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Natural product chemistry often provides novel structural motifs not yielded by conventional molecular design. For example, the discovery of thienamycin led to the new field of β -lactam antibiotics, and total synthesis led to the development of a series of carbapenem antibiotics. Further, recent rapid progress in bioscience has depended heavily on the understanding of biological phenomena at the molecular level. Chemical synthesis of natural products will thus promote both progress in bioscience and the development of novel drugs. The symposium will cover several aspects of the synthesis of natural products, with the emphasis on medicinal chemistry.