

Peter K. Knoefel Endowed Chair in Pharmacology & Toxicology



Peter Klerner Knoefel (1906-1999) was born in New Albany, Indiana, received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from the University of Wisconsin, and his M.D. (cum laude) with special honors in physiology from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Knoefel served as an assistant (1927-1928) and an instructor (1928-1929) in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Wisconsin, served as a National Research Council Fellow (1931-1932), and as a research associate (1932-1935) in the Department of Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Knoefel joined the University of Louisville in 1935, where he served as assistant professor (1935-1938), associate professor (1938-1939), professor (1939-1968), and professor emeritus of pharmacology (1968-1999). Dr. Knoefel was appointed and served as the first chairperson of the newly created Department of Pharmacology at the University of Louisville (1941-1966), where he recruited and led an outstanding faculty and program, and served as chairman emeritus (1966-1999). Dr. Knoefel established the graduate training program in pharmacology in 1954 and served as the advisor of four students receiving the Ph.D. degree. Endowments have been established in his name including an award for a outstanding medical student in basic and clinical areas of pharmacology, and an endowed chair in Pharmacology and Toxicology.