

Maitotoxin: An Inspiration for Synthesis

Prof. K.C. Nicolaou

**The Scripps Research Institute
University of California, San Diego (USA)**

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Professional Career

K.C. Nicolaou was born on July 5th, 1946, in Cyprus, where he grew up and went to school until the age of 18. In 1964, he emigrated to England where he spent two years learning English and preparing to enter the University. He studied chemistry at the University of London (B.Sc., 1969, Bedford College, First Class Honors; PhD 1972, University College, with Professors F. Sondheimer and P.J. Garratt). In 1972, he moved to the United States and after postdoctoral appointments at Columbia University (1972-1973, Professor T.J. Katz) and Harvard University (1973-1976, Professor E.J. Corey) he joined the Faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, where he rose through the ranks to become the Rhodes-Thompson Professor of Chemistry. In 1989, he accepted joint appointments at the University of California, San Diego, where he is Professor of Chemistry, and The Scripps Research Institute where he is the Chairman of the Department of Chemistry and holds the Skaggs Professorship of Chemical Biology and the Darlene Shiley Chair in Chemistry.

Research Interests

The prime theme in the Nicolaou lab is the total synthesis of challenging biologically active natural products with the aim of inventing and discovering new synthetic technologies and strategies. Tandem reactions, cascade sequences and biomimetic strategies are frequently employed to rapidly and efficiently reach molecular complexity and diversity. Biology and medicine are often benefited from such endeavors, which provide wonderful opportunities to train young scientists and gain insights into the intricacies of complex molecules with regards to their chemical reactivity and biological action.