

## Editorial

Professor LIU YouCheng is a pioneer of free radical chemistry in China. He was elected as a Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1980 and as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 2008. Professor Liu set up the first laboratory of free radical chemistry in China at Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, Gansu Province and has made outstanding contributions to many aspects of free radical chemistry. Therefore, he is generally known as the founder of free radical chemistry in China. I was fortunate enough to be a student of Professor Liu for my MS and PhD qualifications and had the privilege of being educated and guided by him. I have been deeply impressed and influenced by his dedication and enthusiasm to science, his rigorous attitude towards scientific research, his hard-working and modest personality, and the great care and attention he pays to his students and colleagues.

Professor Liu has made an exceptional contribution to the organic chemistry programs at Lanzhou University and University of Science and Technology of China (USTC). With his long-term effort, guidance and leadership at Lanzhou University from 1955 to 1994, the organic chemistry program at Lanzhou University developed into and remains one of the best in China. In 1994, Professor Liu moved to USTC, where he contributed in building a strong organic chemistry faculty. With the endeavors of Professor Liu and his colleagues, the Organic Chemistry Division at USTC developed very rapidly, and received approval as a National Key Discipline in 2007.

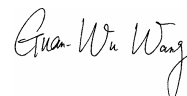
Professor Liu is also committed to the future development of science and the growth of the younger generations. At the time of the 50th anniversary of USTC, he donated

300000 Yuan to found the “LIU YouCheng Scholarship” to encourage young students to dedicate themselves to science.

On November 26, 2008, the staff from the editorial office of *Chinese Science Bulletin* and *Science in China* visited USTC and held a meeting with the members of the editorial board working at USTC. During the meeting, I proposed the possibility of a special issue to celebrate the upcoming 90th birthday of Professor LIU YouCheng, and the proposal was immediately approved.

The contributors of this special issue are Professor Liu's former students, friends and colleagues. In total, there are 24 papers, including two reviews, eight Letters and 14 articles. Regrettably, this issue cannot accommodate more papers because it has already significantly exceeded the page number of a standard issue. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to those who contributed to this issue and those who desired to but could not contribute because of the page limit. I am also indebted to the referees for providing high-standard and critical reviews.

This whole issue is respectfully dedicated to Professor Liu in celebration of his 90th birthday and in honor of his extraordinary contribution and service to the chemistry community and China.



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