

STEPHEN J. HUFFAKER

Cambridge Scholar 2002

Degree: University of Wisconsin: B.S., Biology, 2002

Research Interests: Genetics of Neuropsychiatric Disorders



Stephen Huffaker graduated summa cum laude with honors in research from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in only three years. As an undergraduate, he worked in the laboratory of Dr. Neal First investigating gene expression patterns of early bovine development and optimizing nuclear transfer (NT) conditions and donor cell type to improve the viability of NT bovine embryos. Later he joined the lab of Dr. James Thomson where he completed his senior honors thesis entitled "Cardiomyocytes derived from embryonic stem (ES) cells." Stephen has been inducted into several honor societies including: Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key International Honor Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. In his spare time, he enjoys Shorin-Ryu style karate, sailing, backpacking, guitar, and violin. As a Cambridge Scholar working in the laboratories of Daniel Weinberger (NIMH) and Sabine Bahn (Cambridge), Stephen has identified signature gene expression patterns in key areas of the brains of schizophrenic patients. Most recently his work has uncovered possible information about a new schizophrenia susceptibility gene that he hopes "will not only lead us in new directions of questioning and continue to shed exciting new light into this enigmatic illness, but will also allow us to begin translating our bench findings into more tangible improvements of patient treatment." He was recently accepted to Harvard Medical School and the Harvard-MIT Health Scientist training program where he plans to complement his PhD research experience with clinical training. He states, "Modern research is not bound by disciplinary or even national boundaries and the next generation scientist must be able to effectively navigate this complex environment. The joint program between the NIH and Cambridge/Oxford University provides early on the opportunity to learn unparalleled and priceless skills necessary for any scientist to succeed in contemporary medical research."