

Johnson Receives Research Funding from National Institute of Health

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SWOSU Professor Dr. Jason Johnson (second from left) has received \$33,043 in funding from the National Institute of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center's INBRE program for a research study on the Weatherford campus. With Johnson are (from left) SWOSU Senior Vice President and Provost Dr. Blake Sonobe; Dr. Darrin Akins, director of the INBRE Program and assistant professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, OU Health Sciences Center; and SWOSU President Randy Beutler.

Dr. Jason Johnson, professor of biochemistry at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, has received \$33,043 in funding from the National Institute of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center's INBRE program for a research study.

The study is entitled "Allosteric Coordination of Glutaminase Activity and Ammonia Tunneling in CTP Synthetase (CTPS)". The award will fund the project for the 2011-2012 academic year.

The project goal is to determine specific mechanisms of activation for glutamine hydrolysis and subsequent transfer of ammonia within the CTPS enzyme, which could lead to more targeted anti-cancer, anti-viral, and anti-parasitic medications.

Johnson will be working closely with SWOSU undergraduate students, who will assist with the research. SWOSU students currently involved in this project include Jonathan Walker, Kayla Wallis, Ashlie Stacie, Mary Bayer and Alex Foster.

For questions about the grant, please contact Johnson at 580.774.3110 or by email at jason.johnson@swosu.edu.