

MOLLY PERKINS

NIH-Oxford Scholar 2005

Degree: Harvard University: B.A., Biology, 2004;

Watson School of Biological Sciences: M.S., Molecular Biology, 2005;

Research Area: Immunology, Infectious Diseases & Vaccine Development



Molly Perkins received an A.B. from Harvard University in 2004, graduating *magna cum laude* with Highest Honors in Biology. She was also named a Harvard College Scholar (top 10% of class). As an undergraduate, Molly was drawn to HIV research because of its pressing global significance. She worked with Dr. Bruce Walker at the Partners AIDS Research Center of Massachusetts General Hospital on the effects of coinfection of HIV-1 and GB virus C. She received the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation Student Intern Award and funding from the Harvard College Research Program for her project. Her work on correlates of protection in adult and pediatric HIV disease led to her honors thesis research on the impact of GB virus C coinfection in HIV-1 pathogenesis, for which she was awarded Harvard's Thomas T. Hoopes Prize. Her research has been presented at major virology conferences around the world. Following graduation from Harvard, Molly earned a Masters of Science in Molecular Biology in one year from the Watson School of Biological Sciences at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory before matriculating to the NIH-Oxford program. Outside of the academic arena, Molly was a vocalist in the Harvard University Choir, the Kuumba Society of Harvard, and the Harvard Fallen Angels; she has sung on three continents. She also served as an Assistant and Associate Editor of the Harvard Health Policy Review. She has decided to devote her career to the immunology of HIV infection stating, "many of the best ways to combat the virus may come from enabling the body to use its natural defenses, so basic immunology research is the key to new therapeutic and vaccine strategies."