

# The Drug Hunters

*author: Donald R. Kirsch PhD, Ogi Ogas PhD*

---

2026-07

## Synopsis

---

author	Donald R. Kirsch PhD, Ogi Ogas PhD
readBy	James Foster
inLanguage	english

The search to find medicines is as old as disease, which is to say as old as the human race. Through serendipity - by chewing, brewing, and snorting - some Neolithic souls discovered opium, alcohol, snakeroot, juniper, frankincense, and other helpful substances. Ætzi the Iceman, the 5,000-year-old hunter frozen in the Italian Alps, was found to have whipworms in his intestines and Bronze Age medicine, a worm-killing birch fungus, knotted to his leggings. Nowadays Big Pharma conglomerates spend billions of dollars on state-of-the art laboratories staffed by PhDs to discover blockbuster drugs. Yet despite our best efforts to engineer cures, luck, trial and error, risk, and ingenuity are still fundamental to medical discovery. *The Drug Hunters* is a colorful, fact-filled narrative history of the search for new medicines from our Neolithic forebears to the professionals of today and from quinine and aspirin to Viagra, Prozac, and Lipitor.

## Reader's comments

---

### **comment 1: Emily Harper**

The Drug Hunters by Donald R. Kirsch and Ogi Ogas is a riveting exploration into the world of drug discovery, a field that remains shrouded in mystery for many. The authors, both experts in their fields, provide a compelling narrative that not only highlights the scientific breakthroughs but also delves into the personal stories of those who have dedicated their lives to this demanding pursuit. What sets this book apart is its ability to blend complex scientific concepts with human interest stories, making it accessible to a wide audience. Kirsch and Ogas skillfully navigate the history of pharmacology, offering insights into both past successes and failures, and shedding light on the challenges faced by today's researchers. The anecdotes and case studies presented are meticulously researched, adding depth and authenticity to the narrative. While the subject matter could easily become dense, the authors maintain an engaging pace, ensuring that readers remain captivated throughout. Whether you're a science enthusiast or simply curious about how life-saving drugs come to be, The Drug Hunters offers an enlightening and inspiring read that underscores the importance of perseverance and innovation in the quest for medical advancement.

*â€” Emily Harper (2026-05-30 15:42:18)*