NOVEL REAGENTS AND CATALYSTS FOR FACILITATING SYNTHESIS Addriching Catalysts for facilitating synthesis Vol. 38, NO. 1 • 2005

ROM Polymerization in Facilitated Synthesis

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This reagent was developed to replace triphenylphosphine in the Mitsunobu reaction. The resulting phosphine oxide is easily removed from the reaction during workup. Yoakim, C. et al. *Synlett* **2003**, 473.

4-lodotoluene difluoride 65,111-7 F F 5 g F 5 g

A new and efficient fluorinating reagent that is recommended for the fluorination of the α carbon of sulfanyl amides under mild conditions.

Motherwell, W. B. et al. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 2002, 2816.





Employed in the design of affinity labels for opioid receptors¹ and in a highly stereo-selective synthesis of optically active furfuryl fumarates.²

(1) Chang, A.-C. et al. J. Med. Chem. **1994**, *37*, 4490. (2) Butz, T.; Sauer, J. Tetrahedron: Asymmetry **1997**, *8*, 703.

5-Bromo-6-bromomethylbenzo[1,3]dioxole

Br 25 g

5 g

10 mL

Has been utilized in the preparation of toddaquinoline, an unusual medicinal alkaloid,^1 and lignans, which are known for their biological activity and effectiveness as antineoplastic agents.^2 $\,$

(1) Harrowven, D. C. et al. *Tetrahedron* **2001**, *57*, 4447. (2) Cochran, J. E.; Padwa, A. *J. Org. Chem.* **1995**, *60*, 3938.

Chlorodicyclopentylphosphine

906-6	\bigcirc	1 g 5 g
	P-CI	25 g
	\int	

A phosphine precursor for ligand preparation in Negishi and Suzuki coupling reactions.

2,8,9-Triisopropyl-2,5,8,9-tetraaza-1-phosphabicyclo[3,3,3]undecane, 1 M in toluene

65,435-3

64.



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Verkade, J. G.; Kisanga, P. B. Aldrichimica Acta 2004, 37, 3.

N-(3-Bromophenyl)aniline, 97%

65,424-8

65,411-6

65,541-4

1 g 10 g

25 g

250 mg

1 a

1 g

A useful building block in the preparation of triarylamines, which have been extensively employed in electroluminescent materials as hole-transport materials and hole-transport emitters,¹ and in the development of organic-based magnets.^{2,3}

(1) Mitschke, U.; Bäuerle, P. *J. Mater. Chem.* **2000**, *10*, 1471. (2) Miller, J. S.; Epstein, A. J. *MRS Bull.* **2000**, *25*, 21. (3) Veciana, J.; Iwamura, H. *MRS Bull.* **2000**, *25*, 41.

Anilinium hypophosphite

ŇH₃ H

An easy-to-handle and relatively nonhygroscopic reagent that has been used in the preparation of monosubstituted phosphinic acids via Pd-catalyzed reaction with aryl halides or triflates.¹ A practical triethylborane-initiated radical addition of anilinium hypophosphite to olefins has been reported.²

(1) Montchamp, J.-L.; Dumond, Y. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 510. (2) Deprele, S.; Montchamp, J.-L. *J. Org. Chem.* **2001**, *66*, 6745.

2-(2'-Di-tert-butylphosphine)biphenylpalladium(II) acetate



A novel, air- and moisture-stable pre-catalyst for the amination of aryl chlorides.

Zim, D.; Buchwald, S. L. Org. Lett. 2003, 5, 2413.

3,2':5',3"-Terthiophene 65,138-9

An efficient singlet-oxygen sensitizer. This compound is also associated with photo-antibiotic and phototoxic properties. $^{\rm 1,2}$

(1) Beny, J.-P. et al. J. Org. Chem. **1982**, 47, 2201. (2) Moriarty, R. M. et al. Synth. Commun. **1985**, 15, 789.

N-BOC-2-aminomethylpyndine, 97%			
65,157-5	N H H	5 g 25 g	
N-Boc-3-aminometh	ylpyridine, 97%		
63,444-1	N ^{-Boc}	1 g 5 g	
N-Boc-4-aminomethylpyridine, 96%			
64,976-7	N N H Boc	1 g 10 g	

These Boc-protected pyridines can be used as pharmaceutical building blocks in thrombin¹ and PKC inhibitor² research, and can be readily hydrogenated to the protected piperidines.

(1) Hilpert, K. et al. *J. Med. Chem.* **1994**, *37*, 3889. (2) Shearer, B. G. et al. *J. Med. Chem.* **1991**, *34*, 2928.

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(1) Negishi, E.; Alimardanov, A.; Xu, C. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 65. (2) Ghasemi, H.; Antunes, L. M.; Organ, M. G. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, *6*, 2913. (3) Qian, M.; Huang, Z.; Negishi, E. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, *6*, 1531. (4) Negishi, E.; Qian, M.; Zeng, F.; Anastasia, L.; Babinski, D. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, *5*, 1597.



57,780-4 trans-1-Bromo-2-iodoethene, 97%

5 g 25 g

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ABOUT OUR COVER

The Fence (oil on canvas, 37.8×45.7 cm) was signed and dated by the French painter Camille Jacob Pissarro in 1872. During the 1860s, Pissarro moved his family from Paris to various small villages in the French countryside. He was committed to the principles of socialism, and felt a strong affinity for the peasant farmers who worked the land. Like the other impressionists. Pissarro chose to represent subjects from modern life; but, while they often painted the pleasures of the urban bourgeoisie, scenes from the theatre, the opera, the ballet, or the racetrack, Pissarro was more likely to portray the rustic life of farmers working in the fields with whom he identified.



Photograph © Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington.

The warm colors of the trees and shrubbery in the picture show that it is the fall of the year. At the left in the foreground is a large bent and broken tree, whose almost leafless branches are silhouetted against the light sky. Near the lower right corner of the painting, a peasant couple chat together on either side of a rustic fence. In the distance, one can make out the buildings of the local village, towards which a woman moves along the path near the right edge of the picture. As in a snapshot, nothing in nature has been rearranged to create a more pleasing, harmonious, or picturesque effect. The rapidly executed brushwork is variegated to suggest the different textures of diverse objects in the painting, which was almost certainly painted in a single session on the site. One might say, in fact, that a central purpose of all the impressionist artists was not to create an invented world on canvas, but to capture the immediacy of the unique conditions of a specific moment in time in a particular place.

This painting is a part of the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

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ROM Polymerization in Facilitated Synthesis



From left to right: D. L. Flynn, S. Mukherjee, R. H. Herpel, P. Vedantham, A. M. Harned, M. Zhang, and P. R. Hanson.

Andrew M. Harned,^{§,¥} Mianji Zhang,^{§,¥} Punitha Vedantham,^{§,¥} Shubhasish Mukherjee,^{§,¥} Russell H. Herpel,^{§,¥} Daniel L. Flynn,^{*,§,£} and Paul R. Hanson^{*,§,¥,†}

- § The KU Chemical Methodologies and Library Development Center of Excellence The University of Kansas 1501 Wakarusa Drive Lawrence, KS 66047, USA
- * Department of Chemistry The University of Kansas 1251 Wescoe Hall Drive Lawrence, KS 66045-7582, USA
- [£] Deciphera Pharmaceuticals, LLC 1505 Wakarusa Drive Lawrence, KS 66047, USA

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1. Introduction

The recent growth of high-throughput screening for biologically active agents has increased the demand for the rapid production of chemical compounds. In this context, an array of polymerbound reagents and scavengers have been reported.¹ These effectively eliminate or circumvent the need for chromatographic purifications, which typically is a bottleneck in synthetic sequences. Recent successes in multistep total syntheses—exclusively using immobilized reagents and scavengers, whereby filtration was the sole purification protocol—are a testament to the power of this approach.² Despite tremendous advances in this area, *limitations in nonlinear reaction kinetics, low resin-load capacities, and the means of distributing reagents* continue to warrant the development of designer polymers.

In order to address these limitations, soluble polymers³ and scavenger resins¹ have emerged as a means of utilizing solutionphase reaction kinetics with all the advantages of their solidphase counterparts. Pioneering work by Barrett⁴ and others^{5,6} has led to the general use of ring-opening metathesis polymerization (ROMP) for the generation of high-load, immobilized reagents, while advances in ROM polymer-immobilized catalysts were simultaneously championed by Buchmeiser⁷ and Bolm.⁸ Overall, the ability to produce designer, ROMP-derived polymers with tunable properties has become a powerful technological advancement in the arena of facilitated synthesis. Related reviews have appeared that cover advances in this field through 2002.^{4,5,6} 4

This review will report on more recent advances in the use of ROM polymerization for facilitated synthesis.

2. ROM Polymerization

Ring-opening metathesis polymerization (ROMP) has a history that harks back to the late 1950s and early 1960s.9 Since then, it has remained in the realm of classical polymer chemistry. This, in part, can be attributed to the lack of robust, well-defined catalysts to initiate the polymerization. Some of the early initiator systems used were MoCl₅-Et₃Al, WCl₆-Et₃Al, various Ti-based systems and, later, RuCl₃. With the development of the highly active molybdenum imido alkylidene complexes (cat-C, Figure 1) by Schrock in the late 1980s,^{10,11} the first well-defined ROM polymerizations could be accomplished in a controlled manner. Although these complexes are not water- and oxygentolerant, they do show a higher tolerance of Lewis basic moieties when compared to the earlier initiators. In the mid-1990s, Grubbs and co-workers introduced the highly functional group tolerant ruthenium alkylidene complexes (cat-A and cat-D, Figure 1).¹² This was followed by an explosion of development in ROMP and ring-closing olefin metathesis (RCM). Concurrently, a number of newer and more active Ru-based catalysts (cat-B, cat-E, and cat-F) have emerged that rival and, at times, surpass the activity of the Schrock systems.

3. Mechanism of ROMP

Grubbs and co-workers have performed a number of kinetic studies with (PCy₃)₂(Cl)₂Ru=CHPh (cat-A)¹³ and (ImMesH₂) $(PCy_3)(Cl)_2Ru=CHPh$ (cat-**B**)¹⁴, and a detailed mechanistic picture is beginning to emerge (Scheme 1).¹⁵ The first step of this process involves dissociation of a phosphine ligand from the precatalyst, 1. The resulting 14-electron complex, 2, undergoes a [2+2] cycloaddition with monomer **3** to give metallacyclobutane intermediate 4, which rapidly undergoes a [2+2] cycloreversion to produce ring-opened product 5. This sequence is highly favored due to the relief of ring strain of the initial monomer species. Intermediate 5 contains a catalytically active Ru-alkylidene, and undergoes further reactions until monomer 3 is completely consumed. The Ru center remains attached to oligomer 6 until the polymerization is quenched by the addition of ethyl vinyl ether (EVE). This quench results in polymer 8 and alkoxycarbene complex 7. The length of oligomer 8 is conveniently controlled through the amount of catalyst employed for the polymerization; more catalyst will produce shorter oligomers, while less catalyst will produce longer oligomers. Because the initiation rate is similar to the propagation rate, 10 mol % of catalyst (10:1 monomer: catalyst) will produce mainly 10-mers, 5 mol % of catalyst (20:1 monomer:catalyst) will produce mainly 20-mers, etc.

As a polymerization technique, ROM polymerization is selective for strained, cyclic olefins. Typically, the monomers used are norbornene- or 7-oxanorbornene-based. As such, they can easily be prepared from a Diels–Alder reaction between cyclopentadiene or furan with a suitable dienophile, or from Pd-catalyzed reactions involving norbornadiene. Because of the low cost and ready availability of these starting materials, monomers can be constructed on a large scale. ROMP is also a very "organic chemist friendly" polymerization technique. The catalysts are commercially available and are no different than those used to perform the familiar RCM reaction. The only difference is that ROM polymerizations are typically performed at higher substrate concentrations (0.1 M) than RCM (0.01–0.005 M). In addition, no special equipment is required to perform ROM polymerizations. A polymerization can be carried out in flasks or screw-cap vials,

inside or outside of a glove box. Reaction scale is not an issue, as polymerizations can be conducted on scales ranging from 10–20 milligrams up to kilograms.

