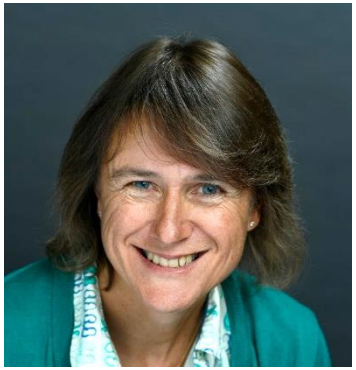

2024-2025 POCC Lecture Series

The Women in Chemistry Lecture:

Jan 23, 2025, 7:30 PM

Dr. Emma Parmee

Johnson & Johnson

New Directions in Drug Discovery:
Expanding Exploration of Chemical Space

IN PERSON @:

Carolyn Hoff Lynch Lecture Hall Chemistry Building,
University of Pennsylvania
6:30 Reception in the Nobel Hall
Food and drinks to be provided!

The Philadelphia Organic Chemist's Club

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Abstract: This presentation will highlight several strategic elements aimed at expanding our exploration of chemical space in Drug Discovery. Firstly, the talk will describe efforts to explore novel modalities to drug the most difficult targets in our industry. Recent breakthroughs in chemistry capabilities and their role in rapidly expanding chemical space to accelerate the molecular optimization "design cycle" will be also described. The latter topic also illustrates the importance of a continued focus on the crucial role synthetic chemistry plays in enabling and inspiring design in Drug Discovery.

Bio: As Global Head of Therapeutics Discovery within Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine Research & Development, Emma Parmee is currently responsible for execution of the discovery portfolio and delivery of development candidates across all therapeutic modalities including small molecules, biologics, peptides, ADCs, and RNA, gene, and cell therapies. Emma joined J&J in November 2020 following a 28-year career at Merck Research Labs (MRL), most recently serving as Head of Discovery Chemistry. She began at MRL in the cardiometabolic area where she was privileged to work on the DPP-4 inhibitor project and contribute to the discovery of JANUVIA™ (sitagliptin) for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Her group also delivered the small molecule CGRP antagonists, UBRELVY™ (ubrogepant) and QULIPTA™ (atogepant) used for the treatment of migraine. Emma obtained her D. Phil. Degree in 1990 at the University of Oxford, studying the total synthesis of milbemycin natural products and then completed a NATO postdoctoral fellowship at MIT under Professor Satoru Masamune. Emma was awarded the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award from the R&D Council of NJ in 2007 and the SCI Gordon E. Moore Medal for Innovation in 2009, both for her contributions toward the discovery of JANUVIA™. She is also a member of the Merck team awarded the 2007 Prix Galien USA for the discovery of JANUVIA™. Emma was the recipient of the 2018 ACS Medicinal Chemistry Division Award and was inducted into the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry Hall of Fame in 2018. In 2022, Emma received an Arthur C. Cope Scholar award from the American Chemical Society (ACS). Her work has led to more than 40 issued US patents and more than 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals.