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Nature Loves Nitrogen Heterocycles

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Abstract:

Nitrogen-containing heterocycles are central to the chemical reactions that occur in all organisms. The metabolic transformation of amino acids into five, six, and seven-member heterocycles reveals the chemical logic and enzymatic machinery for shunting primary metabolites into bioactive heterocyclic nitrogen scaffolds.

Dedicated to Harry Wasserman: I first met Harry Wasserman when I was a second year assistant professor in the MIT Chemistry Department at MIT. We had breakfast together at the Nassau Inn at Princeton in 1974 and I was immediately captivated by his enthusiasm and intensity and his open invitation to hear me discuss my plans to uncover novel enzyme-mediated chemistry in biological systems. Subsequently when Harry's son Steven enrolled as a biology graduate student at MIT, I was one of

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