There are a few other relevant characteristics of ROMP that should be addressed. First, the length of the ROM polymer can have a profound effect on its solubility. Typically, shorter oligomers will remain soluble in common reaction solvents (CH₂Cl₂, CHCl₃, THF, DMF), yet can often be precipitated from MeOH, Et₂O, EtOAc, or hexanes. It is also possible to control the solubility of the ROM polymers through the judicious use of cross-linking agents (**CL-1**, **CL-2**, and **CL-3**, **Figure 2**). ROM polymers constructed using cross-linkers typically result in insoluble gels, which retain swelling properties that are analogous to those of traditional solid-phase resins.⁴

Overall, polymers derived from ROM polymerization possess unique physical properties that depend largely upon the collective properties of the polymer backbone (*i.e., norbornenebased scaffold*), the individual functional groups (FG) that are placed on each monomer, the amount and nature of the catalyst used during the polymerization, and any cross-linker that may be added. It is these collective properties that have been the hallmark of ROM polymerization in producing designer polymers for facilitated synthesis.

4. ROMP-Derived Reagents and Scavengers 4.1. Barrett's ROMPgel Reagents and Scavengers

The emergence of ROM polymerization in combinatorial chemistry was led by Barrett and co-workers, who developed a number of ROMP-derived reagents and scavengers, 9-19, termed ROMPgels and a ROMPsphere (Figure 3).^{4,16-23} Most of the reagents incorporated norbornenyl-derived crosslinkers to enhance swelling properties and ensure insolubility. Occasionally, the polymer backbone was hydrogenated under high pressure, as in 16 and 17, using Wilkinson's catalyst. Barrett's seminal 2002 review⁴ discusses a wide variety of ROMPgel-supported reagents (e.g., Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reagent 9;¹⁶ amine- and hydrazine-scavenging agent 10;17 amine base 11;17 N-hydroxysuccinimide reagents 1218 and 13¹⁹, used for various acylations¹⁸ and Mosher amide formation;¹⁹ 4-toluenesulfonylmethyl isocyanide (Tosmic reagent) 14;²⁰ allylboronate 15;²¹ biphenyl reagent 16;²² naphthalene reagent 17;²² and triphenylphosphine reagent 18²³) and ROMPspheresupported peptide-coupling reagent 19.4

Since 2002, additional high-load ROMP-derived reagents have been developed and are described in detail below, including: (i) ROMPgel-supported ethyl 1-diazo-2-oxopropylphosphonate for the conversion of aldehydes into terminal alkynes,²⁴ (ii) oligomeric benzylating agents (OBA)²⁵ for the benzylation of amines, and (iii) oligomeric alkyl cyclohexyl carbodiimides (OACC) for coupling reactions.²⁶ In addition, a number of high-load, soluble and insoluble nucleophile scavengers have been prepared, including oligomeric sulfonyl chlorides (OSC),²⁷ bis(acid chlorides) (OBAC),^{28a} and phosphonyl chlorides (OPC).^{28b}

4.2. ROMPgel-Supported Ethyl 1-Diazo-2oxopropylphosphonate for Seyferth–Gilbert Homologations

The generation of alkynes using an immobilized reagent opens up new avenues for the rapid generation of chemical libraries due to the versatility of this functional group. Despite the potential utility of this chemical diversification step, only a single example existed in the literature prior to 2004,²⁹ when Barrett and coworkers reported the preparation of ROMPgel **25** (Scheme 2).²⁴



Schrock's catalyst: cat-C; Grubbs' catalysts: cat-A, cat-B, cat-D, and cat-F; Hoveyda's catalyst: cat-E





Scheme 1. Mechanism of ROMP.







Figure 3. Barrett's ROMPgel (9–18) and ROMPsphere (19) Supported Reagents and Scavengers through 2002.

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vol. 38, No. 1 • 2005 Aldrichimica Acta Bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-ylmethyl diethyl phosphite (21) was prepared by treating commercially available alcohol 20 with $ClP(OEt)_2$.¹⁶ Reaction of phosphite 21 with MeCOCH₂I gave the desired Michaelis–Arbuzov product 23 in variable yields (23–46%). Alternatively, phosphonate 23 was obtained in a higher overall yield by first reacting phosphite 21 with MeI to furnish phosphonate 22 (82%), followed by deprotonation of 22 with *sec*-butyllithium, and subsequent treatment with EtOAc (87%). After optimization, it was found that monomer 23 was readily polymerized in the presence of cross-linker CL-1 (10 mol %) and co-monomer 24 (15 mol %), using cat-B to afford ROMPgel 25 in quantitative yield. This ROMPgel was found to have optimal swelling properties. The diazo functional group was quantitatively



Scheme 2. Synthesis of ROMPgel-Supported Ethyl 1-Diazo-2-oxopropylphosphonate (26).



Scheme 3. Synthesis and Reactions of Oligomeric Benzylating Agents (OBA).

transferred to ROMPgel **25** under mild reaction conditions to produce ROMPgel **26** with a loading of 2.70 mmol/g. This route was found to be readily amenable to multigram-scale synthesis. Supported reagent **26** is stable at 0 °C, and retains its activity over a three-week storage period. Reaction of ROMPgel **26** with a variety of aldehydes generated the corresponding terminal alkynes in good yields and high purities (**eq 1**).²⁴

4.3. Oligomeric Benzylating Agents (OBA)

In 1996, Hunt and Roush developed immobilized alkylating agents.³⁰ Reitz and co-workers subsequently reported the use of a polystyrene resin bound sulfonyl chloride, which was "activated" with a variety of alcohols and further reacted in situ with a panel of amines to achieve the desired alkylation in a process termed "catch and release".31 ROMP-derived oligomeric benzylating agents (OBA, 28) were first reported in 2004 (Scheme 3).²⁵ These reagents were prepared from oligomeric sulfonyl chloride (OSC)²⁷ reagent 27 and various benzyl alcohols. They exist as free-flowing powders that dissolve readily in CH₂Cl₂ and are stable at refrigerated temperatures. Purification of the benzylation reaction products is accomplished by simple filtration, followed by solvent removal to deliver the desired benzylated products in good-to-excellent yields and high purities. These OBA entities have proven extremely efficient in the benzylation of cyclic, secondary amines and, with limited success, of acyclic amines. Furthermore, the solubility of OBAs enables convenient dispensing, which ultimately will provide an advantage in parallel-array synthetic protocols.

4.4. Oligomeric Alkyl Cyclohexyl Carbodiimides (OACC)

Carbodiimides rank as one of the most important classes of reagents in organic synthesis due to their accessibility and versatile chemical properties.³² Complete removal of the dicyclohexyl urea (DCU) byproduct, when DCC is employed, usually necessitates additional purifications. This limitation has prompted the development of a class of soluble oligomeric reagents ($^{2G}OACC_n$), 26,33 which serve as viable alternatives to DCC.

The requisite monomer **32** was produced in three steps from commercially available *cis*-5-norbornene-*endo*-2,3-dicarboxylic anhydride **(29)** (**Scheme 4**).²⁶ Heating **29** at reflux with 1,2diaminoethane (4 equiv) in toluene overnight gave mono-*endo*amine **30**.³⁴ Treatment of **30** with cyclohexyl isocyanate produced the norbornenyl-tagged urea, **31**, in high yield. Dehydration of **31** with phenylsulfonyl chloride (2 equiv) in triethylamine (5 equiv) at 70 °C afforded the required monomer **32** in 73% yield. Subsequent ROM polymerization with (H₂ImMes)(PCy₃) (Cl)₂Ru=CHPh (cat-**B**) yielded oligomers **33** (n = 50, 100, 150) of the OACC reagent depending on the amount of cat-**B** used. Quenching of the ROM polymerization with EVE produced a free-flowing solid with a theoretical load of 3.2 mmol/g³⁵ and possessing a wide solubility profile: soluble in CH₂Cl₂, THF, DMF, and DMSO; and insoluble in Et₂O, EtOAc, and MeOH.

The oligomeric reagent ^{2G}OACC₅₀ (**33**, Scheme 4) was initially developed as a coupling reagent for esterification, amidation, and dehydration of carboxylic acids (aliphatic and aromatic) with an assortment of alcohols (aliphatic 1°, 2°, and benzylic), thiols, phenols, and amines (aliphatic 1°, 2°, benzylic, and anilines). Following the coupling event, precipitation with an appropriate solvent (Et₂O, MeOH, or EtOAc), followed by filtration via solid-phase extraction (SPE) on silica gel provided the products in good-to-excellent yields and purities (**Scheme 5**).²⁶ Further studies determined that the longer oligomeric reagent ^{2G}OACC₁₀₀

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Andrew M. Harned, Mianji Zhang, Punitha Vedantham, Shubhasish Mukherjee, Russell H. Herpel, Daniel L. Flynn, and Paul R. Hanson

4.5. High-Load, Soluble Oligomeric Sulfonyl Chlorides (OSC)

The emergence of molecular scavenging² as a powerful purification technique has led to the development of a number of designer polymers, that are capable of discrete binding of excess reagent, in order to address limits in load and heterogeneity. In this regard, the aforementioned OSC reagent 27 was investigated as a high-load, soluble nucleophile scavenger (Scheme 6).²⁷ Simple preparation of 27 was achieved by the Diels-Alder reaction of vinylsulfonyl chloride (34) and cyclopentadiene to generate monomer 35 in 90% yield. ROM polymerization of 35 with cat-B produced 27 as a free-flowing solid. Arrays of polymers with different lengths (e.g., 10-mer, 30-mer, 60-mer, and 100-mer) were produced; the 60-mer (^{2G}OSC₆₀) proved to be the scavenging reagent of choice by virtue of its precipitation characteristics and differential solubility. ^{2G}OSC₆₀ is soluble in CH₂Cl₂, THF, and DMF, but is insoluble in Et₂O, EtOAc, and MeOH.³⁶ The scavenging ability of ^{2G}OSC₆₀ was investigated in the benzoylation and sulfonation of a variety of amines. Following the benzoylation or sulfonation reaction, ^{2G}OSC₆₀ was added as a dichloromethane solution to remove the excess amine $(1^{\circ}, 2^{\circ}, \text{ or benzylic})$, followed by precipitation of the scavenger to furnish the benzamides and sulfonamides in excellent yields and purities.27

4.6. High-Load, Oligomeric Bis(acid chlorides) (OBAC)

In 2003, a high-load, oligomeric bis(acid chloride) (OBAC) was reported as a general nucleophile scavenger that was capable of removing alcohols and thiols in addition to amines.^{28a} Like the aforementioned OSC scavenger, this system also offered flexible oligomer design and differential solubility for facile purification via simple precipitation–filtering protocols. The requisite monomer, *trans*-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2,3-dicarbonyl dichloride (**37**), was conveniently prepared in two steps: a Diels–Alder reaction between fumaric acid and cyclopentadiene, followed by chlorination using oxalyl chloride and a catalytic amount of DMF (**Scheme 7**).^{28a} Subsequent ROM polymerization with either 1 mol % cat-**B** or 2.5 mol % cat-**A** yielded the 100-mer (**38a**) or 40-mer (**38b**) OBAC reagents, respectively.³⁶ It is interesting to note that polymerization with 1 mol % of

cat-**B** provided a heterogeneous, solid nucleophile scavenger (${}^{2G}OBAC_{100}$), while polymerization with 2.5 mol % of catalyst cat-**A** yielded a homogeneous, soluble 40-mer (${}^{1G}OBAC_{40}$).

The scavenging ability of OBAC was tested with a variety of amines, alcohols, and thiols. OBAC was found to efficiently remove excess amines (1° and 2°), alcohols (1°, 2°, allylic, propargylic, and benzylic), and thiols after a common benzoylation event.^{28a} While the amines were scavenged in 15–30 minutes at











Scheme 6. High-Load ^{2G}OSC₆₀ as a Nucleophile Scavenger.

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room temperature, higher temperatures (refluxing DCM, 1–2 hours) were required for efficient scavenging of alcohols and thiols. The synthetic utility of OBAC scavengers was evaluated by comparing their efficiency against a commercially available nucleophile scavenger, polystyrene-based isocyanate (PS-NCO) resin.^{1e,37,38} One clear advantage pertains to the loadings of OBAC scavengers, which are higher than the corresponding ones for the







Scheme 8. Synthesis of Oligomeric Phosphonyl Chlorides (OPC).



