



# 2009-2010 POCC Lecture Series

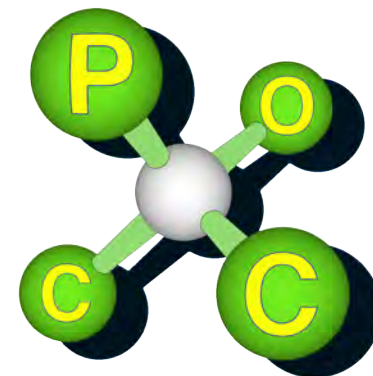
April 22, 2010, 8:00 PM

Prof. Richmond Sarpong  
UC Berkeley

*"Strategies and Tactics Inspired by Complex  
Natural Products"*

Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall  
Chemistry Building, University of Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia  
Organic Chemist's  
Club



POCCclub.org

Richmond Sarpong was born in Ghana, West Africa. He received his undergraduate degree in 1995 from Macalester College (Saint Paul, MN), where he worked in the laboratory of Prof. Rebecca Hoye. After earning a Ph.D. from Princeton University (Princeton, NJ) in 2001 under the guidance of Prof. Martin F. Semmelhack, he conducted postdoctoral research with Prof. Brian Stoltz at Caltech (Pasadena, CA). In 2004, he began his independent career as an Assistant Professor in Chemistry at UC Berkeley where he has recently been promoted to Associate Professor of Chemistry. Prof. Sarpong's research has been recognized with numerous awards, including an NSF CAREER Award, an American Cancer Society Research Scholar Award, an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship and a Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award. The research interests of his group are in the area of bioactive natural product synthesis as well as the development of new strategies and organometallic methodology to address synthetic challenges.

**Abstract:** Despite the growing belief that "we can synthesize any organic molecule we want", there still remains a need to *develop new strategies and methods* to make organic synthesis more efficient. Natural products provide intricate problems that challenge us to make advances in this regard. Several themes, and their application to the synthesis of the icetexane diterpenoids, the cortistatin steroidal alkaloids, C-19 norditerpenoid alkaloids and several *Lycopodium* alkaloids, will be discussed.