PHARMACOLOGY FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 6, 2026

Continuing Our Look Back at the Chairs Who Shaped UW Pharmacology

Based on reflections by Frank F. Vincenzi, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology

This month's installment is a little different: Frank F. Vincenzi reflects on his own time as Acting Chair during a particularly uncertain period in the department's history.

Frank F. Vincenzi was an Associate Professor in 1975 when he became Acting Chair of the Department of Pharmacology. Failure to appoint a new Chair, despite many candidates, and lack of support for the Department had reduced it to only five faculty members. There were rumors that the Department might be terminated.

Aki Horita had returned to focusing on his research. Of the two other Full Professors, one was not inclined toward administrative duties, and the other, Ted Loomis, was fully occupied as the Washington State Toxicologist. The State Toxicology Lab was located in the E-wing, within the Department of Pharmacology. Vincenzi was unable to prevent the removal of the State Toxicology Lab to University Hospital and subsequently to Harborview Medical Center. As a result, Ted Loomis resigned as State Toxicologist and retired from the faculty.

Vincenzi performed the mundane paperwork of Chair and was the "host" when more candidates for the Chair were interviewed. Further failures to appoint a permanent Chair increased talk of eliminating the Department. It was pointed out that eliminating a department might also eliminate the tenure of its faculty members. The mood in the Department was grim.

A hallway encounter between Vincenzi and Hans Neurath, Chair of the Department of Biochemistry, resulted in a memorable conversation:
Neurath: "What do you think about hiring Ed Krebs as the Chair of Pharmacology?"
Vincenzi: "You can't do that, Krebs is a biochemist, not a pharmacologist!"
Neurath: "We'll see about that."

FEEDBACK Mentor Recruitment

FEEDBACK will soon begin recruiting mentors to work with 6th–8th grade students during a 10-week program running from January through March.

Mentors commit approximately one hour per week and have the opportunity to support younger students while gaining valuable teaching and mentoring experience. In previous years, some Pharmacology graduate students have also been able to use their participation toward the department's TA requirement.

If you're interested in learning more about becoming a mentor, please reach out to Mickey Ruiz for additional information

Upcoming Events

November 17, 2026: UW Research Resources Fair, 10:00 AM, HUB; View the Agenda & Register
November 11, 26 & 27, 2026: UW Holidays
November 30, 2026: PhD Thesis Defense - Sarah John, 1:00 PM, Room T-739

Staff Notes

Please note the following out-of-office dates:
Debbie: November 12 - 18

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