Figure 4. ROM Polymer-Supported Catalysts through 2002.

polystyrene isocyanate resin (theoretical load of 9.1 mmol/g vs ~1.3 mmol/g). Thus, the weight of OBAC reagent required for each scavenging reaction is seven times lower than the amount of isocyanate resin for a given experimental procedure. In a typical comparison experiment, 35 mg of OBAC versus 250 mg of the polystyrene-based isocyanate was found to be optimal for scavenging.^{28a} While both OBAC and PS-NCO performed similarly for amines and thiols, OBAC was more efficient in scavenging alcohols.

4.7. High-Load, Oligomeric Phosphonyl Chlorides (OPC)

A high-load, ROMP-derived phosphonyl chloride scavenging agent has also recently been realized. Chlorination of vinyl phosphonic acid (**39**), followed by [4+2] cycloaddition onto cyclopentadiene, furnished monomer **40** as a ~2.5:1 endo:exo mixture (**Scheme 8**).^{28b} Subsequent ROM polymerization with cat-**A** or cat-**B** provided ^{1G}OPC₃₀, ^{2G}OPC₃₀, and ^{2G}OPC₁₀₀, respectively (**41**). All OPCs efficiently removed both primary and secondary amines from reaction mixtures after benzoylation.

Overall, OSC, OBAC, and OPC scavengers have been conveniently prepared on a large scale from inexpensive and readily available starting materials. Furthermore, these scavenging reagents offer high-load benefits, exhibit wide solubility profiles, and have tunable properties that allow them to be isolated as either homogeneous or heterogeneous oligomers depending on the amount and nature of the catalyst used.

5. ROM Polymer-Supported Catalysts and Ligands 5.1. Buchmeiser's and Bolm's ROM Polymer-Immobilized Catalysts and Ligands

The use of ROM polymeric supports for immobilizing catalysts was pioneered by Buchmeiser⁷ and Bolm⁸ in the late 1990s, and much of this work has been reviewed.^{4,6} Buchmeiser utilized ROM polymerization to generate an array of dipyridyl-based Pd(II) catalysts similar to catalyst **42** (Figure 4).⁷ Dimeric iron complex **43** was also polymerized and used in heterogeneous atom-transfer radical polymerizations of styrene.⁷ More recently, a grafted monolithic metathesis catalyst has been developed.³⁹ Concurrently, Bolm and co-workers developed the first soluble oligomeric chiral catalysts, **44** and **45**, for use in asymmetric diethylzinc addition reactions.^{8a}

Since Barrett's review,⁴ three additional ROM polymersupported catalytic systems have been developed, including (i) a ROMPgel-supported tris(triphenylphosphine)rhodium(I) chloride for the hydrogenation of alkenes and terminal alkynes,⁴⁰ (ii) a bisphosphine oligomeric ligand used in supported, palladium-containing catalysts for the Heck, Sonogashira, and Negishi reactions,⁴¹ and (iii) a ROMPgel-supported thiazolium iodide for use in Stetter reactions.^{42a} Additionally, Tanyeli and Gümüş^{42b} have developed ROMP-supported TEMPO (2,2,6,6tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl) catalysts for the oxidation of various primary alcohols to the corresponding aldehydes in 70–87% yields.

5.2. ROMPgel-Supported Tris(triphenylphosphine)rhodium(I)

Wilkinson's catalyst, (Ph₃P)₃RhCl, is widely used for the selective hydrogenation of sterically unhindered, nonconjugated alkenes.^{43,44} Despite its advantages, Wilkinson's catalyst suffers from the need to separate the catalyst from the product. In 2003, Barrett's group prepared a novel ROM polymer-supported Wilkinson's catalyst. The monomeric ligands **48** and **52** were

synthesized in two or three steps from commercially available starting materials (**Scheme 9**).⁴⁰

4-Bromoiodobenzene (46) was coupled to norbornadiene via a reductive Heck reaction to furnish aryl bromide 47, which was allowed to react with BuLi and Ph2PCl to produce phosphine ligand 48.23 N-Alkylimidazole 5045 reacted with BnCl in toluene to give imidazolium chloride 51, which underwent ion exchange with KPF₆ in CH₂Cl₂ to yield ligand 52. ROM polymerization of 48, 52, and a 2:3 mixture of 48:52, with cross-linker CL-1 (10 mol %) and cat-B, generated oligomeric ligands 49, 53, and 54, respectively.⁴⁰ Wilkinson's catalyst (56) was anchored to ROMPgels 49, 53, and 54 by heating a suspension of the polymer and the rhodium complex 55 or 56 in CH₂Cl₂ to give the liganddisplaced catalysts 57 and 58, and the noncovalently bonded ionic catalyst 59 (eq 2 and 3).40 ROMPgels 57 and 58 have been effectively utilized in the selective hydrogenation of a variety of alkenes and terminal alkynes. ROMPgel 57 turned out to be significantly more active than 58, whereas ROMPgel 59 showed no activity in the hydrogenation reaction.40

5.3. Oligomeric Bisphosphine Ligand for Pd-Catalyzed C–C-Bond Formation

In 2003, Yang and Luh reported the preparation of bisphosphine polymer **64** (Scheme **10**) by ROM polymerization of the corresponding monomer, **63**, and the use of **64** as a polymersupported ligand in palladium-catalyzed, C–C-bond-forming reactions.⁴¹ Treatment of **61** with K₂CO₃ and 4-bromobenzyl bromide in refluxing CH₃CN afforded dibromide **62** in 78% yield. Reaction of **62** with *n*-BuLi at –78 °C, followed by displacement with ClPPh₂, gave monomer **63** in 60% yield. Polymerization of **63** using cat-**B** in THF (rt for 24 h) generated polymer **64** in powder form and 90% yield. Phosphine polymer **64** has a theoretical load of 2.8 mmol/g and, at room temperature, is soluble in moderately polar organic solvents such as THF, toluene, or dichloromethane; but is insoluble in alkanes, ether, and DMF. However, a homogeneous solution of **64** in DMF was obtained at an elevated temperature (80 °C).

A series of coupling reactions were examined to test the efficiency of polymeric ligand **64**. All Heck, Sonogashira, and

Negishi reactions (eq 4, 5, and 6) proceeded smoothly to give high yields of the coupled products.⁴¹ Furthermore, the catalysts retained most of their activities in subsequent cycles (4–5 cycles). When the small-molecule counterpart, 4-(methoxymethylphenyl) diphenylphosphine [(4-MeOCH₂C₆H₄)Ph₂P], was used as the ligand under identical conditions, no reactions were observed in the third cycle of the Heck and Sonogashira reactions and the second cycle of the Negishi reaction. This is presumably owing to the difficulty of recovering enough of the Pd catalyst from cycle to cycle because of its solubility in the solvent.

5.4. ROMPgel-Supported Thiazolium Iodide in Stetter Reactions

In 2004, Barrett and co-workers reported a high-load, ROMPgelsupported thiazolium iodide, that was prepared in three steps overall via ROM polymerization of the corresponding norbornenederived monomer (**Scheme 11**).^{42a} The Diels–Alder reaction between commercially available 4-methyl-5-vinyl-1,3-thiazole (**65**) and cyclopentadiene gave a 53% yield of a 1:9.5 mixture of exo and endo cycloadducts, **66**. Methylation of **66** with MeI gave the thiazolium salt monomer, **67**, which was polymerized with cat-**B** in the presence of cross-linker **CL-1** (11 mol %) to afford ROMPgel **68** possessing a theoretical load of 2.52 mmol/g.

Ionic ROMPgel **68** proved to be an efficient organic catalyst for Stetter reactions, especially for the reaction of aliphatic aldehydes with a range of enones (**eq 7**).^{42a} The resulting 1,4dicarbonyl products, which are important intermediates in the synthesis of cyclopentenones and heterocycles, were obtained in high yields and excellent purities after minimal purification. ROMPgel **68** maintained its catalytic activity, when used in up to four consecutive reaction cycles.

6. Purification by in Situ Polymerization

One purification strategy that has gained popularity in recent years is the use of chemically tagged reagents.⁴⁶ A chemical tag allows for the selective removal of reaction components (reagents, products, byproducts) through specific chemical interactions. Examples of chemical tagging strategies include: the fluorousphase chemistry developed by Curran;⁴⁷ metal chelation as





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ROM Polymerization in Facilitated Synthesis

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reported by Ley;⁴⁸ and the precipiton tag developed by Wilcox's group,⁴⁹ which takes advantage of the light-induced isomerization and differential solubility of *cis-* and *trans-*stilbenes. When utilized in conjunction with the highly functional group tolerant olefin metathesis catalysts, the norbornene ring system offers attractive possibilities for use as a chemical tag. First, the ring system can be obtained on a large scale and in high yield through the use of Diels–Alder or reductive Heck reactions.⁵⁰ Secondly, the ring system is stable to many reaction conditions; and lastly, this strained olefin ring system can be selectively polymerized in the presence of other functional groups, and in some cases other olefins. For these reasons, in situ ROM polymerization is an appealing purification method that is not possible with other polymerization methods.

6.1. Reagent Annihilation: Norbornenyl-Tagged DEAD

Barrett was the first to report the use of in situ ROM polymerization of the norbornenyl-tagged azodicarboxylate **69** and polymer-bound triphenylphosphine (**70**) to purify Mitsunobu reactions (**Scheme 12**).⁵¹ Upon completion of the reaction, **71** needed to be filtered away due to the incompatibility of the phosphine oxide polymer **71** with the soon-to-be-added cat-**A**. The hydrazine dicarboxylate byproduct was then polymerized by addition of cat-**A**. Subsequent filtration of the resulting diazodicarboxylate polymer afforded the Mitsunobu products in high yields and purities.

6.2. Scavenge–ROMP–Filter

Emergence of the more versatile cat- \mathbf{B}^{14} presented new opportunities for in situ scavenging, whereby norbornenyltagging was used to chemically tag electrophiles. Addition of cat- \mathbf{B} initiated ROM polymerization, which ultimately phasetrafficked the resulting undesired polymeric species out of solution, leaving the reaction products in solution (Scheme 13).⁵² To this end, an alcohol or an amine was reacted with an excess of an electrophilic reagent. Once the starting nucleophile was consumed, commercially available alcohol 20 was added as a scavenger to sequester excess electrophile. Upon completion of the scavenging event, cat- \mathbf{B} was added in order to polymerize the scavenged electrophile, 78–80, and excess alcohol 20. The resulting polymer, 81–83, was filtered away from the reaction products, 75–77, which were subsequently isolated in excellent yields and purities.

6.3. Capture–ROMP–Release

We have applied the in situ polymerization concept to the Mitsunobu reaction by targeting the acidic component/product (**Scheme 14**).⁵³ Commercially available oxanorbornenyl-tagged *N*-hydroxysuccinimide **84** was reacted with a variety of alcohols under traditional Mitsunobu conditions (DIAD and PPh₃). The resulting alkoxysuccinimides were then polymerized with cat-**B** in the presence of DIAD and Ph₃PO. The resulting polymers, **85**, were precipitated with MeOH, collected by filtration, and treated with hydrazine to release the desired alkoxyamines, **86**. Surprisingly, cleaved polymer **87** was water-soluble and was thus eliminated through a simple water–ether extraction.

We have also reported a similar strategy for the chromatography-free purification of amines and hydrazine derivatives (Scheme 15).⁵⁴ Various substituted alcohols were captured onto oxanorbornenyl derivatives 88 and 91 via the Mitsunobu reaction followed by in situ polymerization. Polymers 89 and 92 displayed differential solubility: soluble in organic solvents such as THF, CH_2Cl_2 , and $CHCl_3$; but insoluble in MeOH. Excess Mitsunobu reagents and byproducts, which were soluble in MeOH, were phase-separated from the insoluble polymers via precipitation of the latter from MeOH, followed by simple filtration. The amines and hydrazine derivatives were cleaved from the polymers by heating at reflux in THF in the presence of hydrazine. Finally, the polymeric byproducts were removed by biphasic extraction (Et₂O–H₂O) to produce amines 90 and hydrazine derivatives 93 in good yields and purities.

