

## KEVIN SHENDEROV

NIH-Oxford and Rhodes Scholar 2007

Degree: New York University, B.A. Biochemistry, 2007

Research Area: Immunology



Kevin Shenderov graduated as Valedictorian of the New York University College of Arts and Science with a B.A. in Biochemistry and a minor in History. In high school, Kevin's first scientific research was conducted in Dr. Alan Houghton's tumor immunology laboratory at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York using gene expression microarrays to identify potential cancer vaccine targets. In Dr. Houghton's lab, Kevin also studied prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA), a protein that is highly expressed on prostate cancer cells and in the neovasculature of many solid tumors. PSMA is not found in most normal tissues, and therefore could be a promising target for cancer immunotherapy. Kevin spent the spring and summer after his sophomore year at NYU's campus in England, conducting research in Dr. Vincenzo Cerundolo's tumor immunology laboratory at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine in Oxford University. There, he studied the cell surface protein CD1d, which presents glycolipid antigens to Natural Killer T (NKT) cells. During the last two years of college, Kevin conducted research for his honors thesis in Dr. Dan Littman's immunology laboratory at the NYU Medical Center, studying the developmental pathway of the recently discovered T helper 17 (Th17) lineage of helper T lymphocytes. He and his colleagues identified a role for the cytokine interleukin-21 in Th17 development.