

Henricus “Harry” P. C. Hogenkamp
Narrator

Lauren Klaffke
Interviewer

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In 1970, the University of Minnesota's previously autonomous College of Pharmacy and School of Dentistry were reorganized, together with the Schools of Nursing, Medicine, and Public Health, and the University Hospitals, into a centrally organized and administered Academic Health Center (AHC). The university's College of Veterinary Medicine was also closely aligned with the AHC at this time, becoming formally incorporated into the AHC in 1985.

The development of the AHC made possible the coordination and integration of the education and training of the health care professions and was part of a national trend which saw academic health centers emerge as the dominant institution in American health care in the last third of the 20th century. AHCs became not only the primary sites of health care education, but also critical sites of health sciences research and health care delivery.

The University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center Oral History Project preserves the personal stories of key individuals who were involved with the formation of the university's Academic Health Center, served in leadership roles, or have specific insights into the institution's history. By bringing together a representative group of figures in the history of the University of Minnesota's AHC, this project provides compelling documentation of recent developments in the history of American health care education, practice, and policy.

Biographical Sketch

Henricus “Harry” Hogenkamp was born in the Netherlands in 1925. He served in the Dutch Army during the Indonesian War of Independence. In 1950, he returned to the Netherlands and went to an agricultural school, earning a certificate in tropical agriculture. He and his wife married in 1953 and immigrated to Canada. He worked in a warehouse for a year before applying to the University of British Columbia. He earned a bachelor’s in 1957 and a master’s in 1958 from UBC. He then earned his Ph.D. in 1961 and worked as a research biochemist at the University of California at Berkley. In 1962, he became an associate scientist at the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. In 1963, he moved back to the United States and became a professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Iowa. During his time at Iowa, he was a visiting professor at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at Australian National University and a guest scientist at the Los Alamos Scientific Lab at the University of California. In 1976, he moved to the University of Minnesota’s Medical School to serve as head of the Department of Biochemistry. Dr. Hogenkamp’s research chiefly involved understanding the bioorganic mechanisms of vitamin B-12. He served as head of the Department until 1992 and retired in 2000.

Interview Abstract

Dr. Henricus Hogenkamp begins his interview by describing his early life in the Netherlands and his immigration to Canada. He then discusses his decision to attend the University of British Columbia and the University of California at Berkley, his work at the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, and his time at the University of Iowa. Dr. Hogenkamp goes on to describe his recruitment to the University of Minnesota as head of the Department of Biochemistry in the Medical School, his work with B-12, teaching in the AHC, funding within the AHC, and relations with other schools in the health sciences and in the University. He also reflects on the leadership of Neal Gault and David Brown as deans of the Medical School, his committee work, his time on journal editorial boards, research he conducted in Germany through the Humboldt Foundation, and the longer history of B-12. He concludes with a discussion of the changes in relations and structure of the Department of Biochemistry in the Medical School and the Department of Biochemistry in the College of Biological Sciences.

Interview with Doctor Henricus “Harry” P. C. Hogenkamp

Interviewed by Lauren Klaffke

**Interviewed for the Academic Health Center, University of Minnesota
Oral History Project**

**Interviewed at Doctor Hogenkamp’s home
in Roseville, Minnesota**

Interviewed on August 27, 2013

Henricus “Harry” Hogenkamp - HH
Lauren Klaffke - LK

LK: This is Lauren Klaffke. I’m here with Doctor Hogenkamp. It’s August 27, 2013. I’m here at his home in Roseville [Minnesota].

Thank you for meeting with me today.

I wanted to begin by asking you a little bit about where you were born, and raised, and your early education.

HH: I was born in the Netherlands in 1925. I suffered through the German occupation and, then, after the war, I finished my high school and, then, was drafted in the Dutch Army and sent to Indonesia where there was a War of Independence. So I spent three and a half totally useless years at that. I came back in 1950 and went to an agricultural school.

