

# USC scientists turn harmful greenhouse gas (fluoroform) into a tool for making pharmaceuticals

RELEASED ON 31/01/13 (DD/MM/YY)

Scientists at USC have invented a technology to convert useless ozone-destroying greenhouse gas fluoroform into reagents for producing pharmaceuticals. Fluoroform is generated as byproduct in the manufacturing of Teflon. Due to its hazardous nature to environment, many companies such as DuPont, Arkema, are holding huge quantities of Fluoroform without disposing it off. USC's technology would be useful in utilising fluoroform for producing most of the pharmaceuticals containing fluorine molecules. Fluorine is found in many drugs including anticancer drug 5-fluorouracil, and other drugs such as Prozac, Celebrex, etc. Moreover, fluoroform can also be converted into trifluoromethanesulfonic acid.

*SOURCE Chemical Engineering World*