



2015-2016 POCC Lecture Series

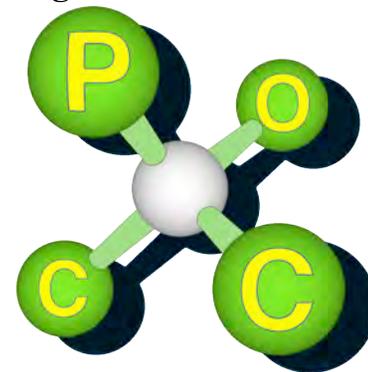
February 25, 2016, 8:00 PM

Dr. Michael J. Sofia
Arbutus Biopharma, Inc.

Sofosbuvir : A Breakthrough Curative Therapy for the treatment of HCV

Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall
Chemistry Building, University of Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia
Organic Chemists' Club



POCClub.org

To join us for dinner before the lecture please contact POCC's secretary Thomas Razler (thomas.razler@bms.com) at least one week ahead of time.

Michael J. Sofia, Ph.D. is currently Chief Scientific Officer at Arbutus Biopharma, Inc. a company focused on the discovery and development of therapies to treat hepatitis B. Previously he was CSO and Co-founder of OnCore Biopharma which merged with Tekmira in March 2015 to form Arbutus Biopharma. He also holds a professorship at the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute and an Adjunct Professorship at the Drexel University School of Medicine.

Prior to founding OnCore Biopharma, Mike Sofia was Senior Vice President of Chemistry and Senior Advisor at Gilead Sciences and was Sr. Vice President of Chemistry at Pharmasset, Inc until Pharmasset's acquisition by Gilead in Jan 2012. Mike Sofia held the position of Group Director New Leads Chemistry at Bristol-Myers Squibb and prior to joining BMS, Mike was Vice President of Research at Intercardia Research Labs (formerly Transcell Technologies). He also held research positions at Eli Lilly & Co. and at the Squibb Institute for Medical Research E. R. Squibb.

Mike Sofia did his postdoctoral training in synthetic organic chemistry as an NIH fellow at Columbia University and received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He earned his B.A. degree in chemistry from Cornell University.

Mike has introduced numerous drugs into clinical development for the treatment of diseases in the areas of infectious disease and inflammatory diseases. He has authored over 100 publications, 9 book chapters and numerous abstracts and is an inventor on more than 47 US patents and numerous patent applications. He has been an invited speaker at over 65 national and international conferences. He is the principle inventor of sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) currently marketed as a treatment for the cure of HCV infection. Mike is the recipient of the 2014 Pennsylvania Bio Scientific Achievement Award for the discovery of sofosbuvir, the 2015 Heroes of Chemistry Award of the American Chemical Society, Foreign Policy Magazine's 2014 Global Thinkers Award and the Economist Magazine's 2015 Innovation Award in Biosciences for his contributions to the discovery of a cure for HCV.

Abstract: Approximately 180 million individuals worldwide are infected with the hepatitis C virus. This virus will ultimately lead to chronic liver disease, liver cirrhosis and eventually hepatocellular carcinoma. Sofosbuvir is a nucleotide prodrug that targets the HCV RNA dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp), an essential enzyme necessary for viral replication. Sofosbuvir has become the backbone agent in combination regimens for HCV curative therapies that have been shown to treat a broad HCV patient population. Sofosbuvir based regimens have demonstrated cure rates in excess of 95% with no observed resistance and a stellar safety profile. Sofosbuvir was approved by the US FDA in December 2013 and the EU in January 2014, and since then its use has contributed to the cure of many patients suffering from HCV. This presentation will discuss the discovery and development of sofosbuvir as a treatment for HCV.