Then, in 1953, my wife and I got married, and we decided to immigrate to Canada. So in Canada, I worked as a warehouseman for a year for ninety cents an hour. That wasn’t going to be the rest of my life. So I applied to the University of British Columbia [UBC] and was accepted in the second year. That was 1954. I finished my bachelor of science in agriculture in 1957 and, then, stayed on to get a master’s in 1958. By that time, we became Canadians.

Then, I was accepted as a graduate student in Berkley in California. I had an absolutely super professor [Horace Barker]. He had just discovered a new active form of vitamin B-12. For my thesis, I worked out the identification about what was different between the

co-enzyme and the vitamin. I did that and finished it in 1961, and stayed on for another year as a post doc.

In 1962, we went back to Canada, to Vancouver. I worked there for about a year and a half. I wasn't very happy to work in the fisheries.

So, then, I sent out some fliers to people that I knew and I got several offers for jobs in the United States. So, eventually, I accepted one as assistant professor at the University of Iowa in the medical school. There, I was very lucky. I got a leave of absence to spend a year doing research in Australia in Canberra at the John Curtin School of Medical Research. When I came back, I was promoted in a tenure position and kept working there.

Then, in 1974, I got a Guggenheim Fellowship and spent the year in the Los Alamos National Laboratory [California] doing carbon-13 NMR [nuclear magnetic resonance].

Then, I came back in 1975 and I got, first, an offer to become chairman of the Department of Chemistry in the Ontario Agriculture in Ontario. I chickened out.

LK: [laughter]

HH: I didn't take it.

Then, not much later, I was approached by the University of Minnesota. So in 1976, I think, I started as head of Biochemistry here and I served for sixteen years, which is too long.

LK: Why do you say that?

HH: After ten years, you run out of new ideas.

LK: Okay.

I'd like to go back a little bit to what you were talking about. When you were serving in Indonesia, what kind of tasks were they having you do? Were you actually fighting?

HH: Yes. We lost. I got 28 people.

LK: When you returned to the Netherlands, you said you got an agricultural degree.

HH: Not a degree. It was a certificate in tropical agriculture.

LK: What prompted you to get that certificate?

HH: I loved the tropics.

LK: Okay.

HH: I loved Indonesia. By that time, Indonesia was gone for the Dutch. They hated our guts. I don't blame them. So I applied to the Belgian Congo but didn't get it—very fortunate, because the Belgian Congo was a mess. So, then, we decided to go to Canada.

LK: Why Canada?

HH: Because the Dutch... During the war, the Canadians liberated us. They were close to us, and they liked young people to come to Canada. So there was a little interview with the people in the embassies, which was pretty straightforward. Then, you could come, actually, and the Canadian government would pay for your passage. But my wife had some money. Once the government pays for your passage, you were kind of a servant, and they can tell you where to go, and we didn't like that.

LK: Right.

HH: My brother-in-law had also immigrated and they lived in Calgary. So we went to Calgary and stayed there for a year.

LK: It sounds like the immigration process was relatively simple at that time.

HH: Oh, yes. You had a health checkup. You had x-rays and so on. We passed that.

LK: You said you decided to go back to school in British Columbia?

HH: Yes.

LK: You wanted to do that because you wanted a better job.

HH: Yes.

LK: How did you decide what you wanted to study?

HH: At the University?

LK: Yes.

HH: Well, I had another friend, a person who I got to know, and he had a Ph.D. in forest pathology. He looked at my books that I'd taken with me and said, "Hey, you ought to apply for the university." I applied to Edmonton, which is north of Calgary, and UBC. Edmonton ignored me, and UBC was very positive, so that's it.

LK: Okay. Then, what did you study at UBC?

HH: I started out in soil science, but I didn't like the professor, so I changed to agricultural microbiology. That professor was terrific.

LK: Who was that?

HH: "Jack" Campbell, John "Jack" Ramsay Campbell.

LK: Then, why did you decide to get your master's?

