

Dr J. Brandon White

2013 Recipient of the Natural Product Communications "Gerald Blunden Award"

Dr Brandon White is an Associate Professor at San José State University (SJSU) in the Department of Biological Sciences. He was awarded a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences from Auburn University in 1995 and a Ph.D. in 2001 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham for his work on molecular and biochemical characterization of the rod photoreceptor phosphodiesterase in retina and retinoblastoma cells.

He moved to San Diego, California where he joined the lab of Nobel laureate Professor Gerald Edelman at the Scripps Research Institute conducting research on neural stem cells before moving to the Salk Institute for Biological Studies working with Professor Katherine Jones. His studies at the Salk Institute were in the area of transcriptional gene regulation studying Notch signaling and its importance in cancer biology. He is currently a member of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

His research lab at SJSU focuses on understanding how Mastermind works in conjunction with Notch to activate transcription and understanding how certain bioactive components of food contribute to cell death mechanisms in cancer. His research is funded by the National Science Foundation and the California Walnut Commission.