

FOREWORD

The present issue of the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. Chemistry* is dedicated to two Estonian distinguished chemists – Professor Viktor Palm on the occasion of his 75th birthday and Professor Ülo Lille on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Prof. Palm and Prof. Lille have been active in different areas of chemical research.

Prof. Palm has been the main Professor in organic chemistry in Estonia for decades, who has taught hundreds of students to understand the art of chemical transformations. He also founded a school of physical organic chemistry. His students and successors who are working at present in theoretical chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology always keep in mind the basic concepts of fundamentals of the chemical reaction.

Prof. Lille started his scientific career with the investigation of oil shale phenols, he continued it with bioorganic chemistry of bioactive natural products – with chemical and biosynthesis of prostaglandins. His successors are working now in synthetic organic chemistry, in bioorganic chemistry of bioactive compounds, in enzymatic chemical synthesis, in biotesting of chemical compounds, etc. Both these directions of chemical research have proved their vitality and have brought outstanding scientific results.

The present issue reports some recent results of successors of Prof. Viktor Palm and Prof. Ülo Lille. The presented articles deal with asymmetric synthesis, the synthesis of bioactive compounds, the molecules of interest in bioorganic chemistry, and physical organic chemistry. These are areas where Prof. Palm and Prof. Lille have had significant influence in Estonia.

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