HH: Because we wanted to become Canadians, and you have to be there for five years before you become a citizen.

LK: So that was just part of becoming a citizen for you?

HH: Yes.

LK: Okay.

What, then, prompted you to apply to other schools to get your Ph.D.?

HH: Well, when I was an undergraduate, I worked in the fisheries laboratory. One of the Ph.D.s there was Neil Thomason, who got his Ph.D. in Berkeley with Barker. He said, "Do you want to go back to graduate school? Go to Berkeley and work with Barker," and that's what I did. It's all connections.

LK: Yes. Yes.

Were you interested in B-12 prior to going to Berkeley?

HH: I didn't have a clue what it was.

LK: [laughter]

HH: But I learned quickly.

LK: Yes.

Did you return to Canada after Berkeley because that's where your citizenship was?

HH: As a student, you couldn't stay here after a post doc. These were the immigration laws. So you had to go back to Canada. Then, I went through the immigration procedures to come back to the U.S.

LK: You did a post doc at Berkeley?

HH: I did a Berkeley post doc, as well, yes, for one year. Barker, when I finished, told me, “I can get you a post doc at Stanford”—with one of his friends, Arthur Kornberg, who later got a Nobel Prize—...

LK: Oh, wow.

HH: ...“or you can stay here.” I was so pleased doing the work...“I’ll stay here.” He paid me an *enormous* amount of money.

LK: That’s great!

HH: Seventy-three hundred a year.

LK: That’s a lot back then.

HH: Oh, at that time that was a hell of a lot of money.

LK: A big step up from your ninety cents an hour.

HH: Yes, yes.

LK: What was his first name—you said Barker—who you were working with?

HH: His first name was Horace Albert, but everybody called him “Nook.” He was a very severe looking, but he was a *real* gentleman.

LK: Good. Great.

When you returned to Canada, you said you were working for the fisheries. How did you get that job?

HH: Because I had done some undergraduate... They knew me, and they offered me a senior position.

LK: What work were you doing there, at that time?

HH: I actually ignored the fisheries altogether and did my own B-12 work.

LK: Ohhh. Wow.

HH: But I had an undergraduate assistant...I had two assistants, and they worked on a phospholipase from *lingcod*, which was a good excuse. I never really pursued it.

LK: Did you get in trouble for working on your B-12 work?

HH: No. They didn't care. As a matter of fact, I published a very nice paper in *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, which was the primary journal in biochemistry. This was one of the very few journals that the people in the fisheries published in.

One of my colleagues there was Michael Smith. We became very good friends and Mike, eventually, was unhappy in the fishery as well. He was an incredible guy. He got a Ph.D. in England in physical organic chemistry. At the fisheries, he became a fish endocrinologist.

LK: Yes.

HH: Then, he went to UBC and became a molecular biologist. He discovered site-specific mutagenesis and got a Nobel Prize.

LK: Wow! You knew a lot of Nobel Prize people. [chuckles] That's really incredible.

You said you published an important paper in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*?

HH: Yes.

LK: Did the University of Iowa recruit you?

HH: Yes.

LK: Did they see that paper and that's why they ended up recruiting you or do you know how they heard about you?

HH: It was interesting. I had a friend, a former faculty member at Berkeley, Charles Decker, who went to an NIH [National Institutes of Health] meeting and stopped in Chicago. He met another biochemist, a friend of his, Carl Vestling. Carl said, "Hey, Chuck, I just accepted the headship in Iowa, and I'm looking for some new people." Decker said, "Go and get in touch with Hogenkamp. I'll bet you can get him."

LK: [laughter]

HH: That was it!

LK: Yes.

LK: When you moved to Iowa, you got to do your B-12 research? Okay. Were you teaching there, as well?

HH: Oh, yes.

LK: You said that you got to do a year of research, as well, in Australia while you were working there?

HH: Yes. They had just discovered an enzyme system that requires the B-12 co-enzyme. I did some work with radioactive tracers.

