



2021-2022 POCC Lecture Series

October 28, 2021, 7:30 PM

Virtual reception to start prior to the seminar at 7 PM

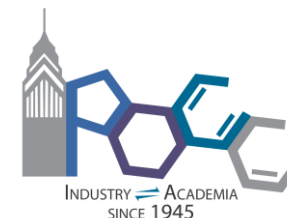
Dr. Jaume Balsells

Janssen R & D

Chemistry Accelerating Discovery at Janssen

Virtual Seminar by Zoom ([LINK](#))

The Philadelphia Organic
Chemist's Club



POCClub.org

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Abstract: Beyond the incredible challenge of inventing any new medicine, drug discovery relies on a constant stream of synthetic chemistry innovations in order to stay both competitive and sustainable. Chemists in Discovery Process Research at Janssen design and implement new methodologies with broad scope that accelerate and improve the syntheses of new compounds. New chemistries developed to enable the preparation of different functionalities with application in drug discovery will be presented.

Bio: Jaume Balsells grew up in Igualada, Spain and obtained his B.S. in chemistry from the University of Barcelona. He joined the group of Prof. Miquel Pericas at the University of Barcelona for his PhD in organic chemistry, studying the development of diastereoselective versions of the Pauson-Khand reaction. He then moved to the United States as a postdoctoral researcher in the group of Prof. Patrick Walsh, initially at San Diego State University and later at the University of Pennsylvania, developing novel concepts in enantioselective catalysis. He completed his training with a second postdoc appointment as a NATO fellow with Prof. Gary Molander at UPenn, working on the total synthesis of Variecolin. In 2001, Jaume joined the Process Chemistry group at Merck in Rahway, working on multiple compounds over the years. He was part of the team that developed the first commercial process for Sitagliptin (Januvia®) for which the team received the EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Award in 2006. In 2011, Jaume moved to PA to lead the Discovery Process Chemistry group at Merck West Point. In 2019, he became the Global Head of Janssen's Discovery Process Research group, responsible for providing synthetic chemistry support to over 300 Janssen medicinal chemists worldwide. Jaume is author or co-author of over 50 publications between research articles, book chapters and patents.