

Department of Medicinal Chemistry Seminar Series

Hosted by the
Department of Medicinal Chemistry

Side Effects May Include Wisdom: My 30 Years in BioPharma

Presented by Thomas E Renau, Ph.D.

November 19, 2026 | 11:00 AM

Kahn Auditorium, BSRB



Thomas E Renau, Ph.D.

Graduating in '94 with a PhD in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Michigan under the mentorship of Leroy B. Townsend and John Drach, I embarked on a 30+ year career in the biopharmaceutical industry that exposed me to nearly every aspect of the drug development process – from target identification to commercialization.

The purpose of this seminar is to share practical takeaways from my journey. First, I'll describe my career path, pointing out important professional and personal lessons learned. I'll then highlight the multiple phases of the drug development process and tie these to the many potential career opportunities for Med Chem PhDs. In closing, I'll emphasize the core skill sets and essential leadership qualities I believe are vital for thriving in today's highly matrixed pharmaceutical environment.

Ultimately, I'm hopeful that attendees will walk away with an appreciation that a PhD in Medicinal Chemistry can offer an "E-Ticket Ride" to realizing a dynamic, deeply fulfilling lifelong career in the biopharmaceutical industry.