LK: Did they discover this enzyme system at the John Curtin School that you were at and that's why you went there?

HH: Yes. Actually, the person who was my colleague there eventually came to Iowa as a professor.

LK: Oh! Who was that?

HH: Ray Blakeley.

LK: You were at Iowa for about...

HH: Until 1976.

LK: Yes. Then, while at Iowa you went...

HH: First, to Australia and, then, to Los Alamos.

LK: How did you get involved in Los Alamos?

HH: I made some organic synthesis using enriched carbon-13 compounds. In Los Alamos, they had a cryo [cryogenic] distillation system. You could isolate highly purified carbon-13 monoxide. That's what I wanted to do. They supplied a lot of the labeled materials that I could incorporate in organic structures. I did carbon-13 NMR there.

LK: Okay. Did they recruit you or did you apply for the position?

HH: In Los Alamos?

LK: Yes.

HH: No. I made my own money. I got a Guggenheim fellowship...

LK: Ohhh, right.

HH: ...which is a very nice one.

LK: Yes.

HH: It was very hard to get. Only ten percent of the applicants get it, but they don't pay very much. You got half your salary when you go on sabbatical, right?

LK: Yes.

HH: So I went to the dean and I said, "Jack, I got a Guggenheim fellowship." He said, "Terrific. Congratulations." I said, "Well, it doesn't pay very much. Can you help me?" So he got me some extra money.

LK: Great.

You said you'd been offered chair of the Department of Chemistry in Ontario?

HH: Yes.

LK: You said you chickened out?

HH: First of all, the Ontario government was considering eliminating the graduate program. They had a graduate program in Waterloo, and all the other, and they were thinking it was getting too expensive. Without a graduate program, you don't have a decent department.

LK: Right.

HH: So I got concerned. I was a bioorganic chemist, but I felt more comfortable in the medical school.

LK: Did the University of Minnesota recruit you or did you apply for that position?

HH: They offered it to me. They had been looking. The previous man was Wallace Armstrong. He had to retire. I guess the age was seventy-six or something like that and you're all through. He *hated* to retire. Then, they started a search process for a new head. Two years and nothing. They offered it to some very good people.

But at Minnesota at that time, the laboratory facilities were hideous. They were in the old buildings, Millard and Owre [Halls]. Unit A, the Phillips-Wangensteen Building, had just been completed, so the Dental School moved to the new quarters and their old quarters went to Biochemistry. It had to be totally remodeled. So when I came here, there weren't very good laboratories, and they started remodeling. After about a year, maybe more, we came into decent quarters.

LK: Did you see that as a good opportunity coming in and being able to choose how you were going to remodel the building?

HH: Well, that was one thing. The other thing was that some very good faculty members had left; so there were three full professors that left. As a matter of fact, one was Paul Boyer who went to UCLA to start a new biological institute, and Paul got the Nobel Prize.

LK: Oh, wow!

[chuckles]

HH: The other was Finn Wold, who became head of the Department of Biochemistry in Saint Paul. He eventually left and went to Rice University in Texas. He had a very nice endowed chair.

So we had these openings to get new faculty. When I came here, three people had been identified as new faculty already. It was Nancy Martin, Dennis [M.] Livingston, and John [D.] Lipscomb. All three came on board. Sadly, after about a few years, Nancy left and went to Texas. I think it was, because her husband worked at the V.A. [Veteran's Administration] and didn't get a job in Minnesota, but he had a job in Texas.

Then, we hired David [D.] Thomas, Howard [C.] Towle and, then, [Leonard J.] Banaszak, [Douglas H.] Ohlendorf, David [C.] LaPorte, and Paul [G.] Siliciano.

LK: You have a great memory for names.

HH: So it all worked out reasonable. I was busy doing my research and looking after the department.

Then, I got involved in the Medical School politics. I had very little to do with the development of the Academic Health Center.

LK: Okay.

I was going to ask you because you were doing so much rebuilding of the department, did that affect your research, at all. It seems like it would be very time-consuming.