7. ROM Polymerization in Supported Synthesis 7.1. Vanishing Supports, ROMPspheres, and Soluble Supports

In 1998, Barrett and co-workers devised the concept of polymerizable templates and vanishing supports,⁵⁵ as outlined in **Schemes 16** and **17** and in their 2002 review.⁴ This work addressed the classical problem of low loading of substrates on a polymer support. In addition, it offered the advantage of allowing chemical modifications to be conducted in a homogeneous environment, thus avoiding the poor solvation typically experienced with solid supports. In this approach, they produced diverse cyclic amines, **97** and **99**, in a strategy that employed late-stage ozonolysis as a means of disassembling the ROM polymer support. Subsequently, Barrett's group utilized two strategies in developing ROMPspheres. In the first, cross-metathesis between vinyl polystyrene and norbornene



Scheme 15. Chromatography-Free Purification Employing the Capture–ROMP–Release Approach.

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derivatives afforded high-load ROM polymer supports.⁵⁶ In the second approach, shown in Scheme 17, they incubated **100** with cat-**A** to obtain polystyrene-bound ruthenium complex **101**. ROMPsphere **102** was produced via subsequent treatment with norbornenyl monomer, followed by termination with EVE. The ROMPspheres were larger than the original resin, yet still retained their solvent-dependent swelling properties.⁴

Enholm and co-workers reported the first examples of stereoselective radical reactions on a ROMP-derived, soluble support using norbornenediol **24** to assemble support **103** for subsequent radical allylation en route to **104** (Scheme 18).⁵⁷



Scheme 16. Barrett's Vanishing Supports.



Scheme 17. Barrett's ROMPspheres.





Another radical reaction was used in the Bu₃SnH-mediated cyclization of **105** which, upon saponification with LiOH, gave the carboxylic acid **106** in good yield. Each soluble support consisted of a radical precursor embedded in each monomer subunit, thus providing a maximum 100% loading capacity.

7.2. Ring-Opening-Metathesis–Phase-Trafficking (ROMpt) Synthesis

The aforementioned capture-ROMP-release approach has also been utilized as a means of generating ROM oligomers for subsequent use as soluble supports in multistep reaction sequences (Scheme 19).58 In this strategy, norbornene sulfonamide 107 was subjected to a three-component coupling protocol with chlorosulfonyl isocyanate and an amino acid ester to yield 108. The tagged norbornenyl monomer was next reacted with cinnamyl alcohol under Mitsunobu conditions. The norbornenyl tagged products were then induced to undergo phase-trafficking purification by in situ polymerization mediated by cat-B. Quenching of the polymerization with ethyl vinyl ether, followed by precipitation of the oligomers with methanol, provided oligomers 109, free of Mitsunobu byproducts. The terminal phenyl group was utilized as a protecting group of the double bond during the ROM polymerization event. Allylation of the soluble oligomer yielded 110, which was subjected to RCM conditions to generate 111. Purification was achieved by differential precipitation of the oligomer. Finally, oligomer 111 was treated with 1:1 TFA-CH₂Cl₂ to effect the release of cyclic sulfamide 112 from the soluble support, whereby the crude products were passed through a small SPE (SiO₂) and eluted with 1:1 hexane-ethyl acetate (49-53% over four steps).

7.3. Oxidative Cyclorelease Strategy Using Soluble ROM Polymer Supports

Floreancig and co-workers have also utilized soluble oligonorbornene polymers as supports in an oxidative cyclorelease strategy, where the soluble supports were found to be stable toward redox chemistry (Scheme 20).⁵⁹ Monomer 113 was polymerized utilizing 5 mol % cat-A to provide oligomer 114 in 95% yield. Oligomer 114 was subjected to a three-step sequence of $TiCl_4$ – $Ti(Oi-Pr)_4$ -mediated acetal opening, ruthenium-catalyzed acetic acid addition, and TBS protection to yield enol acetate polymer 115 in high yield. Cyclorelease of 115 with CAN provided 116 as a single stereoisomer in 41% yield and good purity.⁵⁹

7.4. Unsaturated ROMP (U-ROMP) Resins

Janda and co-workers have employed a technique termed suspension-ROMP to construct insoluble, spherical resins with good swelling properties for use in solid-phase organic synthesis (Scheme 21).⁶⁰ It was found that 1 mol % of cross-linker 117 gave optimal results in terms of swelling properties, with alcohol 20 being present in 1 mmol/g theoretical loading. The swelling properties of unsaturated ROMP resin (U-ROMP) 118 were intermediate between those of the Merrifield and JandaJelTM resins.

U-ROMP resin **118** was subjected to hydrogenation, bromination, chlorination, and hydrofluorination conditions to remove the olefinic backbone. The authors were then able to use these new norbornene-based resins for reactions that are incompatible with traditional cross-linked polystyrene resins (i.e., Friedel–Crafts acylations and aromatic nitration). They also reported utilizing these resins for two multistep SPS reaction sequences: the synthesis of benzimidazole and hydantoin derivatives.⁶⁰

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8. New Strategies Employing ROM Polymerization 8.1. Polymer-on-Polymer Approach

Recently, we have dramatically demonstrated the power of soluble ROM polymers with the realization of the first polymeron-polymer Mitsunobu reaction, in which a polymeric phosphine is used *simultaneously* with a polymeric azodicarboxylate (Scheme 22).⁶¹ Historically, the Mitsunobu reaction has faced a number of purification challenges,⁶² and popular opinion has asserted that a multipolymer, solid-on-solid approach is not feasible.^{62b} The use of high-load, short, and soluble oligomers, however, circumvents classical problems associated with solidon-solid approaches. The oligomeric triphenylphosphine (OTPP, 119) was prepared through polymerization of phosphine 48 with cat-B (see Scheme 22). The required hydrogenated oligomeric azodicarboxylate (HO-DEAD, 121) was prepared from alcohol 120. The hydrazine dicarboxylate generated from 120 was polymerized with cat-F, and the resulting polymer hydrogenated in the presence of cat-A, prior to oxidation with Br₂, to give 121. Both 119 and 121 display a wide solubility profile: they are soluble in benzene, toluene, CH₂Cl₂, CHCl₃, and THF; but insoluble in MeOH, Et₂O, and heptane. ³¹P NMR analysis

revealed that the two polymers were interacting to generate the Mitsunobu products. In addition, application of this approach to several other substrates, as well as comparison experiments with other polymeric reagents, have been described.⁶¹

8.2. ROMPgel Beads in IRORI[™] Format

Roberts recently integrated the convenience of handling polystyrene beads in an IRORI^{\square} KAN^{\square} format with high-load ROMPgels to generate a reusable acylating agent for parallel synthesis (**Scheme 23**).⁶³ The high load and site accessibility of the ROMPgel resin was not compromised by incorporation into a bead, while the convenience of a KAN^{\square} format was added. Thus, linker **122** was synthesized from 4-iodophenol via hydroarylation of norbornadiene. Linker **122** was attached to Wang resin (1.1 mmol/g) utilizing Mitsunobu conditions to afford linker resin **123** in 79% yield. The norbornene moiety in the linker was subjected to ROM polymerization conditions with cat-**A**. After washing the resin to remove excess unreacted catalyst in solution, it was treated with a large excess of monomer **124** for 48 h yielding resin **125** in 94% yield with a loading of 2.92 mmol/g. Treating resin **125** with an excess of benzylamine and washing with 15%



Scheme 19. Application of Ring-Opening-Metathesis–Phase-Trafficking (ROMpt) in Supported Synthesis.



Scheme 20. Application of Soluble Oligonorbornene Polymers as Supports in an Oxidative Cyclorelease Strategy.





Scheme 21. Preparation of Spherical, Unsaturated ROMP (U-ROMP) Resins by Suspension-ROMP.



Scheme 22. Application of the Polymer-on-Polymer Approach in the Mitsunobu Reaction.



Scheme 23. ROMPgel Beads in IRORI[™] Format: High-Load and Reusable Acylating Agents.

AcOH in dichloromethane generated *N*-hydroxysuccinimide resin **126**, which was coupled with a variety of carboxylic acids to produce an array of high-load acylating agents **127**.

9. Conclusions

This review has outlined new developments of ROM polymerization in facilitated synthesis. From its beginning, ROM polymerization has advanced as a general and viable means of immobilizing reagents, catalysts, and supports, and will undoubtedly expand beyond these borders in the near future. The continued development of well-defined, homogeneous catalysts can only add to the growing utility of this enabling technology, and thus its potential has yet to be fully realized. In addition, automated protocols have yet to be fully adapted to this technology, which will only further strengthen its role in combinatorial chemistry.

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About the Authors

Andrew M. Harned graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in 1999 with a B.S. in biochemistry. While an undergraduate, he worked in the laboratories of Professors Neal Castagnoli, Jr., and Michael Calter. As a graduate student at the University of Kansas, he studied under the guidance Professor Paul R. Hanson. While at KU, he was supported by an NIH Dynamic Aspects of Chemical Biology Training Grant and an American Chemical Society Division of Organic Chemistry Nelson J. Leonard Fellowship sponsored by Organic Syntheses, Inc. In the fall of 2004, he assumed a postdoctoral position in the research group of Professor Brian M. Stoltz at the California Institute of Technology.

Mianji Zhang received his M.S. degree in organic chemistry in 1992 from Nankai University (China). After working in Tianjin University in China for five years, he joined Professor Robert T. LaLonde's group at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science & Forestry (SUNY-ESF) in 1997. He worked on the synthesis of antitumor drug candidates and completed the requirements for his Ph.D. degree in 2002. He is currently a postdoctoral research associate working on the development of ROMP-derived high-load reagents under the guidance of Professor Paul R. Hanson at the University of Kansas.

Punitha Vedantham obtained her master's degree in 1996 from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, India. Her doctoral studies on natural product synthesis and organic photochemistry were carried out at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, under the guidance of Professor Vishwakarma Singh. She is currently working with Professor Paul R. Hanson on ROM polymerization and facilitated synthetic methods for use in combinatorial chemistry.

Shubhasish Mukherjee graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, with an M.Sc. degree in chemistry. He received his Ph.D. degree in chemistry in 2000 from the University of Delhi, India, for research and studies carried out under the guidance of Professor V. S. Parmar. He worked for a year in the area of bioconjugate chemistry with Professor Kalle Levon at The Polytechnic University, New York. In 2001, he moved to the University of Kansas, where he is currently working for Professor Paul R. Hanson in the area of ROM polymerization and phosphorus chemistry.

Russell H. Herpel graduated from Missouri Western State College in 1997 with an ACS certified B.S. degree in chemistry. In the summer of 1996, he worked for Professor Rich Givens at the University of Kansas in the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU) Program. He then carried out graduate-level studies at the University of Kansas under the guidance of Professors Rich S. Givens (1997-2000) and Paul R. Hanson (2002-2004). In the fall of 2004, he assumed a position at Highland Community College as a chemistry instructor.

Daniel L. Flynn received his B.S. degree in pharmacy (1977) and his Ph.D. degree in medicinal chemistry (1981, with Professor Lester Mitscher) from the University of Kansas. After completing postdoctoral studies at Indiana University with Professor Paul Grieco, he joined Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals in 1983. In 1988, he moved to Searle Pharmaceuticals, where he rose to the positions of Section Head, Medicinal Chemistry, and Research Fellow over a ten-year period. Between 1998 and 2002, he was engaged in research at Amgen, Inc., and Millennium Pharmaceuticals as senior director of chemistry. In 2002, he founded Deciphera Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he has remained as its president and CEO. His research interests include phasetrafficking approaches to organic synthesis and purification, chemical proteomics, and innovative ways to selectively control enzymatic activity by binding small molecules onto novel allosteric sites.

Paul R. Hanson received his B.S. degree, with a major in chemistry, in 1985 from Luther College (Decorah, IA) under the direction of the late Adrian Docken. In 1993, he obtained his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Minnesota under the mentorship of Thomas R. Hoye. From 1993 to 1996, he served as an NIH postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University under the guidance of Barry M. Trost. In 1996, he was hired as an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Kansas and was promoted to associate professor in 2001. His current research interests lie in the development of new approaches to the synthesis of biologically and synthetically useful phosphorus and sulfur heterocycles, natural product synthesis, and the design of high-load oligomers with tunable properties for use in facilitated synthesis.

