



PHARMACOLOGY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

Congratulations to the Zheng Lab and Collaborators!

Congratulations to members of the Zheng Lab and their collaborators on the publication of their new study, "[Transcriptional activation of plant immunity by salicylic acid](#)," in *Nature*.

The researchers revealed how salicylic acid—the precursor of aspirin, one of the world's most widely used medicines—activates plant immunity. They found that salicylic acid strengthens the interaction between its receptor, NPR1, and the Mediator complex, switching on genes that help plants defend themselves against infection.

UW Pharmacology authors include Songwen Zhang, Madeline Gish, Huan Li, Thomas R. Hinds, Haibin Mao, Moira Cornell, Massi Silvetti, Sydney Klucas, Dr. Smita Yadav, and Dr. Ning Zheng. The study also includes UW Medicinal Chemistry collaborators Clint Vorauer, Charlie C. Mundorff, and Dr. Miklos Guttman.

A Legacy of Leadership: UW Pharmacology Chairs

As we celebrate the department's history, here's a quick look at the leaders who helped guide UW Pharmacology through the decades.

1946–1972 · Dr. James M. Dille, Founding Chair

Dr. Dille helped establish pharmacology at UW—and pursued creative interests beyond science as both a writer and painter.

1972–1975 and 1983–1984 · Dr. Akira "Aki" Horita, Acting Chair

A UW Pharmacology alumnus and longtime faculty member, Dr. Horita stepped in to lead the department not once, but twice.

1977–1983 · Dr. Edwin G. Krebs

Dr. Krebs later shared the 1992 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries explaining how reversible protein phosphorylation regulates cellular activity.

1984–2016 · Dr. William A. "Bill" Catterall

The department's longest-serving chair, Dr. Catterall was a pioneering authority on voltage-gated ion channels—the molecular switches that help nerve and muscle cells generate electrical signals.

2016–present · Dr. John D. Scott

Dr. Scott is known for pioneering research on A-kinase anchoring proteins, or AKAPs, which organize signaling molecules inside cells so that biological messages reach the right place at the right time.

Together, these leaders span eight decades of discovery, mentorship, and growth at UW Pharmacology.

Welcome 1st Year Pharmacology Graduate Students

Please join us in welcoming our three new graduate students Sahiba, Colin, and Bailey to the Department of Pharmacology! We are excited to have them join our community and wish them a rewarding and successful graduate career at UW.

Upcoming Events

September 24, 2026: Pharmacology Retreat

October 1, 2026: Coffee and Donuts, 10:30 AM, Room K-321

October 6, 2026: Catterall Lecture, 2:30 PM, Room K-069

Staff Notes

Please note the following out-of-office dates:

Jenny: September 16-23

Do you have news to share? Please email phcol@uw.edu and use the subject line: Pharmacology Friday.

