

# PHILADELPHIA ORGANIC CHEMISTS' CLUB

- DATE:** Thursday, January 30th, 2003; 6:00 pm dinner, 8:00 pm seminar
- PLACE:** Room 102, New Chemistry Building, University of Pennsylvania, 34th and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA
- SPEAKER:** [John L. Wood](#), Professor of Chemistry at Yale University

John L. Wood received a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991 under the direction of Amos B. Smith, III. He moved to Harvard University as an American Cancer Society postdoctoral fellow and continued studying natural products synthesis in the laboratories of Stuart Schreiber. He joined the faculty at Yale University in 1993 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Full Professor in 1998.

The major focus of Professor Wood's research is synthetic organic chemistry emphasising the design of innovative solutions to problems in natural product synthesis with structural complexity and biological. As the chemistry matures, the role it can play in producing biologically interesting molecular systems is evaluated.

Professor Wood received an American Cancer Society Junior Faculty Award in 1994, an NSF CAREER, an Eli Lilly Young Faculty, a Glaxo-Wellcome Chemistry Scholar Awards in 1996, the Zeneca Excellence in Chemistry Award in 1998, a Merck Faculty Award in 2000. He served as the guest editor for the Tetrahedron Symposium in Print on Synthetic Methods V and as a visiting Professor at the University of Auckland. In 2001 he was awarded The Kitasato Institute's Microbial Chemistry Medal.

**TITLE:** "Bridged Polycyclic Natural Products : Inspirational Targets for Total Synthesis".

**ABSTRACT:** Instead of simply asking, "can we make the molecule?" the central question driving research in our laboratory is, "can we discover new methods and strategies en route to meeting the challenges imposed by synthesis?" To ensure that the answer to this question is "yes", we generally focus our efforts on syntheses of complex, densely functionalized polycyclic targets such as the welwitindolinones, the phomoidrides, and ingenol. These natural products pose new and unexplored chemical challenges, and thereby elicit the development of novel strategies and tactics for organic synthesis. This seminar will highlight some significant obstacles encountered in the course of our synthetic efforts, as well as some of the novel chemistry inspired along the way.

**DINNER:** The meeting will be preceded by a cocktail at 5:30 pm followed by a dinner at 6:00 pm at The Palladium Restaurant & Bar, 3601 Locust Walk.

Reservations should be made by calling Celine Duquenne at (610) 917-5120 or by e-mail at [Celine.Duquenne@gsk.com](mailto:Celine.Duquenne@gsk.com) **before 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 30th, 2003. Please pay the \$30.00 for dinner when you attend.** Thank you.