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Rasta Resin Bases

64.359-9 64.360-2 Piperidine on Rasta Resin Morpholine on Rasta Resin 50-100 mesh, 5.0 mmol/g loading, 1% cross-linking 50-100 mesh, 5.0 mmol/g loading, 1% cross-linking 5 g 5 g 25 g 25 g CH H₂C H₂C PS PS CH н₃с́ H₂C 65,545-7 Pyridine on Rasta Resin 50–100 mesh, 6.9 mmol N/g loading, 1% cross-linking 5 g 25 g CH-H₂C (ps CH₃ Rasta Resin Scavengers

56,966-6

Isocyanate on Rasta Resin

100-200 mesh, 2.0 mmol/g loading, 1% cross-linking 5 g

25 g



64.366-1

Chloromethyl on Rasta Resin 50–100 mesh, 5.0 mmol/g loading, 1% cross-linking







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64,617-2		1 g
MW 190.28	N N	5 g
C ₁₂ H ₁₈ N ₂	H ₃ C	

1-Boc-4-(4-formylphenyl)piperazine, 97%	
65,142-7	1 g
MW 290.36	5 g

MW 290.36 $C_{16}H_{22}N_2O_3$





1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)piperazine, 97%		
64,615-6 MW 206.28	N N	1 g 5 g
C ₁₂ H ₁₈ N ₂ O	H ₃ C ₀ /VH	

1-Boc-4-(2-formylphenyl)piperazine, 97%		
65,151-6 MW 290.36 C ₁₆ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₃		1 g 5 g o CH3

4-(Boc-pipera	azin-1-yl)-3-nitrobenz	oic acid, 97%
65,192-3		1 g
MW 351.35	NOa	5 g
$C_{16}H_{21}N_{3}O_{6}$		

CH н₃с

04695	~	1 g	
MW 255.15	NH I	5 g	
$C_{11}H_{15}BrN_2$			
	Br		

1-(4-Bromobenzyl)piperazine, 97%

64,843-4

 $C_{11}H_{16}N_2$

63,864-1

C₁₀H₁₄N₂

MW 162.23

MW 176.26



• HCI

1 g

5 g

5 g

25 g



1-(3-Methylbenzyl)piperazine, 97%

65,024-2 MW 194.25 C11H15FN2



5 g

25 g

1-Boc-4-(3-hydroxypropyl)piperazine, 97%

H₂C

CH3 H₃Ć



CH3 н₃с́ 1-(2-Chloro-6-fluorobenzyl)piperazine, 98% 1 a

10 g

1 g

5 g



1-(4-Chlorobenzyl)piperazine, 98%



2-Phenylpiperazine, 96%

1-Methyl-3-phenylpiperazine, 97%

с́н₀





64,346-7

MW 244.33

C₁₂H₂₄N₂O₃

1-(Cyclohexylcarbonyl)piperazine, 97% 1 g 5 g



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65,015-6

MW 228.69

C₁₁H₁₄CIFN₂

65.021-8

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 $C_{11}H_{15}CIN_2$

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Polyurea-Encapsulated Palladium Catalysts: The Development and Application of a New and Versatile Immobilized-Homogeneous-Catalyst Technology[§]



Dr. David A. Pears

Dr. Stephen C. Smith

David A. Pears[†] Avecia Pharmaceuticals P.O. Box 42 Hexagon House Blackley Manchester M9 8ZS, U.K. Email: david.pears@reaxa.com

Stephen C. Smith Syngenta Jealott's Hill International Research Centre Bracknell Berkshire RG42 6EY, U.K. Email: steve.smith@syngenta.com

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1. Introduction

The cross-coupling of organic halides with organometallic reagents mediated by transition-metal catalysts has become a pivotal approach for carbon–carbon-bond formation. Organotin,¹ organoboron,² organozinc,³ and organosilicon⁴ are all useful precursors that are commonly employed in palladium-catalyzed cross-couplings.

The need for a practical and economic translation of these laboratory methods into large-scale manufacturing operations, coupled with the drive for clean manufacturing processes, have led to the development of new techniques for reagent and catalyst immobilization. These new techniques allow for the efficient recovery and reuse of the catalyst.⁵ For example, the pharmaceutical industry anticipates ever more demanding API targets that require ever lower levels of metal residues from reaction catalysts.

The traditional heterogeneous transition-metal catalyst consists of a metal adsorbed on a variety of high-surface-area support materials such as silica, alumina, calcium carbonate, barium sulfate, powdered KF with Al₂O₃,^{6a} poly(ethyleneimine) on alumina^{6b} or silica,^{6e} and so on. For these traditional adsorbed-

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metal supports, the usual role of the support is to extend the surface area of the metal, although the nature of the support can significantly alter the rate and course of a chemical reaction.

In recent years, there has been significant development work reported on the synthesis and use of supported transitionmetal catalysts^{7a} produced by coordination of the metal to an immobilized ligand.^{7b} These catalyst systems are often referred to as "supported" or "polymer-anchored" homogeneous catalysts. For example, Fenger and Le Drian introduced a polystyrenesupported palladium catalyst for use in the Suzuki cross-coupling reaction.⁸ More recently, Ikegami and co-workers have reported a supported palladium catalyst for the Suzuki–Miyaura reaction, which is based on the non-cross-linked amphiphilic copolymer poly(*N*-isopropylacrylamide-*co*-4-(diphenylphosphino)styrene).^{9,10} Industrial activity in this area has been led by workers at Johnson Matthey, who, in collaboration with Oy Smoptech, have developed immobilized, homogeneous palladium catalysts through the use of polyethylene fibers with grafted phosphine ligands.¹¹

In general, these approaches require the synthesis of polymerbound ligands either through copolymerization of a ligand monomer or postgrafting of a ligand onto a preformed polymer matrix. Such methodologies tend to be lengthy and expensive, and there can be problems associated with leaching and reactivity of the resulting catalyst.

An alternative approach for entrapping homogeneous catalysts within a polymeric coating has been developed by Kobayashi and co-workers.¹²⁻¹⁴ Microcapsules of polymer-coated catalyst are formed upon cooling a homogeneous solution of the catalyst and a polymer or copolymer. This technique was exploited in the preparation of polystyrene-coacervated OsO_4 ,¹² Pd(Ph₃)₄,¹³ and Sc(OTf)₃.¹⁴ However, Schager and Bonrath reported that the coacervated Sc(OTf)₃ catalyst could not be recovered following use, and that there was evidence for leaching of the catalyst. The authors concluded that the catalytically active compound works as a homogeneous species.¹⁵ More recently, Kobayashi and co-workers have further developed this technique by building a reactive oxirane functionality into the copolymer.¹⁶ In this case, following coacervation of the homogeneous catalyst, the copolymer can be cross-linked thermally to form more chemically resistant cross-linked microcapsules. This technique has been exploited to form so-called "polymer-incarcerated" homogeneous Pd(Ph₃)₄ catalysts.¹⁶

Various other methods and materials have been described in the literature for entrapping homogeneous metal complexes and metal nanoclusters including sol-gel materials,¹⁷ dendrimers,¹⁸ and polyoxyalkylene resins.¹⁹

The purpose of this article is to review the area of microencapsulated palladium catalysts prepared by interfacial polymerization, which promises to be one of the most useful developments for immobilizing homogeneous catalysts to have originated over the past few years. We have, in collaboration with Professor Steven Ley, pioneered the technique based on interfacial microencapsulation to immobilize homogeneous transition-metal salts, and have demonstrated the application of these as versatile catalysts. This review will cover all aspects of catalyst preparation, physical properties, and applications.

2. Microencapsulation

In 2002, Ley and co-workers first reported the use of interfacial microencapsulation to immobilize homogeneous catalysts, suggesting that it might solve problematic limitations of previous approaches.²⁰ Microencapsulation is a process for entrapping materials within a shell or coating, which is typically polymeric

in nature. Microencapsulation is widely practiced industrially and has found use in such diverse applications as drug delivery systems,²¹ radiation therapies,²² cell entrapment,²³ and the controlled release of pesticides.^{24,25}

Ley utilized the interfacial microencapsulation method, which involves dispersing an organic phase (consisting of the material(s) being encapsulated and reactive multifunctional monomers or oligomers, and typically containing a solvent) into an aqueous phase containing colloid stabilizers, dispersants and, optionally, salts and chain extenders. Upon dispersion, the reactive groups at the oil-water interface undergo spontaneous in situ polymerization to form the microcapsule walls. The walls consist of a highly cross-linked polymer network, which entraps the material within. The permeability and size of the microcapsules, and the coordinating properties of the matrix can be tuned by selecting the type of wall-forming oligomer or monomer, type and quantity of porogenic (i.e., organic) solvent, agitation conditions, chain extenders, and other additives. The polyurea matrix was selected, because of its ability to ligate transition-metal salts, which was considered important for both efficient microencapsulation and subsequent retainment of the metal within the matrix when used as a catalyst.²⁰ It was also considered that the polyurea matrix would be relatively inert to chemical modification and give a physically robust material. In addition, the process facilitates a cost-effective method of production, which is an important consideration if the catalysts are to be utilized for industrial-scale manufacturing.

3. Catalyst Preparation

The method described by Ley to form the microcapsules involves the dispersion of a solution of an aromatic polyfunctional isocyanate and palladium acetate in dichloroethane into water containing a combination of industrial colloid stabilizers and surfactants.²⁰ The oil-in-water dispersion is obtained under medium shear stirring to give oil droplets in the 20-250-µm size range. Once the correct oil droplet size distribution is obtained, the polymerization is initiated by heating (Figure 1).²⁰ This causes some isocyanate groups at the oil-water interface to hydrolyze to the amine (via the unstable carbamic acid), which immediately reacts further intermolecularly with nonhydrolyzed isocyanate to form the urea-linked polymeric matrix (Scheme 1).²⁰ The resulting polyurea microcapsules are typically hard, porous, highly cross-linked spheres with a particle size average around 150 µm (Figure 2a). The beads are washed with water and organic solvents to remove stabilizers, loosely coordinated palladium, and any low-molecular-weight matrix material.

In addition to microencapsulation of Pd(II) salts, typically $Pd(OAc)_2$, Ley also reported the successful encapsulation of Pd(0) nanoparticles stabilized by tetraoctylammonium bromide.²⁰ Following solvent washing to remove the stabilizers, transmission-electron-microscopic (TEM) analysis of the microcapsules revealed the presence of palladium nanoparticles of 5 nm average diameter, suggesting that the nanoparticles were being stabilized by the polyurea matrix.

3.1. Microcapsule Morphology

Scanning- and transmission-electron-microscopic studies showed the interior of the spherical microcapsules to be made up of a uniform porous microstructure with no evidence for the coreshell morphology (**Figures 2b** and **2c**). The energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) pattern from SEM analysis of ultramicrotone cross sections of the microcapsules showed a homogeneous distribution of Pd throughout the cross-sectional area (**Figure 2d**). Analysis of all X-rays coming off the microcapsule section showed evidence for Pd, Cl, N, O, and C, where Cl is derived from the solvent used in the preparation process and, as expected, shows a higher concentration in the center of the microcapsule.

3.2. Microcapsule Porosity

The porosity of the microcapsule is controlled—as in the case of other macro- and mesoporous organic polymers—by the composition of the organic phase (functionality of the isocyanate in this case) and, in particular, the ratio of porogenic solvent to aromatic isocyanate. Ley reported that the ratio of isocyanate to solvent was normally 40:60 (w/w), and the quantity of palladium acetate microencapsulated in dry microcapsules was 0.4 mmol/g as determined by inductively coupled plasma (ICP) analysis.²⁰ In the rest of this review, the microcapsule products will be described by the following shorthand: **metal loading** (mmol/g), **metal type, EnCatTM**, **isocyanate in organic phase** (%). Thus, 0.4 Pd(II) EnCatTM 40 defines a polyurea-microencapsulated palladium(II) catalyst with an oxidation state of +2, where the organic phase had contained 40% isocyanate monomer.

The porosity of the 0.4 Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 microcapsules was determined in both the dry and solvent-wet states. In the dry state, the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) N₂ adsorption method gave a surface area of only 0.07 m^2/g and an isotherm shape characteristic of a nonporous or macroporous material. Mercury intrusion porosimetry showed no evidence for accessible macropores in the dry resin.²⁶ Similar results were obtained for analogous microcapsules prepared with 30% polyfunctional isocyanate in the organic phase (0.4 Pd(II) EnCat[™] 30).^{26a} However, for a catalyst designed to work in solvents, the porosity of the solvent-swollen matrix is of more interest. An indication of how this porosity might change with solvent was obtained by measuring the percent gain in weight of a range of microencapsulated catalysts, including 0.4 Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40, following immersion in various solvents at room temperature for over two hours (Table 1).^{26a} As expected, polar aprotic solvents (e.g., DMA and DMF) and those able to disrupt intermolecular hydrogen-bonding interactions between polymer chains are the most efficient at swelling the polyurea matrix. It was also noted that reducing the isocyanate functionality of the matrix-forming oligomer produced an intrinsically more swellable matrix (Table 1, column 4). The reason for this is that the ability of a cross-linked polymer to swell in a solvent is inversely proportional to the length of polymer chain between cross-linked sites, which will therefore decrease as the monomer functionality increases.

