



Joseph Straub

Personal Statement

I received my bachelor's degree in Biology with a biomedical concentration from Northwestern State University in Louisiana where I graduated *summa cum laude* in the Spring of 2014. During my undergraduate studies, I was given the opportunity to participate in the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network's Summer Program where I was exposed to true research work. I am currently pursuing a Ph.D in Molecular Sciences and Nanotechnology from Louisiana Tech University.

The decision to stay in Louisiana was based on the desire to remain close to family, especially my father who suffers from Parkinson disease. My doctoral work, performed in the lab of Dr. Jamie Newman, involves the study of gene expression and its regulation by the Mediator complex in human adult stem cells. I am a senior member of the Newman lab and the lead graduate student of the Mediator Project; therefore, it is my responsibility to oversee the work that is done for my project and train new undergraduates and graduates in the techniques our project uses. The techniques I use in this research are cell culture, cell staining, qRT-PCR, and western blotting. The Mediator Project is writing a publication for submission within the next month.

Honors

2017	3 rd Place, Louisiana Tech University Research Symposium
2013	Joseph A Thomas, M.D Award, Northwestern State University
2012	Joseph A Thomas, M.D Award, Northwestern State University
2011	Outstanding Freshman Award, Northwestern State University

Contribution to Science

Beadle E, Straub J, Bunnell B, Newman JJ. The role of Med31 in the regulation of mesenchymal stem cell state. *In Preparation*. 2017.

Research Support

2016	Louisiana Tech University Applied and Natural Sciences Mini-grant
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