HH: Yes, maybe. I never got many graduate students, I guess because my research was so esoteric. Some of the more biological students got scared because mine was more chemistry, and the NMR was more physical, though I'm not a physicist at all. That scared them off, and I had some good competition in enzymology, other professors, so that worked out okay. I didn't mind.

LK: While you were at the University of Minnesota, did your research change much over the years?

HH: I was lucky. In about 1980 or maybe a little later, I'm not sure, I got a very, very nice research award, the Alexander von Humboldt Award, from the German government.

LK: From the German government?

HH: Yes, which paid a hell of a lot of money. You could do what you wanted. It was terrific.

LK: Yes!

HH: So I did that and while I was doing the research there, I worked pretty hard and I got accustomed with anaerobic biochemistry, which is very unique and very tricky, because you got rid of all oxygen. So you had a chamber that you filled with a mixture of nitrogen and hydrogen and, then, you had to do all the methods.

LK: Wow. Did you have to do a lot of building to get ready for that?

HH: I did the building here when I came back.

LK: When you got into anaerobic biochemistry, was B-12 still involved in that?

HH: Yes.

LK: So B-12 was throughout your career?

HH: B-12 is all along my whole career.

LK: Okay.

[chuckles]

LK: You were working in the Department of Biochemistry within the Medical School, so were you teaching medical students, primarily?

HH: Yes, I taught medical students.

LK: Did you teach any other kinds of students?

HH: Oh, yes. I taught medical students, and I taught graduate students. Later on, I taught dental hygiene [students] and nurses.

LK: Oh. When you taught dental hygiene and nurses, were those all separate classes?

HH: Yes. The interesting part is the graduate students were well prepared. The nurses and dental hygiene kids were totally unprepared. Some of them were scared out of their wits. That was kind of fun.

LK: Did they do okay in the classes?

HH: Oh, yes. They had, I guess over all, forty lectures. Eventually, I was sharing the classes with another faculty. I, eventually, told her, “Why don’t I take the dental hygiene and you take the nurses?” So that’s what I did for quite a number of years.

LK: Did you tailor the lectures at all to maybe biochemistry of the mouth, specifically or did you teach them straight biochemistry?

HH: Yes.

LK: Straight biochemistry, okay.

As department chair, did you ever have trouble getting funding from the Medical School, at all?

HH: No. I got funding. That was sometimes iffy, but, usually, the dean came around and made what’s called the dean’s commitment, so we never were cut that badly. Then, we got money from the Minnesota Medical Foundation, which was quite helpful. Then, I applied to the NIH for an NMR instrument, and I got approval, and I got money. It wasn’t quite enough, so I found the vice president of the health sciences. I knew her very well.

LK: Was that Cherie Perlmutter?

HH: Cherie, yes. I said, “I need some money.” And I got it from her.

LK: Oh, wow!

HH: We got the first superconducting instrument on the campus, on the whole campus including Chemistry and everything. That was terrific.

LK: How did you know her prior to asking her for this money? You said you had a good relationship with her?

HH: Since I had done NMR in Los Alamos, I had some credibility.

LK: Okay, great.

Did you do much collaboration with other basic science departments around the campus, like, did you work much with Chemistry?

HH: Uhhh... Not really. I got to know the head of Pharmacology, Fred [Frederick E.] Shideman, very well. The head of Anatomy was David [W.] Hamilton. The head of Microbiology was Dennis [W.] Watson. The head of Laboratory Medicine was Ellis Benson. He was a good guy. The head of Laboratory Medicine later on was Leo Furcht. But when I came here, it was somebody else. He was a good guy.

LK: You worked with them occasionally?

HH: We had a basic science meeting once a week, and we also met once a week with the dean of all the clinical science and the basic science.

LK: Did you do any research collaboration with any of them?

HH: I don't think so. I'm kind of weird.

LK: [laughter] Is that the esoteric research you're talking about?

