

ONCOLYTICS BIOTECH INC

Form 6-K

March 18, 2008

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

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 2008

Commission File Number 000-31062

**Oncolytics Biotech Inc.**

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*(Translation of registrant's name into English)*

**Suite 210, 1167 Kensington Crescent NW  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1X7**

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*(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**

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 17, 2008

By: /s/ Doug Ball

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Doug Ball  
Chief Financial Officer

210, 1167 Kensington Crescent NW  
Calgary, Alberta  
Canada T2N 1X7

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oncolytics Biotech Inc. Announces Publication of Research on Immune Response  
to REOLYSIN® during a Phase I Clinical Trial**

**CALGARY, AB, March 17, 2008** Oncolytics Biotech Inc. (TSX: ONC, NASDAQ: ONCY) (Oncolytics) reported today that Dr. Kevin Harrington and his research group at The Institute of Cancer Research, London, U.K. published the results of their work characterizing immune system responses to administration of intravenous REOLYSIN® in a Phase I clinical trial. The paper, entitled "Characterization of the Adaptive and Innate Immune Response to Intravenous Oncolytic Reovirus (Dearing Type 3) during a Phase I Clinical Trial" appears online in the March 6, 2008 issue of *Gene Therapy*.

This important work further defines the relationship between viral therapy and human immune response, and supports the development of our ongoing Phase II clinical trial program, said Dr. Brad Thompson, President and CEO of Oncolytics.

The investigators conducted a detailed analysis of the immune effects of intravenous viral therapy by collecting and analyzing immune response to the presence of the virus. The results suggest that reovirus may stimulate the immune system to mount a dynamic immune response to the presence of virus, increasing the potential to significantly enhance the efficacy of oncolytic virotherapy. About a third of those patients also showed increases in NK (natural killer) cells following therapy. The data support the development of interventions aimed at blunting the patient's immune response, although preclinical data also suggest that maintaining a baseline level is necessary to restrict systemic spread/toxicity of the virus.

**About Oncolytics Biotech Inc.**

Oncolytics is a Calgary-based biotechnology company focused on the development of oncolytic viruses as potential cancer therapeutics. Oncolytics' clinical program includes a variety of Phase I/II and Phase II human trials using REOLYSIN®, its proprietary formulation of the human reovirus, alone and in combination with radiation or chemotherapy. For further information about Oncolytics, please visit [www.oncolyticsbiotech.com](http://www.oncolyticsbiotech.com)

*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 implication of the materials presented in Gene Therapy with respect to REOLYSIN®, the Company's expectations related to the results of trials investigating delivery of REOLYSIN®, 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, 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*

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*and uncertainties related to the regulatory process. 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.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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