In the U.S. opioid crisis, fatal overdoses are increasing, with fentanyl accounting for nearly 30,000 of the 50,000 deaths involving opioids annually due to high potency, ease of manufacturing, and addition to other illicit drugs without the users’ knowledge. Through chemistry, this symposium will follow the progression of fentanyl in the U.S. from its first development as an illicit drug, to the recent development of a fentanyl vaccine. First-hand reports of the milestones of this progression will be presented.

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For more information, please send an email to djnelson@ou.edu