

## SCOTT STEWARD-THARP

NIH-Oxford and HHMI Scholar 2008

Degree: University of Iowa, B.S., Biochemistry, 2005

Research Interests: Immunology



Scott Steward-Tharp graduated summa cum laude from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry in 2005. During his undergraduate experience, he was awarded 15 merit-based scholarships, titled a Collegiate Scholar and was inducted into several National Honor societies including Phi Beta Kappa. Scott's passion for research was sparked during his sophomore year of study by Dr. Amnon Kohen, an organic chemistry professor. The Kohen laboratory studies enzyme catalysis using the tools of organic and physical chemistry, and Scott's work within the laboratory resulted in both a publication in *Biochemistry* and his senior thesis. Upon graduation, Scott entered dental school at the University of Iowa where he took advantage of an opportunity to broaden his research interests and started working in a mucosal immunology lab under Dr. Kim Brogden of the Dept. of Periodontics. In Dr. Brogden's laboratory, Scott worked primarily on a project that involved isolating cationic peptides from sheep tracheal epithelium and testing them for antimicrobial activity. At an international meeting, he presented his efforts and findings towards isolating a sheep hemoglobin fragment and characterizing its activity against two prominent periodontal pathogens. During his second year of dental school, Scott received admittance to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-National Institutes of Health (HHMI-NIH) Research Scholars Program. In the laboratory of Dr. John O'Shea, Scott continued to entertain his immunology interests and has worked on various aspects of cytokine signaling and T-helper cell differentiation, all within the context of autoimmune disease. Additionally, he generated a transgenic mouse model of a rare human disease whose biochemical basis was just recently characterized.