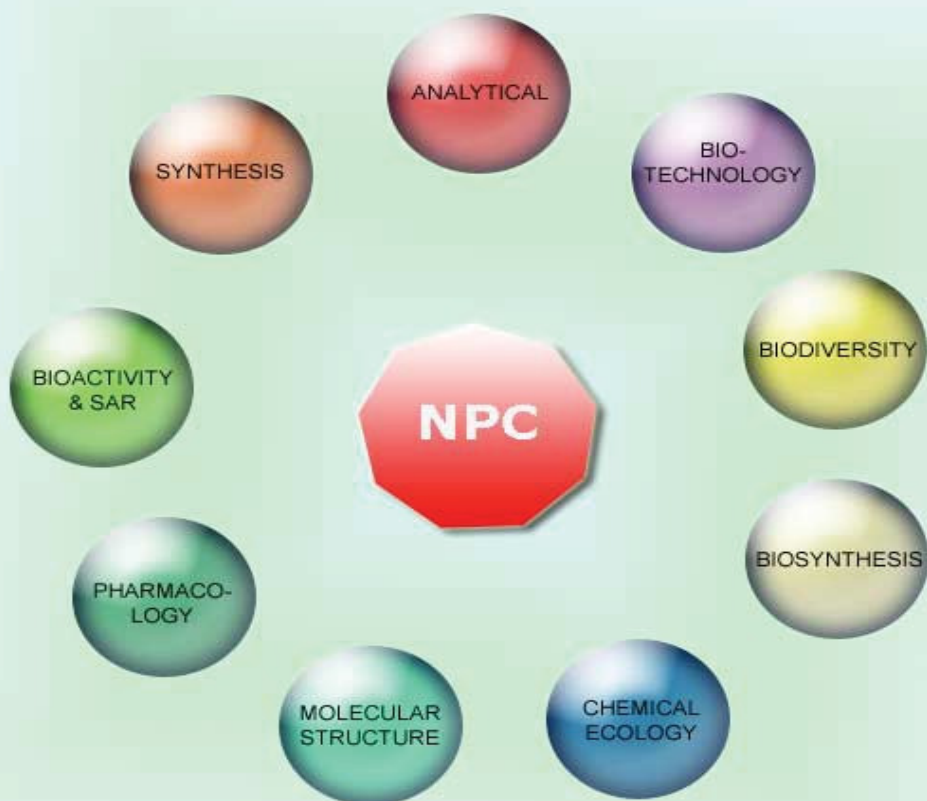


# NATURAL PRODUCT COMMUNICATIONS

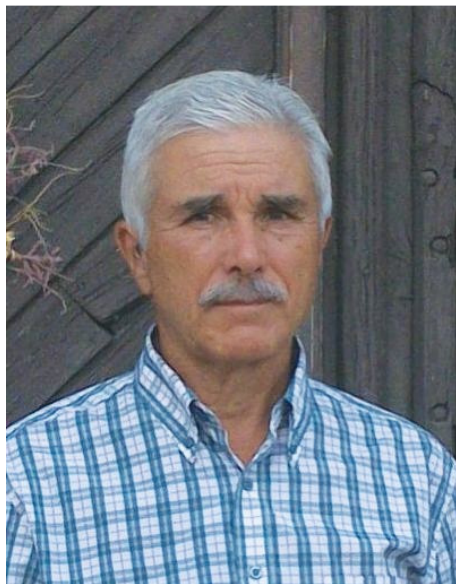
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**This Issue is Dedicated to  
Professor Alejandro F. Barrero  
On the Occasion of his 68th Birthday**