The porosity of the polyurea matrix in the solvent-swollen state was investigated for Pd(II) EnCat[™] 30 and Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 using chromatographic porosimetry.²⁷ This investigation was performed by passing standard solutions of polystyrene and alkylbenzenes through an HPLC column packed with a known mass of Pd(II) EnCat[™], pre-swollen in THF, and recording the retention times. Averaged, normalized retention volumes per gram of Pd(II) EnCat[™] for each analyte were used by PSS's POROCheck software program²⁸ to calculate the average pore volumes, surface areas, and pore diameters. The data in **Table 2**^{26a} and **Figure 3**^{26a} show that Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 has a significantly lower pore volume and diameter than Pd(II) EnCat[™] 30. A consequence of this is that relatively lowmolecular-weight molecules (>400 polystyrene equivalents) could be excluded from the pores in the Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 matrix, whereas molecules of molecular weight up to 1,000 polystyrene equivalents can gain access to the pores within the Pd EnCat™



Figure 1. Interfacial Microencapsulation of Palladium in a Polymer Matrix.







Figure 2a. Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) Image of Microcapsules Containing Pd(OAc)₂. (Photo courtesy of Avecia Ltd, and is reproduced with permission.)





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Image of Ultramicrotone Cross Sections of Pd(OAc)₂-Containing Microcapsules. (Photo courtesy of Avecia Ltd, and is reproduced with permission.)

Figure 2d. Energy Dispersive X-ray (EDX) Pattern from SEM Analysis of Ultramicrotone Cross Sections of Pd(OAc)₂-Containing Microcapsules. (Photo courtesy of Avecia Ltd, and is reproduced with permission.)

Table 1. Microcapsule Swelling Behavior as a Function of Solvent[®] and Matrix

Pd(**II**) EnCat™ 30

30

30

30

20

Pd(**II**) EnCat™ 40

0

5

10

20

Solvent

PhMe

i-PrOH

EtOH

MeC(O)Me

% Weight Gain

Pd(II)

EnCat™ 20

30

30

30

40

Reduced Cross-Linked

Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40^b

0

10

20

20

THF	10	60	40	10
MeC(O)NMe ₂	100	140	140	200
HC(O)NMe ₂	100	120	120	260
^a The listed solvent ^b Half of the 2.7-fur (2.4-toluene diisoc	ts are arrangeo nctional isocyar vanate).	l in order of increa nate oligomer was	sing polarity from to replaced with a 2.0	op to bottom of columr -functional isocyanate

Ref. 26a

30 matrix. The higher porosity of the Pd(II) EnCat[™] 30 matrix leads to improved access of reagents to the active metal centers, which results in higher yields and faster conversions.

3.3. Metal Leaching

A key feature of the polyurea encapsulation approach is the ability of the microcapsules to retain the palladium by virtue of the ligating functionality of the polymer. This was elegantly demonstrated by carrying out palladium leaching experiments in a range of solvents (Table 3).^{26b} The results indicate that only in solvents capable of strongly swelling the matrix (Table 3, entries 1, 9, and 10) is there any significant metal leaching, while >99.8% of the metal remains within the microcapsule in all other solvents.

4. Catalytic Applications of Encapsulated Pd(II) 4.1. The Suzuki Reaction

Initial screening of the catalytic activity of 0.4 Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 was reported by Ley in the Suzuki-type cross-coupling of arylboronic acids with aryl bromides (eq 1).²⁰ ICP analysis of the crude products, following facile removal of the catalyst by filtration and evaporation of the solvent, detected palladium levels of about 13 ppm, which correspond to just 0.2% of the palladium originally in the microcapsules. Typically, for a homogeneous catalyst used at a similar equivalence, there would be several thousand ppm of palladium in the crude product. It was also reported that the catalyst was reused at least four times without significant loss of reactivity. A further benefit noted was that these reactions proceeded without the addition of phosphine ligands, which are both expensive and difficult to remove from the product.

Holmes, Ley, and co-workers recently evaluated a range of homogeneous tetrabutylammonium salts in order to develop protocols for carrying out Suzuki reactions using Pd(II) EnCatTM 40 under mild conditions with just stoichiometric quantities of base.29 Typically, such reactions entail elevated temperatures (>90 °C) and the use of 2 to 4 equivalents of base. Initial investigations centered upon batch-type Suzuki reactions in toluene-methanol (9:1, v/v) in the presence of stoichiometric quantities of (n-Bu)₄NOAc or (n-Bu)₄NOH (1 M in MeOH), (n-Bu)₄NOMe (20% w/v in MeOH), or (*n*-Bu)₄F (1 M in THF). At 110 °C, and in the presence of Pd(II) EnCatTM 40, all four $(n-Bu)_4$ NX salts were extremely effective at facilitating the cross-coupling of bromobenzene and p-tolylboronic acid, thereby giving rise to 4-methylbiphenyl in near-quantitative yields (eq 2).²⁹ At 40 °C, high coupling yields were obtained with $(n-Bu)_4$ NOH and good yields with $(n-Bu)_4$ NOMe and $(n-Bu)_4$ F. It was suggested that the higher coupling yields observed at 40 °C for $(n-Bu)_4NX$ (X = OH, OMe, and F) relative to that seen with $(n-Bu)_4$ NOAc may be attributed to the strongly nucleophilic nature of the hydroxide, methoxide, and fluoride anions, which facilitates the transmetalation process. These results demonstrate that the Suzuki cross-coupling reaction can be effected in organic solvents at low temperatures without the need for excess base.

A similar study was carried out with the more porous Pd(II) EnCat[™] 30, 4-bromofluorobenzene and phenylboronic acid in isopropyl alcohol at 70 °C (eq 3).^{26b} The results demonstrated that these batch reactions proceeded in high yields in less than 30 minutes in all cases except with $(n-Bu)_4F$. Following removal of the catalyst by simple filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the crude products were found to contain just 20-50 ppm of palladium by ICP analysis. The high speed of these reactions and the low extent of catalyst leaching suggest that this system could be appropriate for a continuous-flow Suzuki application.



4.1.1. The Suzuki Reaction in Supercritical Carbon Dioxide

Supercritical carbon dioxide has a potential as an alternative solvent for organic synthesis,³⁰ and there has been considerable interest in performing hydrogenations³¹ and C–C-bond-forming reactions³² in this versatile solvent. Ley, Holmes, and co-workers further demonstrated the versatility of the microencapsulated catalyst in a series of Suzuki reactions, between *p*-tolylboronic acid and aryl halides in scCO₂, which proceeded in yields similar to those obtained in conventional organic solvents (**eq 4**).³³ Separation of the catalyst was achieved by simple filtration of the ethyl acetate solution into which the reaction mixture had been vented.

With a view to extending this technique to continuous-flow reactions, Lee et al. screened a series of tetrabutylammonium salts at 100 °C and 40 °C in the Pd(II) $EnCat^{TM}$ 40 mediated Suzuki coupling between bromobenzene and *p*-tolylboronic acid (eq 5).²⁹ At 100 °C and 3000 psi of CO₂, all four (*n*-Bu)₄NX salts gave 4-methylbiphenyl in near-quantitative yields. At 40 °C and 1400 psi, a good yield was obtained only with (*n*-Bu)₄NOMe.

4.1.2. The Suzuki Reaction Under Continuous-Flow Conditions

Ley, Holmes, and co-workers were the first to achieve a continuous-flow Suzuki coupling over a Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 stationary phase.²⁹ In this feasibility study, a stock solution containing iodobenzene, p-tolylboronic acid, and (n-Bu)₄NX was passed through an HPLC column packed with Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 catalyst at 55 °C. The yield per pass through the column was determined by GC (eq 6).²⁹ These preliminary results were very encouraging in the case of $(n-Bu)_4$ NOH and $(n-Bu)_4$ NOMe, giving rise to the biphenyl product in 70% and 85% yields, respectively, after just 3 passes. Even more impressive was the performance of $(n-Bu)_4$ NOMe at 70 °C (entry 5), which gave a quantitative yield after one pass through the Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 stationary phase. In the case of the reactions with $(n-Bu)_4$ NOAc, $(n-Bu)_4$ NF, and $(n-Bu)_4$ NOH at 55 °C, there was some phase separation of the reaction mixture, which probably explains the lower yields. It was suggested that the methanol liberated from (*n*-Bu)₄NOMe during the reaction solubilizes the other species, thus maintaining a homogeneous solution.

4.2. Carbonylation

The Cambridge researchers have also reported the formation of a range of substituted aryl esters in high yields by the Pd(II) EnCat^M 40 catalyzed addition of carbon monoxide to aryl iodides in *n*-butyl alcohol at 90 °C (**eq 7**).³³ The encapsulated catalyst was simply removed by filtration. Following solvent evaporation, the crude products contained approximately 79 ppm of Pd (w/w) corresponding to about 1% leaching of palladium from the microcapsules.

4.3. The Heck Coupling

Pd(II) EnCatTM 40 has been effectively utilized in a series of Heck couplings in conventional organic solvents (**eq 8**) and in scCO₂ (**eq 9**).³³ With (*n*-Bu)₄NOAc, a series of unsaturated esters were produced in high yields (with the exception of the reaction with 4-bromoanisole) without the addition of phosphine ligands. It was noted that the yields were generally higher in scCO₂ even at a lower catalyst loading. Following removal of the catalyst and evaporation of the solvent, the crude products contained 60 ppm of palladium by ICP analysis.

Vickerstaffe et al. have recently reported the use of Pd(II) $EnCat^{M}$ 40 in a Heck reaction that formed a key step in the first

Table 2. THF-Wet-State Microcapsule Pore Dimensions by Chromatographic Porosimetry^a

Property	Pd(II) EnCat [™] 30	Pd(II) EnCat [™] 40
Swollen bulk density (g/mL)	0.330	0.469
Swollen pore volume (mL/g)	1.65	0.73
Pore surface/pore volume (m ² /cm ³)	1686.5 ± 20.3	2875.8 ± 46.2
Average pore radius (nm)	1.19 ± 0.01	0.70 ± 0.01

^a Calculations use molecular statistical theory, and are based on a relationship between molecular weight and radius of gyration valid for polystyrene at molecular weights > 10,000 Dattons. Extrapolations below this molecular weight lead to unreliable absolute pore dimension data, but are valid for comparisons of similar materials using similar probe molecules.





Figure 3. Pore Size Distribution (PSD) for Pd(II) EnCat[™] 30 and Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 in the Tetrahydrofuran-Swollen State as Determined by Chromatographic Porosimetry. (Graph courtesy of Avecia Ltd, and is reproduced with permission.)

	Table 3. Palladium Leaching from Microcapsules ^a						
	0.4 Pd(II) EnCat [™] 40 0.4 Pd(II) EnCat [™] 3						
Entry	Solvent	Pd (ppm)	% Pd Extracted ^b	Pd (ppm)	% Pd Extracted⁵		
1	THF	1	0.15	4	0.30		
2	Acetone	<1	<0.15	1	0.08		
3	Ethanol	<1	<0.15	<1	<0.08		
4	Acetonitrile	1	0.15	<1	<0.08		
5	IPA	<1	<0.15	<1	<0.08		
6	Toluene	<1	<0.15	<1	<0.08		
7	Dioxane	1	0.15	<1	<0.08		
8	Ethyl Acetate	<1	<0.15	<1	<0.08		
9	DMF	7	1.08	5	0.39		
10	DMA	6	0.93	3	1.00		

^a The catalyst (0.3 g) was stirred and heated at 80 °C in the solvent (20 mL) for 2 days. The solid catalyst was then filtered off, and the palladium content of the filtrate determined by ICP analysis and expressed as ppm Pd in the solvent and as a percent of the total available Pd that was extracted by the solvent. $^{\circ}$ Pd extracted as a percent of total palladium available.

