



Scientific Advisory Board

Christopher AHERN



Finishing year PhD: 2002

MolTag SAB since: 2019

Institution: Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa Health care, Iowa City, IA, USA

Main research area: chemical biology, protein structure and engineering, ligand-receptor binding analysis

Number of supervised PhD students (at home institution): 7

MolTag SAB page:

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How do you experience the development of the students during their time in MolTag?

The MolTag students are some of the best scientists in training that I have met with in any graduate program worldwide. Their curiosity and drive are a great source of inspiration. **I have been especially impressed seeing some of the new students become more confident as they make their way through the program.**

How important is the interdisciplinary training approach for the further career path?

Interdisciplinary training is the path of the future. I think that all PhD training programs will be adopting many of the approaches that have been developed and honed by MolTag trainees and supervisors.

Did you keep in touch with former MolTag students?

It has been great to see so many of the MolTag trainees find success after graduating from the program.

What is the most important advice you want to give to current MolTag students?

2020 and 2021 have been especially difficult years for the practicing scientist. **But what we've seen happening in science with rapid vaccine development should give hope to all scientists everywhere.** My advice to the current group of MolTag students is **to stay hopeful and excited for the future as you will be the next thought leaders in the scientific and biotech communities.**

