

Ben Schrank



High School: Wauwatosa West High School

SMART Team Projects: "Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia" (2004-2005)

" 'Flipping on the Switch:' Ras and NF1" (2005-2006)

College: Brown University

Major: Neuroscience

Career Plans: I hope to continue working at the Blood Research Institute throughout my remaining undergraduate years. I am also actively looking for Neuroscience research opportunities at Brown. Following my graduation in 2011, I plan on attending Medical School and potentially specializing in Pediatric Anesthesiology.

Impact of the SMART Team program on me: The SMART team program offered me an exciting opportunity to experience the breadth and depth of molecular biology. I began by studying the scope of protein synthesis and immersed myself in concepts like protein folding, which encouraged me to see the relationship between a protein's structure and its function. By working with local research investigators, I applied these principles to a specific field of study, giving me real exposure to cutting-edge science. At the conclusion of the program, I learned how to communicate abstract ideas clearly in a presentation of my work to fellow SMART team students and researchers. Through my SMART team experience, I met Drs. Peter and Debra Newman, who have given me the opportunity to work in their lab since 2005. The SMART team program also gave me a great foundation for high school and college-level classes, helping me to earn an 'A' in Cell and Molecular Biology at Brown.

Favorite Memory: My favorite memory from SMART team has to be the qualification "competition" when Shannon and Tim would quiz the teams and then give water molecule models as prizes. Mine are still hanging on the fridge at home!