## Acknowledgments

Keeping a textbook fresh, accurate, and studentcentered through seven editions is a team effort. I have been privileged to work with many talented professionals at McGraw-Hill. Kent Peterson's enthusiastic support of Organic Chemistry has been a constant through four editions, beginning as Sponsoring Editor and now as Vice President, Director of marketing, McGraw-Hill Science. Thomas Timp has brought uncommon energy to the project through three editions, first as Marketing Manager, then as Sponsoring Editor, now as Publisher. Jodi Rhomberg as Developmental Editor and Gloria Schiesl as Project Manager combined to guide the transformation of the sixth edition to the seventh. Thanks are also due to David Hash for the crisp design, and Lorraine Buczek for her work in the early stages of the project.

Linda Davoli has been the copy editor of *Organic Chemistry* since the fourth edition. She not only knows style and grammar inside and out, but understands and improves the content as well.

Mary Reeg, the photo researcher, had to (a) understand what the author wanted in order to illustrate a concept or application; (b) find an image that fit; and (c) stay within the budget. She did all of this and usually gave the author several choices from which to pick.

The boxed essay  $\beta$ -*Lactam Antibiotics* originated in a draft written by Professor Robert Giuliano of Villanova University. I appreciate his contribution and look forward to further collaborations.

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Professor David Harpp of McGill University correctly pointed out that the classical Hell–Volhard–Zelinsky method for  $\alpha$ -halogenation of carboxylic acids suffers in comparison to modern methods. I have revised Section 19.16 accordingly and thank Professor Harpp for bringing this to my attention.

I thank Professor Robert Damrauer of the University of Colorado at Denver for sharing the results of his computational study of alkyne reduction prior to their publication. His calculations have clarified key aspects of a topic difficult to study experimentally and have influenced its presentation in this edition.

All of the infrared spectra in this edition were recorded by Thomas Gallaher of James Madison University. Inasmuch as Tom is also responsible for all of the nuclear magnetic resonance spectra in this text, his contribution deserves special mention.

As with every edition, my friend and *Solutions Manual* coauthor, Professor Emeritus Robert C. Atkins of James Madison University, has been a consistent source of advice and encouragement.

I am particularly grateful to my family—my wife Jill; our sons Andy, Bob, and Bill; and our grandchildren Riyad and Ava. Their contributions to the project are beyond measure, and I thank them all.

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