Preface

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The OPU–TKU Joint Symposium has been held annually between Osaka Prefecture University (OPU) and Tamkang University (TKU) in rotation fashion for 5 years since 2013. These include the first meeting in Osaka, Japan, in 2013; the second in New Taipei City, Taiwan, in 2014; the third in Osaka, Japan, in 2015; the fourth in New Taipei City, Taiwan, in 2016; and the fifth in Osaka, Japan, in 2017. In order to expand the scope of this meeting and recruit more outstanding scholars, the founder of this symposium, Prof. Masakazu Anpo (the former Academic Vice President of OPU), suggested inviting more colleges, especially from Vietnam, to participate OPU–TKU Joint Symposium. For this reason, universities such as HCMUT (HCM City University of Technology), DLU (Dalat University, Dalat City), and TNU (Tay Nguyen University, Buon Ma Thuot City) were invited to be the members of this joint symposium. Hence, it is appropriate to change the title of the symposium from the OPU–TKU Joint Symposium to the 6th TKU–OPU–HCMUT–DLU–TNU Joint Symposium on Chemistry and Natural Sciences (JSCNS-6). The first JSCNS-6 has been held at Tamkang University (TKU) in New Taipei City, during Nov. 22–24, 2018.

Because of the outstanding works presented during the symposium, the organizing committee proposed to publish a special issue on *Research on Chemical Intermediates*. This special issue is also dedicated to the founder of this symposium, Prof. Masakazu Anpo, who initiated and strengthens this symposium.

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Additionally, we would like to congratulate Prof. Masakazu Anpo on receiving the Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair lectureship award in recognizing his contribution of improving academic status of TKU.

The nine papers included in this special issue give an idea of advances of our knowledge and capabilities in this field. The topic of these papers includes the application of antagonistic bacteria to serve as biocontrol agents, nanoparticle catalyst in removing non-biodegradable organic compounds in waste water, theoretical investigation on conformational conversion of amyloid peptides, microwave-assisted synthesis of boron-containing tetrazole compounds, a review article about the critical role for the small GTPase Rac1 in insulin signaling pathway, the development of an agarose dispersed liquid crystals platform for detecting mercuric ions in water, the efficient strategy to synthesize nitidine family alkaloids. We would like to thank all the authors for presenting their latest research for this special issue. We also express our sincere gratitude to all the reviewers for their effort and expertise in reviewing the manuscripts.

Prof. Masakazu Anpo, President of Tamkang Clement and Carrie Foundation (Prof. Flora Chia-I Chang), and President of Tamkang University (Prof. Huan-Chao Keh)

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