

November 15, 2007

Professor Nicholas E. Geacintov
New York University
Department of Chemistry
100 Washington Square East, Room 1001
New York, NY 10003-6688



Dear Professor Geacintov,

Merck & Co., Inc. is committed to providing trusted medical and scientific information to the community and to supporting the advancement of science education. As part of this mission, the editorial staff of *The Merck Index* is excited to announce the second annual **Merck Index Women in Chemistry Scholarships**. This program is designed to encourage young women to pursue advanced degrees in synthetic organic or medicinal chemistry. Merck will present up to five, \$5,000 scholarships and up to ten, \$500 special recognition awards to outstanding women chemists who are beginning their first year of study in a chemistry Ph.D. program in the United States or Canada.

We invite you to share the enclosed announcement for this scholarship program with your chemistry department, and to encourage female students who plan to pursue a PhD in synthetic organic or medicinal chemistry beginning in the fall of 2008 to apply for this award. If your institution has a graduate program in organic or medicinal chemistry, we encourage your graduate admissions office to include this announcement with the admission packages sent to female students accepted to the 2008 incoming class.

The awards will be presented at the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia in August 2008. Award winners will be notified in advance, and Merck will provide the scholarship winners with a travel stipend so that scholarship recipients may be honored at this meeting. Award recipients will be presented with a personalized imprinted copy of *The Merck Index* and present their research at a symposium during the ACS meeting. Special recognition awardees will present their undergraduate research at a poster session. The application deadline is **March 17, 2008**. Applicants must provide a two-page summary of their undergraduate research, an abstract for an oral presentation at the ACS national meeting, a statement of their future career goals, undergraduate transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and curriculum vitae. Full details of the application process and application forms are available on *The Merck Index* website: <http://www.merckbooks.com/mindex>.

Merck is a global research-driven company dedicated to putting patients first. We are committed to discovering, developing, manufacturing and marketing vaccines and medicines to address unmet medical needs. We at Merck hope that **The Merck Index Women in Chemistry Scholarships** will promote graduate education in synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry, and help advance the careers of some of today's most talented young female chemists, so that they may go on to make discoveries that will support our mission to discover and develop products that meet unmet medical needs.

Sincerely,

Cherie Koch, Ph.D.
Associate Editor, *The Merck Index*