

PHILADELPHIA ORGANIC CHEMISTS' CLUB

DATE: Thursday, December 5th, 2002; 6:00 pm dinner, 8:00 pm seminar

PLACE: Room 102, New Chemistry Building, University of Pennsylvania, 34th and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA

SPEAKER: **Douglass F. Taber**, Professor of Chemistry, University of Delaware.

Douglass F. Taber was born November 11, 1948 in Berkeley, California. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry with Honors from Stanford University in 1970, and Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Columbia University in 1974. After a postdoctoral year at the University of Wisconsin, Taber accepted a faculty position at Vanderbilt University. He moved to the University of Delaware of Delaware in 1982, where he is currently Professor of Chemistry (<http://valhalla.chem.udel.edu>).

Taber is the author of more than 150 research papers on organic synthesis and organometallic chemistry

TITLE: **Synthesis of (-)-Morphine**

ABSTRACT: (-)-Morphine 1 is the principal alkaloid of opium, derived from *Papaver somniferum L.*, or *P. album Mill*, *Papaveraceae*. (-)-Morphine is also found in normal brain, blood, and liver tissue. The morphine alkaloids represent a family of structurally related natural products of eminent importance in medicine. Also, morphine and its derivatives have continued to offer an interesting challenge to organic synthesis chemists We have developed a new route to the morphine alkaloids, starting from the readily available β -tetralone.

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 before 5:00 pm, Monday, december 2nd, 2002. Please pay the \$30.00 for dinner when you attend. Thank you.