

## Single-Enantiomer Drugs Drive Advances in Asymmetric Synthesis

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The prevalence of chiral medicinal compounds in the current pharmaceutical market and in the industry's pipeline is a driving force for fine chemical companies to enhance their toolboxes. They are responding by advancing chemocatalysis and biocatalysis as a means to cost effectively produce chiral intermediates and to direct stereoselectivity in asymmetric reactions.

"What is interesting to see is how single enantiomer drugs have now become the standard when working with chiral compounds in the pharmaceutical industry," says Sandra Erb, manager of Technology Catalysts International's (Falls Church, VA, [www.technology-catalysts.com](http://www.technology-catalysts.com)) chirals and fine chemicals practice. "Barring a specific problem that may limit a racemate from being developed through an asymmetric route, pharma companies will develop the single enantiomer. It is really a case of the chemical development side of pharmaceutical manufacturing advancing to such a point that it has now become a base requirement for fine chemical companies to have capabilities in asymmetric synthesis as part of their toolbox.".....

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