

Dr. J. MARK BROWN, Ph.D. is an Assistant Staff member in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute. Dr. Brown completed his doctoral training in the area of cellular and molecular nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2004, and completed his postdoctoral training in animal models of atherosclerosis and lipoprotein metabolism at Wake Forest University under the leadership of Dr. Lawrence L. Rudel in 2009. Since then, Dr. Brown's research program has focused on the interrelationship between nutrient metabolism and the development of chronic metabolic diseases such as obesity, type II diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Brown's laboratory has spearheaded NIH funded research programs surrounding a novel pathway of reverse cholesterol transport (RCT) known as Trans-Intestinal Cholesterol Efflux (TICE), which is an attractive new drug target for cardiovascular disease. Another major focus of Dr. Brown's research program surrounds functional characterization of a family of proteins known as alpha/beta hydrolase domain (Abhd) containing proteins. These proteins are highly conserved lipid metabolizing enzymes, and mutations in several of these proteins have been implicated in inherited inborn errors in lipid metabolism. Dr. Brown's laboratory has identified a central role for ABHD proteins in the development of obesity, hepatic steatosis, and type II diabetes.