

ONCOLYTICS BIOTECH INC

Form 6-K

March 25, 2004

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FORM 6-K

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

**Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the month of March 2004

Commission File Number 000-31062

Oncolytics Biotech Inc.

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Suite 210, 1167 Kensington Crescent NW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1X7
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): _____

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted solely to provide an attached annual report to security holders.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): _____

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted to furnish a report or other document that the registrant foreign private issuer must furnish and make public under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the registrant is incorporated, domiciled or legally organized (the registrant's home country), or under the rules of the home country exchange on which the registrant's securities are traded, as long as the report or other document is not a press release, is not required to be and has not been distributed to the registrant's security holders, and, if discussing a material event, has already been the subject of a Form 6-K submission or other Commission filing on EDGAR.

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this Form, the registrant is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82 -

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Signatures

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Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Oncolytics Biotech Inc.
(Registrant)

Date March 24, 2004

By: /s/ Douglas A. Ball
Douglas A. Ball
Chief Financial Officer

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210, 1167 Kensington Cr.
N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2N 1X7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oncolytics Biotech Inc. Announces \$ 6.73 Million Private Placement

CALGARY, AB, March 24, 2004 Oncolytics Biotech Inc. (OncoIytlcs) (TSX: ONC, NASDAQ: ONCY) announced today that it has entered into a private placement with a European institutional investor. Subject to regulatory approval and upon completion of the transaction, Oncolytics will issue 1,077,100 common shares and 538,550 common share purchase warrants for aggregate gross proceeds of \$6,731,875. Each whole common share purchase warrant will entitle the holder to acquire one common share of Oncolytics upon payment of \$7.75 per warrant. The private placement is anticipated to close on or about April 7, 2004. Oncolytics will use the proceeds from the private placement for general corporate purposes.

The securities to be issued by Oncolytics have not and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the 1933 Act), or the securities laws of any state of the United States, and may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption therefrom under the 1933 Act and the securities laws of all applicable states. This press release is not an offer of securities in the United States.

About Oncolytics Biotech Inc.

Oncolytics is a Calgary-based biotechnology company focused on the development of REOLYSIN[®], its proprietary formulation of the human reovirus, as a potential cancer therapeutic. Oncolytics researchers have demonstrated that the reovirus is able to selectively kill human cancer cells in vitro that are derived from many types of cancer, including breast, prostate, pancreatic and brain tumours, and have also demonstrated successful cancer treatment results in a number of animal models. Phase I clinical trial results have indicated that REOLYSIN[®] was well tolerated and that the reovirus demonstrated activity in tumours injected with REOLYSIN[®].

This press release contains forward-looking statements, within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements, including the Company s expectations related to the private placement of the units as to progress in the clinical trial program and the Company s belief as to the potential of REOLYSIN[®] as a cancer therapeutic, involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which could cause the Company s actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, among others, ability of the Company to complete the private placement on the terms set forth in its agreements, the Company s ability to obtain regulatory approval for the offering, the availability of funds and resources to pursue Research and Development projects, the efficacy of REOLYSIN[®] as a cancer treatment, the success and timely completion of clinical studies and trials, the Company s ability to successfully commercialize REOLYSIN[®], uncertainties related to the research and development of pharmaceuticals, uncertainties related to the regulatory process and general changes to the economic environment. Investors should consult the Company s quarterly and annual filings with the Canadian and U.S. securities commissions for additional information on risks and uncertainties relating to the forward looking statements. Investors are cautioned against placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The Company does not undertake to update these forward-looking statements.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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