Ref. 26b



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cross-coupling reaction: column 5 cm (l) \times 4.5 mm (i.d.); flow rate 0.2 mL/min; residence time ca. 4 min. ^b Percent yield per pass through the HPLC column was determined by GC. Ref. 29

eq 6

fully automated, unattended, multistep, and polymer-assisted solution-phase (PASP) synthesis of an array of histone deacetylase (HDAc) inhibitors. Despite the number of continuous steps, they were able to obtain 34 out of the 36 targeted compounds in reasonable yields and purities.³⁴ The Heck olefination of an iodophenyl sulfonamide with acrylic acid was investigated using the immobilized palladium catalysts Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 and Fibrecat[™] 1001³⁵ as a way to facilitate product workup (eq 10).³⁴ Using a ReactArray SK233 automated reaction sampling system, it was demonstrated that the competing dehalogenation pathway was minimized using Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 as the source of palladium with tributylamine as base, and that the desired product was obtained in 80% yield after 13.3 h versus a 60% yield with Fibrecat[™] 1001—a polyethylene-supported, phosphine-ligand-based palladium catalyst.¹¹

4.4. The Intramolecular Heck Coupling

Smith and collaborators have reported that $Pd(II) EnCat^{TM}$ 40 can be effectively applied in intramolecular olefination reactions in acetonitrile or DMF (eq 11).³⁶ Unlike $Pd(PPh_3)_4$, the encapsulated catalyst does not produce triphenylphospine oxide as a byproduct, and only a slight palladium contamination of the products is observed. Faster reactions are usually obtained with DMF, presumably because DMF allows some leaching of palladium from Pd(II) EnCatTM; the encapsulated catalyst in this case probably acts as a convenient slow-release reservoir of highly active nanoparticulate Pd(0) species.

4.5. The Stille Coupling

The utility of Pd(II) $EnCat^{TM}$ 40 was further demonstrated in a series of Stille couplings in conventional organic solvents and in $scCO_2$ (eq 12).³³ It was noted that the yields in $scCO_2$ were lower than those in isopropyl alcohol-toluene, although less catalyst was used in $scCO_2$. The feasibility of reusing the recovered catalyst was also demonstrated by performing a series of sequential Stille reactions of phenyltrimethylstannane with 4-nitrobromobenzene. In all cases, the reactions proceeded to completion giving a near-quantitative yield (97–99%) of the coupled product. A progressive increase in reaction time in successive runs was also observed, indicating that some of the more accessible metal may have been removed in the preceding reaction or after washing with solvent following recovery of the catalyst.³³

5 4.6. Parallel Synthesis of Chemical Libraries

The Suzuki coupling of boronic acids or boronates with aryl halides is a powerful diversity-generating reaction. Microwave heating dramatically improves reaction times and conversions and, with diverse substrates, provides an opportunity for a more general reactivity.³⁷

Wang and Sauer have described the use of microwave heating in Suzuki cross-couplings that utilize FibreCatTM 1001 (eq 13).³⁸ Good yields and purities were obtained by using an excess of the boronic acid and solid-phase extraction with a silica-supported carbonate base during workup. The use of Pd(II) EnCatTM 40 in a microwave-promoted synthesis of a biaryl library from a diverse set of boronic acids and aryl halides has been reported (eq 14).^{36,39} A Personal Chemistry Synthesizer microwave reactor was utilized together with an experimental design strategy that optimized conditions including solvent, temperature, base, stoichiometry, and time against substrate reactivity in order to generate robust general reaction conditions. The base, tetra(*n*butyl)ammonium acetate, was dispensed in acetonitrile prior to reaction. After cooling, the microencapsulated catalyst was

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filtered prior to purification. Alternatively, the reaction mixture was applied directly to disposable chromatography cartridges and purified, thus separating the catalyst at the same time. The library was constructed by reacting 19 aryl halides with 12 boronic acids to produce a set of 157 pure biaryl products (68% success rate).

5. Catalytic Applications of Encapsulated Palladium(0) 5.1. Hydrogenation

The reduction of Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 with hydrogen produces Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40, which is an effective catalyst for the selective hydrogenation of unsaturated bonds in alkenes, alkynes, imines, and nitro groups (eq 15).⁴⁰ Recovery of the catalyst is simple compared to that of palladium-on-carbon, levels of metal contamination in the crude products are extremely low, and the catalyst can be readily recycled. All of the initial hydrogenations reported were carried out with Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40 pre-reduced under hydrogen (50 bar) for two days. It was found that this prereduction of Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 was necessary for high activity and reduced reaction times. The hydrogenations were carried out under a hydrogen atmosphere either in an autoclave or maintained by a hydrogen-filled balloon.

Simple alkenes, alkynes, and aryl nitro groups were reduced at room temperature under an atmosphere of hydrogen (inflated balloon) with near-quantitative conversions as determined by GC or LCMS. Using cyclohexene as a test substrate, it was demonstrated that the catalyst could be recycled 20 times without any significant loss of activity. The reduction of electron-deficient styrenes was sluggish at room temperature and required slightly elevated temperatures (60 °C) to yield the reduced products. Reduction of trans-N-phenylbenzylidene, on the other hand, required the use of high pressure (50 bar). Interestingly, potentially labile groups such as alkyl epoxides, aryl halides, and benzyloxy groups remained unaffected even after being subjected to high pressures (up to 50 bar) and extended reaction times. However, the benzyloxycarbonyl group in N-Cbz-N-methylallylamine was cleaved under high pressure (50 bar), whereas the same group remained intact when the same reaction was performed under an atmosphere of hydrogen (maintained by a hydrogen balloon), which gave rise to the reduced product in 93% isolated yield. All of the crude products from the hydrogenations contained less than 10 ppm of palladium, as determined by ICP analysis, which corresponds to <0.025% of the original metal being lost from the encapsulated catalyst. These results demonstrate that, although less reactive than Pd/C, Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40 allows the selective reduction of double bonds to be carried out in the presence of sensitive functionalities. When coupled with its ease of handling, facile removal from reaction mixtures, and apparent reduced pyrophoric tendency, this selectivity makes Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40 an attractive choice for large-scale operations.

5.2. Transfer Hydrogenation

While the hydrogenation of Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 did not produce an active catalyst for transfer hydrogenation reactions,⁴¹ the formic acid reduction of the microencapsulated Pd(II) resulted in a highly effective transfer-hydrogenation catalyst.⁴² An examination of high-resolution TEM images of Pd(0) EnCat[™], produced by reduction with hydrogen or with formic acid, confirmed the hypothesis that polyurea-coordinated Pd(OAc)₂ undergoes anionic ligand exchange with formate to form a palladium diformate complex (Scheme 2).⁴¹ This complex is known to undergo decarboxylation followed by loss of molecular hydrogen to form Pd(0), which is deposited as fine nanoparticles within the



(n-Bu)₄NOAc

Yield Yield

(i) (ii)

74%

82%

Ref. 33

50%

>34%

(i) 0.4 Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 (2.5 mol %) PhMe--i-PrOH (1:1), 90 °C

(ii) 0.4 Pd(II) EnCat[™] 40 (0.4 mol %)

scCO2 (3,000 psi), 100 °C, 16 h

Н Br

2-OMe Br 4-OMe Br 88% 45%

4.F Br

4-NO2 Br 99% 50%

4-NO2 CI

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eq 12

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Scheme 2. Formation of Nanoparticulate Pd(0) via Ligand Exchange with the Formate Anion.

Ref. 41

+ 2 CO

+ H2



2-naphthyl, 2-pyr, 4-pyr Ref. 42

eq 17

polyurea matrix.⁴¹ It was anticipated, that following reduction of the homogeneous palladium(II), the polyurea matrix would prevent agglomeration of the palladium(0) nanoparticles.

In the sample prepared by reduction of Pd(II) EnCatTM 40 with hydrogen, the majority of the Pd(0) particles were found to be larger than 5 nm in diameter. In contrast, images of Pd(0) particles produced by reduction with formic acid revealed that most of the particles have a diameter of ≤ 2 nm, and provided evidence for highly ordered areas corresponding to the preferred cubic, close-packed palladium cell structure.⁴¹

Ley and co-workers first established the efficiency and stability of this new nanoparticulate Pd(0) catalyst, Pd(0) EnCatTM 40NP, by examining the reduction of acetophenone (10 mol % Pd(0) EnCatTM 40NP, 200 μ L EtOAc, 0.8 mmol HCO₂H, 0.8 mmol NEt₃, 0.016 mmol PhC(=O)Me, 24 °C).⁴² The reduction proceeded to completion with excellent isolated yields (96–99%) through five successive recycle runs and, importantly, there was no evidence for compounds formed from over-reduction of the aromatic ring or cleavage of the hydroxyl group.

The superior catalytic properties of Pd(0) EnCatTM 40NP, as compared to those of 10% Pd/C, were demonstrated by carrying out the reduction of propiophenone under identical conditions: 10% Pd/C facilitated only an 86% conversion to the benzyl alcohol product (eq 16).⁴²

It has been noted that the metal center within the Pd(0) EnCatTM 40NP catalyst is more electron-rich than Pd/C, which may account for the higher catalytic activity. It has been further suggested that the small size of the palladium nanoparticles may also have a profound effect.^{41,42} The scope of this new catalyst system was established by carrying out a wide range of aryl ketone transfer reductions. In all cases, the reactions reached completion within 18 to 68 hours and led to very high yields of the secondary alcohol products (eq 17).⁴²

5.3. Transfer Hydrogenation in Parallel Synthesis

More recently, nanoparticulate Pd(0) EnCat[™] NP has been used as an alternative to Pd/C in automated, parallel transfer hydrogenations to prepare a library of biaryl alcohols of interest as herbicide intermediates.^{36,43} This catalyst system is attractive in parallel synthesis, where chemists prefer not to use gaseous hydrogenation and potentially pyrophoric reagents. The higher activity, ease of catalyst removal by simple filtration, and the reduced risk from ignition of solvent–air mixtures should make this the catalyst system of choice in parallel transfer hydrogenations.

Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40NP can be readily separated from parallelsynthesis reaction mixtures using polypropylene reaction tubes. The tubes are sintered at the bottom, allowing gravity or vacuumassisted filtration from 48-position reactor blocks via outlet tubes with a universal locking mechanism. As part of an experiment to further explore the scope of the reduction of aryl ketones, 96 diverse ketones were reacted in parallel with Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40NP under standard transfer-hydrogenation conditions [Pd(0) EnCat™ 40NP (10 mol %), EtOAc, Et₃N, HCO₂H, 24 °C, 48 h].^{36,43} After filtration and evaporation, the residues in dichloromethane were treated with water and filtered through a phase-separation plate. In many cases, high conversions (79-100%) were observed, leading to pure products, the purities of which were established by GC and NMR. Very hindered or electron-rich aromatic ketones were found to be unreactive or slower to reduce. Biaryl ketones, such as benzophenone, showed significant amounts of over-reduction to the corresponding methylene compounds. Aromatic halides (except fluorine) were also rapidly reduced; for example, 1-pentoyl-2,4-dichlorobenzene gave pure α -pentyl

31

benzyl alcohol (100% yield). This provides a very mild method for dechlorination of aromatic substrates. 2-Acylpyridine was reduced to the corresponding alcohol (79% yield), whereas 3acylpyridine was reduced to the corresponding tetrahydropyridine (59% yield). Reactions with electron-rich or sterically hindered ketones were much more sluggish. Optimization experiments of catalyst loading and reagent stoichiometry indicated that efficient conversions could be obtained with acetophenone down to 2 mol % Pd(0) EnCatTM 40NP and only two equivalents of formic acid and triethylamine. A comparison of Pd(0) EnCatTM 40NP with the more porous Pd(0) EnCatTM 30NP using standard conditions, showed the latter to be far more effective with the least reactive substrates (**eq 18**).³⁶

5.4. Reduction of the Aryl Nitro Group

Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40NP has been employed in the reductive cyclization of various Leimgruber–Batcho-derived enamines to form the corresponding indoles (**Scheme 3**).⁴⁴ Hydrogenation of the aryl nitro group was carried out under transfer-hydrogenation conditions to give the indole in high yield. The catalyst was recycled without noticeable loss in activity, and the reaction was accelerated by microwave irradiation at 120 °C. Thus, the combination of microwave-accelerated enamine formation and the use of a recyclable, easily removed catalyst for the reductive cyclization in the Leimgruber–Batcho reaction provides an industrially attractive route to indoles.

