



James K. Chen was born and raised in Rolla, Missouri. As an undergraduate at Harvard University, he majored in chemistry and studied functionalized polyacrylamides with Professor George M. Whitesides. He then worked with Professor Stuart L. Schreiber for his Ph.D. studies, investigating Src homology 3 domain/peptide interactions and the immunosuppressive natural product myriocin. Intrigued by the interface of chemistry and developmental biology, James pursued postdoctoral studies with Professor Philip A. Beachy at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, during which he determined the mechanism of cyclopamine action. In 2003, James joined the faculty at Stanford University, where he is currently an Associate Professor of Chemical and Systems Biology, Developmental Biology, and (by courtesy) Chemistry. His research interests span organic chemistry, developmental biology, and cancer biology, and current projects in his laboratory include small-molecule and genetic modulators of the Hedgehog signaling pathway and light-activatable technologies for studying organismal biology.