

CHIBAWANYE ENE

NIH-Cambridge Scholar 2008

Degrees: Wayne State College, B.S., Biology, 2004

Research Interest: Neural Stem Cells and Brain Tumors



Chibawanye (Chiba) Ene was born and raised in Nigeria. In 2000, he moved to the United States to attend college at the age of 15 and is now a permanent resident of the United States. He graduated magna cum laude from Wayne State College (WSC), Wayne, Nebraska, with a bachelor of science in biology and minor in chemistry. As a freshman, he received several awards including induction into the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society and the Paul Jonathan Ewald Jorde pre-medicine scholarship. His sophomore year, he was one of the first 3 students at WSC accepted into the NIH-funded Nebraska Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (NE-BRIN). As a BRIN scholar under Dr. Doug Christensen's mentorship, Chiba studied environmental factors affecting virulence gene expression in *E. coli* 0157:H7 pathogenesis as well as investigating the hypothesized 'danger model theory' of immune response to foreign bodies. Chiba worked with Dr. Sandor Lovas at a Proteomics & Molecular dynamics core lab at Creighton University, where he studied the effects of aromatic side-chain-containing protein residues on the secondary structure of model helical peptides using Ultraviolet and Vibrational Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy. Apart from his research activities at Wayne, Chiba served as a resident assistant, student senator and was involved in organizing fund raisers/walks for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In the fall of 2004, he began medical school at Indiana University (IU), Indianapolis. After completing his 3rd year, he was awarded a research fellowship by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). As an HHMI scholar, he worked with Dr. Howard A. Fine of the Neuro-Oncology Branch (NOB) of the National Cancer Institute, NIH, studying Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) the most common primary brain tumor in adults. His project focused on how micro-RNAs regulate proliferation and differentiation of GBM derived Tumor stem like cells or Tumor Initiating Cells (TICs). As for future plans, he hopes to go back to IU for his last year of medical school after his PhD training and continue on into a career in academic medicine as a physician-scientist seeking ways to improve survival of patients with brain tumors by studying the molecular mechanisms underlying tumor development and progression.