

Allan-Hermann Pool



After graduation from Tallinn English College in 2001, Allan-Hermann Pool enrolled in Tallinn University of Technology's Bachelor's of Science program in Gene Technology. During his undergraduate years, he had the opportunity to work in a number of laboratories engaging in research ranging from molecular neuroscience, involving work on gene regulation of neurotrophic factors in the peripheral nervous system, to cancer biology. In 2003, Allan-Hermann received the Tallinn University of Technology Fund of Development award for academic and research achievement awarded to 5 best students. Parallel to his academic career, Allan-Herman co-founded and presided over the Student Council of the Faculty of Science starting in 2005. His undergraduate thesis work entitled, *Novel Ligands of the Human Alpha-Fetoprotein* was performed in a Tallinn-based

biotechnology company Celecure. During his fourth year, Allan-Hermann received the International Brain Research Organization's (IBRO) Researcher Exchange Travel Grant for a semester long research internship at the Institute of Experimental Medicine of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in the Laboratory of Cellular Neurophysiology. While there, he became familiar with the methods of electrophysiology and developed a more profound interest in neurobiology and the mechanisms underlying information processing in biological neural networks.

Upon returning to Estonia, Allan-Herman graduated with honors from Tallinn University of Technology and then went on to take up a Master's degree in Neurobiology at the University of Kuopio, Finland. During his first year, he joined Professor Asla Pitkänen's laboratory of Epilepsy Research (where he also did his Master of Science thesis work on the Neuropeptide Y signalling system in chronic acquired epilepsy) and ran part of the pre-clinical trials of the NPY gene-therapy viral vector. The strong interest Allan-Herman gained through his Master's studies in the molecular and electrophysiological basis of sensory-motor integration motivated him to pursue his graduate studies in 2007 at the University of California, Berkeley as an International Fulbright Science and Technology Award grantee.