

The Chemical History of the Pill

Carl Djerassi

*Department of Chemistry, Stanford University, 333 Campus Drive, Mudd Building,
Stanford, CA 94305-5080, USA
E-mail: djerassi@stanford.edu*

Few people realize that the first synthesis of an oral contraceptive was accomplished in a small laboratory in Mexico City in 1951. The lecture, illustrated with some historical pictures, will describe the origin of that work and the reason why it happened in Mexico. It will also deal with the dismal prospects for new advances in the field of contraception.