HH: I did some work, very little, in Hematology.

LK: Did you collaborate with anyone?

HH: No. I gave some seminars, stuff like that.

LK: Okay.

When you were teaching to, like, medical students, did you ever teach your classes differently and tailor them at all to professional students, pre-professional students or did you just teach basic science the way it was taught to you?

HH: I taught basic science the way that it ought to be taught whether they were dental students or graduate students. That was different from my predecessor who felt that medical students were the ultimate and the rest was second class.

LK: Hmmm. Interesting.

HH: He had an M.D.-Ph.D. I didn't agree with that at all. As a matter of fact, at one of the meetings with the Dental School heads, I told the dean of the Dental School, "We teach biochemistry the same for everybody."

LK: Did you find it beneficial to be working within the Academic Health Center as opposed to maybe people you knew in Chemistry, like working with Cherie Perlmutter, someone you could go to to ask funding?

HH: Yes, that was very helpful. One of the major things is that the positions at the Academic Health Center are twelve months. In Chemistry, they're nine months.

LK: Ohhh. Okay.

HH: So you have to be more arranging your money if you're in Chemistry.

LK: Right. Did you feel more protected, as well, within this larger unit?

HH: Yes.

I had a lot of interaction with people in Chemistry.

LK: Did you do any research with any of them?

HH: No. I served on many student committees.

LK: Okay.

You mentioned Cherie Perlmutter, but did you work at all with Lyle French when he was vice president?

HH: Well, I met him once or twice. I met him when I was recruited, and that's about it. When I came here, Neal Gault was the dean. Then, later on, David Brown became the dean. I served under both of them. Neal was a very, very sweet guy, I guess is the word. David Brown was a firebrand.

LK: [chuckles] Was one of those leadership styles better than the other, the sweet versus the firebrand?

HH: Not really. David Brown was sometimes hard to deal with, because he had an incredible temper, and if he didn't agree with you, he might get annoyed.

[chuckles]

LK: We mentioned funding earlier when you were getting the super conductor. Were there any other times that you struggled to get funding?

HH: Oh, yes!

LK: [chuckles] I know that there was a lot of budget cutting in the 1980s and 1990s. You served until 1992? Is that correct?

HH: Nineteen ninety-two, yes.

LK: Do you remember any other specific instances maybe when you were struggling with funding?

HH: When I lost my NIH grant, I reapplied and got it back. That's a traumatic experience. Suddenly, the money disappears.

LK: Yes.

HH: That's the trouble right now. The NIH funding and NSF [National Science Foundation] funding is so tight.

LK: Yes, very tight.

HH: Many of the faculty who lost their grant and reapplied didn't get it...reapplied and didn't get it and, eventually, said, "To hell with it." Their research is gone.

LK: Wow. But when you were working, that funding was still there from the NIH?

HH: Yes.

LK: Did you serve on any University or Academic Health Center committees that you want to comment on?

HH: I served on the committee that would evaluate applications for research funds from the Minnesota Medical Foundation, I think it was. Those were related to the health sciences. I also served on the committee from the Graduate School. That was kind of fun.

LK: What was the committee you were on with Engineering?

HH: I was just a committee member to evaluate applications to graduate school.

LK: Oh, for admission?

HH: No, no. For funding.

LK: Oh, okay.

The people who were applying to the Minnesota Medical Foundation for money, were they all within the University?

HH: Yes.

LK: Were you very involved in a lot of professional organizations related to biochemistry?

HH: I was on the editorial board on the *Journal of Biochemistry* for six years. I served for a long time on the *European Journal of Biochemistry*.

LK: So you were just reviewing new research for that?

HH: Yes. When you submit a publication it goes to an editorial board and, then, they evaluate it. If it is accepted, then it gets published. If it's rejected, that's it.

LK: You said you were on the search committees for both Neal Gault and David Brown when they became Medical School deans?

HH: No. [pause] I certainly wasn't on the search committee for Neal Gault.

