

## **DR. JONATHAN PROTO**



While a student at Wheeling Jesuit University, Jonathan Proto was a WV-INBRE summer intern in the laboratory of Dr. Peter Gannett at WVU in 2006 and 2007. Following graduation, he began a Ph.D. program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Stem Cell Research Center. His research focus was aberrant protein signaling in Duchenne muscular dystrophy a fatal disease characterized by muscle degeneration and wasting. More specifically, he endeavored to understand how communication between muscle stem cells and inflammatory cells could be harnessed to reduce inflammation and promote muscle repair. As a result of his research activity, he co-authored nine publications. Following receipt of his Ph.D., he joined the lab of Dr. Ira Tabas at Columbia University Medical Center as a post-doctoral fellow. His work concerns cellular and molecular mechanisms of atherosclerosis lesion development with a particular emphasis on the role of immunity.