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Synthetic organic chemistry will continue to play a pivotal role in the field of medicinal sciences in the 21st century through the efficient synthesis of medicines and the creation of leading compounds for new pharmaceuticals and chemical probes for life science research. To comply with requests to speed up and diversify research as well as the need for environmentally benign synthesis, further improvement of synthetic organic chemistry with innovative ideas is desired. Expected to play a leadership role in achieving this goal are young chemists seeking breakthroughs. In this series of annual symposia, young chemists in either academia or the private sector are invited to present their recent research results. This year, eight will speak on two topics, "Transition metal-catalyzed organic syntheses" and "Practical medicinal chemistry," both of which have made great progress recently. Discussion of current problems and future perspectives is expected from the audience.