

JULIA A. JAMES

NIH-Oxford and Rhodes Scholar 2005

Degrees: University of Oxford, Diploma, Integrated Immunology, 2005 and Hobart and William Smith Colleges, B.S., Chemistry, 2004

Research Interests: Immunology, Chemistry, and Health Disparities



Julia James graduated magna cum laude from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 2004 with a B.S. in Chemistry and a minor in Aesthetics. For her outstanding academic performance, Julia received a number of awards including the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, Jesse B. Coxe and Merck AAAS Summer Undergraduate Fellowship, the American Chemical Society Scholarship (2001-2004), the UNCF/Merck Undergraduate Fellowship, and the HWS Rocco Fiaschetti Chemistry Achievement Award. In 2004 Julia was nominated to the Phi Lambda Upsilon Chemistry Honorary Society and the Sigma Xi Scientific Honor Society. During her undergraduate career, Julia used molecular modeling techniques to investigate the effects of chemical inhibitors on the propagation of the human immunodeficiency virus with the aim of developing new drugs to combat AIDS. She expanded this study to include 9 protease inhibitors to note motifs among the drugs that could allow for the development of new potent protease inhibitors without adverse side effects. During the summers of 2003 and 2004, Julia worked as an intern at Merck Pharmaceutical Company on a patent-protected project that focused on identifying targets for the treatment of abnormalities of blood cholesterol. In addition to undertaking this research, Julia presented her research at numerous professional meetings while serving as a resident advisor, math and reading tutor, and vice president to the chemistry club. In 2004, Julia was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to continue her studies at the University of Oxford where she earned a diploma in M.Sc. Integrated Immunology as a member of Green College. In 2005, Julia joined the NIH-Rhodes partnership as an Advanced Scholar in order to continue her D. Phil. work in collaboration with an NIH investigator. Regarding her work in research, Julia says, "My goal is to improve the quality of health care and research in underserved areas worldwide."