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## Editorial



### Professor Alejandro F. Barrero

The Editors and Advisory Board members of *Natural Product Communications* are delighted to be able to dedicate May 2017 issue of the journal to Professor Alejandro F. Barrero, Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain, on the occasion of his 68<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Alejandro Fernández Barrero was born in Orense (Spain) in 1949. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1975 at the University of Salamanca. After working as Head of the Organic Chemistry Laboratory at the CEPESA Research Center in San Fernando de Henares (Spain), he returned in 1978 to the University of Salamanca as a Lecturer. He moved to the University of Granada as Full Professor in 1983, where he has been Head of the Organic Chemistry Department. He has been also vice-President and President of the Natural Products Group of the Royal Spanish Society of Chemistry, receiving its Gold Medal in 2015. His work includes the direction of more than 50 doctoral theses, more than 120 Master Thesis and 26 research projects financed by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, Junta de Andalucía and contracts with biotechnological companies. His current interest is natural products chemistry in special the chemistry and biotechnology of terpenoids from plants and fungi (bioplaguicides, phytohormones, vitamins and sexual pheromones). The application of cascade bioinspired processes in special cyclizations and rearrangements, new couplings catalyzed by transition metals, develop of new natural products as starting materials and collective synthesis applied to the synthesis of natural bioactive products are also focusing its attention.

The *NPC* family joins me in paying tribute to Professor Barrero for his pre-eminent role in growth of *Natural Product Communications* as an editor. He has published several articles in *NPC* and organized a themed issue "Synthesis of Natural Products: Biomimetic Strategies and Use of Natural Occurring Starting Synthons" *Natural Product Communications*, **6** (4), 429-574 (2011).

It is a great pleasure to honor the outstanding achievements of Professor Barrero on the occasion of his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday and to send him warm wishes from all his colleagues and friends. My thanks go to the authors and reviewers who have made this issue of *Natural Product Communications* possible and to our production department for their efforts to put the issue in print. We all express our appreciation for his excellent contributions to natural products research and education worldwide and wish him all the best for his future.

**Pawan K. Agrawal**  
Editor-in-Chief

# Preface

Professor Alejandro Fernández Barrero is one of the very distinguished and internationally recognized Spanish organic chemists in our time. He is an eminent specialist in Natural Product Chemistry, as reflected by its outstanding contributions dealing with basic and applied research in the fields of Phytochemistry, Organic Synthesis, reaction mechanisms and biotechnological production of bioactive and industrial substances.

He reached its PhD in Organic Chemistry in 1975 at the University of Salamanca (USAL, Salamanca, Spain), working on terpenoids from endemic conifers. After a two-year period as responsible of the Organic Chemistry Laboratory in the CEPESA (Spanish Company of Petrol) Industrial R & D Center of Madrid, he returned as Associate Professor to the Faculty of Pharmacy USAL, and by 1983 attained the position of Full Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Granada, Spain. There, where He currently continues his professional labor, was elected as Director of the Organic Chemistry Department for three separated periods, and also acted as Director of 50 PhD theses and more than 150 Chemistry degree or Master theses. To date, He has been invited in more than a hundred occasions as speaker, lecturer and visiting professor, in scientific meetings and institutions of several European, American and Northern-African countries.

He was co-founder, then the elected President (2006-2009) of GEPRONAT, the Natural Products Specialized Group of the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry (RSEQ), and later (2012) recognized with the National Award for Excellence in Research in Natural Products Chemistry. He also held the position of the International Coordinator of the collaborative project CYTED-IV.12 (2000-2004), dealing with “Agrochemical and industrial products from natural terpenoids”, granted by the Iberian-American R&D CYTED Program, and was the leader of a lot of nationally and regionally funded research projects.

Author of more than 280 scientific articles and book chapters and active Reviewer for a dozen Q1-Q2 international scientific journals, Prof. Barrero is a member of the Editorial Board of *Current Organic Chemistry*, Editor of *Natural Product Communications* and of its special issue on “Natural Product Synthesis”, and also of *Molecules* special issue on “Terpenoids”. He appears as co-inventor in eight patents on useful terpenoids and is an efficient promoter of technological transference of R & D results to the industrial sector, giving rise to BIOFLOW SUR Company. He also acted as collaborator and scientific advisor of other alimentary and fragrance industries.

From my personal perspective, Prof. Barrero is a quiet, reflexive, critic, great and honest research leader and academic professional, fully deserving the honorable recognition that this *NPC Special Issue* represents, to which more than seventy researchers of some thirty research groups from eight countries have contributed.

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