

PAUL J. TESAR

Oxford Scholar 2003

Degree: Case Western Reserve University: B.S., Biology, 2003

Research Area: Stem cell biology



Paul Tesar graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry from the Case Western Reserve University. Paul received many academic distinctions including admission in the ‘Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities,’ a Case Western Reserve University Provost Scholarship, the George E. Johnson & Robert M. Ward Merit Scholarship, the A. Stoddard Jones Scholarship, and inclusion on the High Dean’s List while at Case Western Reserve. Paul was also granted fellowships from the American Cancer Society, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland for summer research. Paul was active in research with Dr. Stephen E. Haynesworth that culminated in data presentations at the Michigan Tissue Engineering Conference, CWRU Developmental Biology retreat, and a Tissue Engineering Conference at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. He also won a student research grant from Phi Beta Kappa and First Prize in the Michelson-Morley Undergraduate Research Competition in the Biological Sciences. Paul’s primary research focus was on adult mesenchymal stem cells, which he hoped would facilitate the development of new treatment approaches for various diseases. This has led him to found a web-based information service called “stem cell information.com” Outside the laboratory, Paul was an exceptional athlete on the Case Western Reserve men’s track team of which he was captain for the 2002-2003 season and a member of the UAA All-Conference Team in 2001. In his first two years as an Oxford Scholar under mentors Sir Richard Gardner and Ronald McKay, Paul has made a groundbreaking observation that all stages of the pre-implantation mouse embryo can give rise to genuine embryonic stem cells. This discovery was published as a single author paper in the U.S. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences – a remarkable accomplishment for an early doctoral student. Paul hopes to “advance the field of cell-based tissue engineering in the future” through his research.