

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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To: Lee L. Huntsman  
Provost

July 16, 2001

From: Marsha L. Landolt  
Dean and Vice Provost

Re: Department of Pharmacology 10-year review

*Summary and recommendation.* The Graduate School Council met with the internal member of the Department of Pharmacology review committee and with Departmental representatives at its meeting of May 31, 2001. This is a vigorous and prosperous department. The review committee and the Council recommended continuation of its MS and PhD programs. I concur with the recommendation.

The self-study, review committee report, and the Department's response to the report are attached.

*Background.* The Department of Pharmacology is one of the premier departments of its type as reflected in several metrics, receipt of a Nobel Prize in Physiology or medicine in 1992, number of faculty in the National Academy of Sciences (3), NIH grant income per faculty member or the success with which their graduate students compete for places on interdisciplinary NIH training grants. It is well known for its contributions in the fields of cellular regulation, neurobiology, signal transduction and molecular toxicology. It consists of 13 regular faculty with primary appointments in the Department, 6 research or acting faculty, 34 postdocs and 36 graduate students, and 31 staff. Graduate students are entered with the expectation that they will earn the PhD. The Department graduates 7-8 PhD and 1-2 MS students annually. PhD recipients have published a mean of 5 peer-reviewed papers at the time of graduation, generally about 6 years after matriculation. The department supports a range of career choices and graduates compete very successfully for the position they most desire.

The 2001 review committee agreed with the 1990 committee in finding that the Pharmacology "is a thriving and well run department with an outstanding faculty, whose success is due, in significant measure, to the thoughtful and vigorous leadership of its present chairman." The 2001 committee found the Department of Pharmacology to be one of the strongest basic science departments in the School of Medicine.

Review committee recommendations included:

1. That the Department continue its "career day" for graduate students.
2. That faculty work more closely with TAs and that TAs receive more formal training.
3. That the weekly departmental series be expanded so that postdocs can give more seminars.

4. That the Department encourage the formation of a student organization so that student concerns would be communicated better to the Chair and that their role in governance would be improved.

The Department has responded favorably to each of these suggestions, making appropriate changes where needed. The review committee was also asked to comment on the compliment between interdisciplinary and departmentally-based graduate programs of the School. It found that Pharmacology interacted very successfully with the interdepartmental programs. Indeed, its faculty have led two of them, Neurobiology and Behavior and Molecular and Cellular Biology. The two types of program do not necessarily attract the same student and compliment one another in this as well as in other ways.

In considering the challenges of coordinating departmentally based and interdisciplinary graduate education in the School, the committee went on to suggest that the School of Medicine consider breaking the duties of the Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research into separate associate deans for (a) Graduate Education and (b) Research. The Dean of the School of Medicine is considering a different restructuring that will achieve the goal of relieving the burdens of the half-time Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research.

The Department is robust, has a strong past and a very promising future. As with many outstanding programs on campus, the continued success of this one cannot be taken for granted. However, the unusually strong give every indication of maintaining their position and pace.

- c: Richard McCormick, President  
Debra Friedman, Associate Provost for Academic Planning  
Paul Ramsay, Dean, School of Medicine  
Albert Berger, Associate Dean, School of Medicine  
John Slattery, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, The Graduate School  
Members of the Pharmacology Review Committee:  
Thomas Reh, Professor, Biological Structure, Chair  
Mark Bothwell, Professor, Physiology and Biophysics  
David Kimelman, Professor, Biochemistry  
Ray Dingleline, Professor, Pharmacology, Emory University School of Medicine  
Graduate School Council  
David Nixon, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate  
Augustine McCaffery, Assistant to the Dean, The Graduate School