemical Society's Division of Organic Chemistry, and brings together young chemists, Ph.D students, and post-doctoral, University and industrial researchers from all over Italy who wish to extend their knowledge by exploring some of the new frontiers of organic chemistry in an environment of shared chemistry, food and social events that contributes to the development of new relationships as a prelude to future scientific collaborations.

The Organising Committee has designed this year's programme to include the innovative aspects and applications of such classical subjects as "Strategies for carbon-carbon bond formation" and the "Application of catalysis in organic synthesis", as well as a range of new and exciting frontier developments of an interdisciplinary nature brought together under titles such as "Organic synthesis meets other sciences" and "New trends in organic synthesis".

Particular attention will be given to approaching traditional metal-based and organic catalysis as complementary rather than antithetical methodologies.

This is also underlined by the choice of this year's foreign guest: Professor Bruce H. Lipshutz of the University of California, Santa Barbara, is one of the best-names in the field of organometallic chemistry, and there is no doubt that his three lessons will be of special interest.

The course programme will once again see the four interesting and very useful "Critical surveys covering the year 2005", which will all be presented by young researchers: "Organometallic compounds in organic synthesis", "Introduction and transformation of functional groups", "Total synthesis of natural products", and "Solid-phase synthesis".

The industry will be making another of its by now traditional contributions, this year with the title of: "Custom synthesis for active pharmaceutical ingredients (API)".

The final presentation of the week will follow the more recently introduced tradition of a "Cultural seminar", which this year goes under the intriguing title of "Chemistry and mysteries: miraculous relics, will-o'-the-wisp, zombies and other wonders": an undoubtedly entertaining end that promises to leave us all with a particularly pleasant memory.

As we are committed to ensuring that the young participants have a real opportunity to make the most of the Course, we have not only decided to give them space and time for their own oral and poster contributions, but also scheduled them in the mornings or early afternoons – and not at the end of the day, when tiredness may decrease attention.

Particular thanks must go to Dr. Carlo Morelli, the new secretary of the A. Corbella Summer School, who has had to overcome two potentially major difficulties in succeeding Dr. Luigi Lay: the comparison with his very good predecessor, and entering the demanding world of our “Gargnano organisation”. I am sure that everyone will agree with me that he has met both challenges impeccably.

I must also thank all of the authors who have dedicated so much of their time and energy to preparing the manuscripts collected in this book; in particular, and also on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the authors of the reviews of the 2005 literature, which represent an extremely precious source of bibliographic consultation.

My sincere gratitude is also owed to the University of Milan and all of the companies whose financial contributions have allowed us to improve the organisation of this year’s Course, as well as to Professors Enrico Marcantoni and Gabriele Renzi (University of Camerino) who have taken care of all of the editorial aspects involved in publishing the book “Seminars in Organic Synthesis”.

Finally, I must sadly mention something that I would never have thought possible I would have had to write about: the sudden and extremely premature death last April of Professor Luigi Gomez Paloma of the University of Salerno at the age of only 39 years. The news came to all of us as a tremendous shock as he had been highly active in contributing to the organisation of this XXXI Course of the A. Corbella Summer School with all of the enthusiasm and competence that characterised everything he did. His death represents an indescribably painful loss and, as his friends and colleagues, we shall all miss him enormously: we have therefore decided to dedicate this book to him.

Emanuela Licandro  
Chairman of the Organising Committee

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