5.5. Reductive Ring Opening of Epoxides

The reductive ring opening of epoxides by hydrogenolysis in the presence of Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40NP has been investigated.⁴¹ For example, the hydrogenolysis of trans-stilbene oxide gave the alcohol in 99% isolated yield after 5 h. Over-reduction of the alcoholic C-O bond was not observed at a detectable level even after prolonged reaction times. This illustrates the clear advantage of Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40NP over Pd/C in terms of chemoselectivity. Under identical conditions, 10% Pd/C gave the desired secondary alcohol in 80% yield from trans-stilbene oxide, and in only 48% yield from methylstyrene oxide.²⁶ In these Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40NP reductions, the catalyst was recovered by simple filtration and reused without loss of activity. In the case of trans-stilbene oxide, the catalyst was recycled through 10 successive hydrogenolysis reactions and, in each case, gave high isolated yields (96-99%) of the corresponding benzylic alcohol. Moreover, the level of palladium in the reaction medium following filtration of the catalyst was below the detection limit (5 ppm) of ICP analysis.41

A range of other benzylic epoxides were also subjected to the same hydrogenolysis conditions, and good-toexcellent yields (82–99%) of the homobenzylic alcohols were consistently obtained. In each case, the epoxides were opened regioselectively at the benzylic carbon. The stereoselectivity of the ring opening was investigated by using enantiomerically pure *trans*-methylstyrene oxide, which was reduced with complete retention of configuration at the homobenzylic carbon atom (**eq 19**).⁴¹

We have demonstrated that methyl styrene oxide undergoes hydrogenolysis faster with the more porous Pd(0) EnCatTM 30NP than with Pd(0) EnCatTM 40NP. A near-quantitative conversion into the anticipated product occurred in less than 30 minutes.^{26b} Furthermore, the catalyst (EnCatTM 30NP or 40NP) was readily recovered and recycled and, following catalyst removal and solvent evaporation, the product contained less than 5 ppm of palladium by ICP analysis. **5.5.1. Reductive Ring Opening of** α , β-Epoxy Ketones The β-hydroxy carbonyl functionality is an important structural motif, which often appears in natural products and can generally be installed by an aldol reaction. This is not always convenient, however, and reductive cleavage of α , β-epoxy ketones is an important alternative. Ley's group demonstrated that α , β-epoxy ketones undergo reductive cleavage in the presence of Pd(0) EnCat[™] 40NP to give the corresponding β-hydroxy ketones in good yields (eq 20).⁴¹ NMR analysis indicated that the main side product was the diketone.

5.5.2. Reductive Ring Opening of Terminal Epoxides

Due to recent advances in the area of catalytic epoxidation of terminal olefins,⁴⁵ the regioselective reduction of terminal epoxides is a particularly attractive route to substituted alcohols. Unfortunately, the reduction of (2,3-epoxypropyl)benzene with Pd(0) EnCatTM 40NP under transfer-hydrogenation conditions was very slow. But, encouragingly, a good yield (85%) of the





Et₂N, 23 °C, 26 h

Ref. 41

81%

eq 20

Polyurea-Encapsulated Palladium Catalysts: The Development and Application of a New and Versatile Immobilized-Homogeneous-Catalyst Technology

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secondary alcohol was obtained under conventional hydrogenation conditions [Pd(0) EnCat^m 40NP (5 mol %), MeOH, H₂ (40 atm), 23 °C, 19 h].⁴¹

6. Conclusions and Outlook

It is hoped that the above selected examples have demonstrated that polyurea-microencapsulated homogeneous catalysts offer advantages to the synthetic organic chemist both for laboratoryscale use and in manufacturing. The outlook for this field is exciting, with the potential to microencapsulate a range of homogeneous metal catalysts and ligands in tailored matrix materials.

7. Acknowledgments

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8. References and Notes

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- Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. Email: david. pears@reaxa.com.
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About the Authors

David A. Pears was born in St. Albans, England. He was raised in Harpenden and entered Southampton University in 1979, graduating with a B.Sc. (Honours) in 1982. He then joined Professor J. F. Stoddart's group at Sheffield University to carry out research on chiral crown ethers as enantioselective catalysts, and graduated with a Ph.D. in 1985. He joined ICI's New Science Group in the same year to work on the synthesis of novel-effect monomers for use in high-performance surface coatings. In 1990, he transferred to Holland to lead a research team within ICI's NeoResins business in developing water-based, UV rapid-cure coating systems. In 1993, he returned to the U.K. to work as Research Group Leader with Zeneca and, in 1998, was made Business Research Associate. In the same year, he joined Avecia as a group leader within its Core Polymer Group. He has published over 70 patents and scientific papers. David currently works within Avecia's Pharmaceuticals business in Manchester, England. In 2004, he was awarded the U.K.'s Chemical Industries Association "Innovation of the Year" award for the development of the Pd EnCat[™] catalyst technology in collaboration with Professor Steven Ley and scientists at AstraZeneca and Syngenta.

Stephen C. Smith was born in Windsor, England. He studied chemistry at Imperial College, London, where he was awarded a B.Sc. degree in 1988. This was followed by a Ph.D. with Professor Steven Ley, CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) at Imperial College, which was earned for work on the synthesis of the potent insect-antifeedant azadirachtin. In 1991, Steve moved to the University of California at Berkeley as a NATO fellow to conduct postdoctoral research with Professor Clayton Heathcock on the synthesis of the cytotoxic bis-steroidal cephalostatins. He returned to the U.K. to join what was then ICI Plant Protection at Jealott's Hill, Bracknell, at the end of 1992. This then became Zeneca Agrochemicals. Steve spent three years as a team leader in the Herbicide Chemistry group, working on a number of hit-to-lead and optimization projects, followed by two years on secondment in the Process Technology Department at Huddersfield in the U.K. Here, he led a team developing the first stages in a process to manufacture the active ingredient in the herbicide sulfosate. Steve returned to Jealott's Hill to work on new leads in insecticide chemistry and, in 1999, moved into his current role as Head of the Syngenta Chemical Technology Group. This encompasses combinatorial chemistry, robotic synthesis, and new synthetic technologies such as microwave chemistry, solid-phase synthesis, supported reagents, and catalysis. He is an author on over 50 scientific papers and patents. Steve led the original microencapsulated-catalyst joint collaborative project with Professor Steven Ley from 1999 to 2002. The project team (Syngenta, Avecia, AstraZeneca, and Cambridge University) received the Institute of Applied Catalysis (iAc) Innovation Award in 2004.



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§ 10/30 joints	Z55,395-6	Z55,406-5
§ 14/20 joints	Z55,396-4	Z55,407-3
§ 19/22 joints	Z55,397-2	Z55,408-1
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100	24/40	24/40	Z55,758-7
250	24/40	14/20	Z55,759-5
250	24/40	24/40	Z55,760-9
100	29/32	14/20	Z55,761-7
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Name Reactions in Heterocyclic Chemistry

J. J. Li, Ed., Wiley, 2004, 558pp. Hardcover. The chemistry of heterocyclic compounds and methods for their synthesis form the bedrock of modern medicinal, chemical, and pharmaceutical research. The primary topics include three- and four-membered heterocycles; five-membered heterocycles including indoles, furans, thiophenes, and oxazoles; six-membered heterocycles including quinolines, isoquinolines, and pyrimidines; and other heterocycles. Each name reaction is summarized in seven sections: description, historical perspective, mechanism, variations and improvements, synthetic utility, experimental, and references.

Z70,312-5

Protecting Groups, 3rd Edition

P. J. Kocienski, Thieme Publishers, 2004, 679pp. Softcover. Provides a concise and understandable presentation of modern protecting group methods. The introductory chapter provides a sophisticated overview of the application of protecting groups in contemporary syntheses. At the heart of the book are seven chapters, which deal authoritatively and thoroughly with the protection of the various core functional groups, from carbonyl to amino. The final chapter presents an insight into the realities of synthetic practice and twenty-five problems for people who love to understand chemistry.

Z55,155-4

DRUG DISCOVERY TITLES

The Organic Chemistry of Drug Design and Drug Action, 2nd Edition

R. B. Silverman, Academic Press, 2004, 617pp. Hardcover. Standard medicinal chemistry courses and texts are organized by classes of drugs with an emphasis on descriptions of their biological and pharmacological effects. This book represents a new approach based on physical organic chemical principles and reaction mechanisms that rationalize drug action and allow the reader to extrapolate to many related classes of drug molecules. The second edition reflects the significant changes in the drug industry over the past decade, and now includes color illustrations, chapter problems, and other elements that make concepts easier to understand.

Z70,239-0

Chirality in Drug Design and Development

I. K. Reddy and R. Mehvar, Eds., Marcel Dekker, 2004, 444pp. Hardcover. Covers every essential element in the development of chiral products, and provides a solid overview of the formulation, biopharmaceutical characteristics, and regulatory issues impacting the production of these pharmaceuticals. Supports researchers as they critically evaluate the pharmacodynamic, pharmacokinetic, and toxicological characteristics of specific enantiomers and chiral drug compounds.

Z70,245-5

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY TITLES

Analytical Method Validation and Instrument Performance Verification

C. C. Chan et al., Eds., Wiley, 2004, 320pp. Hardcover. Full of practical tips on validation techniques and detailed discussions of instrument performance verification, this guide represents a one-stop reference for today's regulatory environment. Each chapter includes general requirements, strategies and steps taken to fulfill these conditions, and a discussion of practical problems and their solutions. Coverage includes: method validation of potency, related substances, and dissolution testing; validation for pharmaceutical excipients, heavy metals, and bioanalysis; performance verification for common analytical instruments including HPLC, UV-Vis spectrophotometers, and pH meters; LCMS system calibration; proper environmental chamber qualification; and entire gualification process for computer equipment, hardware, and software.

Z70,199-8

NMR Spectroscopy: Data Acquisition, 2nd Edition

C. Schorn and B. Taylor, Wiley, 2004, 380pp. Hardcover with CD-ROM. This key to correct structure analysis is now in its second edition. The result is a volume encouraging beginners to use highresolution NMR, while prompting experts to evaluate new experiments using the easily manageable Bruker simulation program 1D and 2D WIN-NMR of the accompanying CD-ROM. Newcomers may come to understand basic data acquisition procedures, modular pulse sequence units, and complete sequences in NMR spectroscopy.

Z70,309-5

MATERIALS SCIENCE TITLES

Nanoparticles: From Theory to Application

G. Schmid, Ed., Wiley, 2004, 444pp. Hardcover. This is an introduction to the science of nanoparticles, from fundamental principles to their use in novel applications. As a basis for understanding nanoparticle behavior, the book outlines the principles of quantum-size behavior, nanoparticles architecture, formation of semiconductor and metal nanoparticles. It then goes on to describe the chemical syntheses of nanoparticles with defined characteristics, their structural, electrical, and magnetic properties, as well as current methods to monitor these properties.

Z55,137-6

SPECIAL TOPICS TITLES High-Throughput Screening in Chemical Catalysis: Technologies, Strategies and Applications

A. Hagemeyer et al., Eds., Wiley, 2004, 339pp. Hardcover. This is the first book to cover all of the important aspects of this field. The editors, from Symyx Technologies Inc., have assembled a group of distinguished authors, each contributing the most up-to-date results and status in their application of high-throughput methodologies. Each chapter is devoted to a major topic including: high-throughput micro-reactor and synthesis equipment technologies, analytical approaches, experimental design and testing strategies, and fully integrated workflows for materials discovery. Examples in chemical catalysis are presented with an emphasis on heterogeneous catalysis, olefin polymerization using homogeneous catalysis, and electrocatalysis for fuel cells.

Z70,314-1

Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks for Dummies

H. Charmasson, Wiley, 2004, 380pp. Softcover. This book explains, in layman's terms, the basic nature, function, and application of intellectual property (IP) rights, including how you can acquire those rights, wield them effectively against your competitors, or exploit them lucratively through licensing agreements and other rewarding ventures. The book covers all of these critical concepts, such as working with IP professionals, presenting a patent explanation, determining what is copyrighted and what isn't, protecting your commercial identity, inspecting the basic elements of a license, determining infringement, and avoiding the ten worst naming blunders.

Z70,281-1

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