PHILADELPHIA ORGANIC CHEMISTS' CLUB

DATE: Thursday, December 4th, 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: **Dr. Christopher Burns,** Viropharma, Inc., Exton, PA

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Christopher J. Burns received his B.S. degree in Chemistry from St. Joseph's University in 1984 and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at MIT in 1989, studying under the mentorship of Professor K. Barry Sharpless. Dr. Burns spent the next 12 years at Rhone-Poulenc Rorer/Aventis Pharmaceuticals where he led medicinal chemistry research teams in the areas of bone metabolism, inflammation, oncology and cardiovascular disease. Since 2001, he has served as Director of Chemistry at ViroPharma Incorporated, a biopharmaceutical company in Exton, PA that focuses on discovering and developing novel antiviral medicines for human diseases. Dr. Burns is co-author or co-inventor on over 40 papers and patents.

TITLE: **Advances in Antiviral Drug Discovery**

ABSTRACT: Inhibition of the process of virus-cell fusion has become an increasingly active area of research in the search for antiviral medicines. Addressing this viral target can serve as complementary to inhibition of other aspects of the virus life cycle (e.g., attachment, replication, processing, etc.). The domain of therapeutic fusion inhibitors has recently gained increased attention due to the prospects raised by the recently approved polypeptide Fuzeon (T-20) for inhibition of HIV fusion. Despite the appeal of the target, small molecule inhibitors of viral fusion have been very difficult to achieve. This seminar will present an illustrative case study on small molecule fusion inhibitors of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), a virus that can cause severe morbidity and mortality in premature infants and the elderly. The study will explore the discovery of the inhibitor class, its chemical optimization and progression into clinical development, and the subsequent challenges that have necessitated a second and third generation series. Finally, we will touch on current research efforts outside of RSV and HIV specifically directed at inhibiting viral fusion.

DINNER: The meeting will be preceded by cocktails (cash bar) at 5:30 pm followed by a dinner at 6:00 pm at Penne Restaurant & Bar, 3601 Walnut Street. Reservations should be made by calling Gregory Ott at (609) 252-3189 or by e-mail to gregory.ott@bms.com **before 5:00 pm, Monday, Dec 1st, 2003. Please pay the $40.00 for dinner when you attend.** **Thank you.**