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The central mission for pharmaceutical industry is to discover and synthesize the new drug substances meeting contemporary needs for the global market. Importance of process chemistry has now emerged, because the industry has been attracting increasing attention to deliver good drugs to the market quickly at low cost and good quality. As is often emphasized, the shortest economic route to a complex target compound is considered to be the ideal process. On the other hands, the process meets increasing scrutiny of environmental requirements that brought more complex problems to process chemists. This Symposium discloses the latest progress in modern process chemistry and gives us the needed place for discussion and understanding these issues.

In the past, we seldom had opportunities to share the common problems of corporate research and technologies with our industry colleagues. Emerging recognition of global importance for process chemistry brought our attention to hold this kind of up-dated Symposium. We plan here to present frontier ideas in pharmaceutical research. Thus, knowledge and idea previously kept unopened will be presented, including historical achievements and future technologies that had been and will be contributed by University and industry researchers. We will also plan to have a small place for informal discussions after the Symposium.