LK: He was here earlier, wasn't he?

HH: He was here already.

LK: That's right.

HH: I'm not sure I was for David Brown. Maybe.

LK: Did you do any lobbying to the State Legislature, at all?

HH: Oh, no.

LK: [laughter]

HH: That scared the hell out of me.

LK: Why do you say that?

HH: I'm not a terrific public speaker. I can give lectures. I'm well prepared; I'm fine.

LK: When you stepped down as head of the Biochemistry Department in 1992, did you retire or did you continue...?

HH: I kept my research going.

LK: Okay. Were you teaching still, as well?

HH: Yes.

LK: How long were you at the University?

HH: Altogether?

LK: Yes.

HH: I came in 1976 when I was fifty, and I retired when I was seventy-seven, so twenty-seven years when I actually worked. I still go to the U twice a week.

LK: Oh! To do research? Oh! I didn't realize that.

HH: On Mondays and Wednesdays.

LK: When you stepped down as head of the department, did you help choose your successor?

HH: No. That's a no-no.

[chuckles]

LK: You continued teaching, at that point?

HH: Yes.

LK: Are you still teaching now?

HH: No, no, no. I gave it up, I guess, when I was seventy-seven.

LK: What kind of research are you working on now?

HH: None at all. I try to keep up on the literature. Most of it is molecular biology and I don't have a clue.

LK: [laughter]

HH: I read *Chemical & Engineering News*, *Science*, and *Nature*, and that's about it.

LK: How long did you continue your work in anaerobic biochemistry?

HH: After I came back from Germany, I did it for five, six years.

LK: Did your research change then in, like, 1985? Did you start working on a different project?

HH: It was still the same B-12 related materials. I had a very good post doc from Germany and she did a very nice job in purifying another enzyme and so on.

LK: Who was that?

HH: Ute [E.] Krone.

LK: How do you spell that?

HH: Krone, K-r-o-n-e.

LK: How long were you in Germany?

HH: I was there for a year. But, then, I got re-invited. Actually, I went to David Brown and said, "David, I've been re-invited for four months." He said, "What the hell? You're

a department head. You're supposed to be here!" I told him, "Why don't you cut off my salary, and I'll go, and I'll come back, and you can pay me again?" He said, "No, no, it's okay." So I went. That was the first time, four months and, then, once more for two months.

LK: You spent a lot of time in Germany.

HH: The nice part is that the Humboldt Foundation paid all your travel...

LK: Oh, wow, yes.

HH: ...paid an enormous salary, all kinds of meetings at gorgeous resorts. There was one in Southern Bavaria on the lake area...oooh, beautiful! All you did is give a talk and listen. That's it.

LK: Oh, really? So you weren't doing research over there? Wow!

HH: Then, while I was there, you got invited to many places to give seminars. So I went and probably gave six, seven, eight seminars, one as far as Stockholm [Sweden]. So we took a train, my wife, and my daughter, and I, from where we were in Marburg [Germany] north to Stockholm.

LK: That's a great opportunity.

HH: Yes.

LK: In some of the research I did to get ready for this interview, I found a newspaper article where you were commenting on a lot of the publications about the health effects of B-12.

HH: Yes.

LK: You were talking about how what was published in medical journals was disjointed from what was published in popular journals. I was wondering if you have any commentary on how much popular journalism kind of tries to hype up the effects of different vitamins, particularly B-12, that you were working with.

HH: Well, B-12 has a very long history. B-12 deficiency in the 1800s was a fatal disease. People died. Once you were diagnosed with pernicious anemia, it was terminal cancer. So there was a *lot* of activity from a lot of people. I guess there were all-together on B-12, five Nobel prizes.

LK: Wow, just on B-12?

HH: Yes. The last one was Dorothy [M.] Hodgkin, who did the crystallography where she...

[Doctor Hogenkamp shows Lauren a reference]

LK: Okay. Hmm. I hadn't heard of her. I should look this up.

HH: She is terrific, a very sweet lady. I met her twice, once in Berkeley and once at a meeting in Switzerland.

LK: Did she study at Berkeley, as well?

HH: No. B-12 is weird. The structure is so complex that the organic chemistry, which normally degrades and identifies the pieces that are generated. That worked in part as a final structure. Both of them were determined by her. At that time, in the early times, that was difficult because the computers in Britain weren't strong enough, so she actually used a computer in, I guess, southern California. She just was marvelous. Oh! She had *incredible* arthritis. Her hands were like that.

LK: When she was young, even?

HH: The only time she got rid of it was when she was pregnant.

LK: Oh, wow! How strange.

HH: Yes. I talked to her many times.

LK: You mentioned a lot of women that you have worked with or hired in our conversation. My understanding of it was that it was harder for women to get into the basic sciences. Was that not your experience?

HH: No, that's not true.

LK: I didn't know if you had any commentary on the Rajender Consent Decree. I think it began in 1980. There was a female professor in the Department of Chemistry who didn't get tenure and, then, she sued the University. Do you recall that, at all?

HH: Yes, that was a weird affair. I never really got down to really understand what was going on. It depends on who you talk to, at the time. So I didn't get involved at all.

LK: Okay.

HH: It sounds like you stayed outside...

HH: She was a post doc, I think.

LK: I thought she was an assistant professor.

HH: Well, that was some of the difficulty in this.

LK: Ohhh, okay.

HH: She was the one that was Indian.

LK: Yes.

HH: Yes. I never quite got to the bottom of it.

LK: Did it have an impact on your department, at all?

HH: Well, the impact was great on the University and in the hiring process. So you had to, when you got candidates coming in, make very sure that you had women applicants and that was the hard part. Sometimes, you didn't get any women applicants and what do you do?

LK: Right. [chuckles] Did you have to do recruiting when that happened?

HH: Oh, yes. You had to show that you went out to get women and show whether they went somewhere else. Yes. That wasn't really that difficult.

LK: That kind of wraps up my questions that I have written. I didn't know if you have any final thoughts on the Department of Biochemistry or working within the Medical School, anything I didn't ask you about.

HH: Before, when I came here and for many years later, there were two Departments of Biochemistry, one in the Medical School and one in the College of Biological Sciences. I always thought that was a big mistake. I tried to do something about it. I didn't get anywhere. In Saint Paul, there was [Richard] Caldecott who had the College of Biological Sciences. It was his baby. He felt if the departments were combined that the College of Biological Sciences and Agriculture would really, really lose out. In the Medical School, it was David Brown who wanted the Medical School. We never got anywhere with him.

Then, after I retired, we got a new dean in the Medical School. We got a new dean in the College of Biological Sciences. As a matter of fact, the dean in the College of Biological Sciences came from the Medical School. Now, both departments are combined. There's one department head: David [A.] Bernlohr. It's a *huge* department. There must be forty faculty.

LK: Wow.

HH: I don't know; you better check.

LK: Okay.

HH: That was a big, positive thing.

LK: Did you do any work with this other Department of Biochemistry?

HH: Oh, yes, we did. The head, Finn Wold, and I became very good friends.

LK: He was actually in the Department of Chemistry in the Medical School and he left?

HH: Yes, he was in Biochemistry in the Medical School and went to Biological Sciences. He was a terrific guy.

LK: Did you have any trouble...like, were you competing for resources, at all?

HH: No. They had their own budget and we had our own budget.

LK: At the University I did my undergraduate work at, the biochemistry department there was within the agricultural college. I guess I was just wondering why biochemistry departments are often in agricultural departments.

HH: There's the biochemistry of flour, biochemistry of all the things, so that's obvious.

LK: Yes.

Any other final thoughts on the department or...?

HH: You've drained me!

[laughter]

LK: Did I? Well, I really appreciate your time. Thank you so much for interviewing today.

[End of the Interview]

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