Chemistry and Biochemistry
Spring 2019 Seminar

Please join us for the following seminar!

From CSU-Chico to Big Pharma; My Path to a Medicinal Chemistry Career and a Structure-Based Drug Discovery Story Targeting the Epigenetic Methyltransferase PRC2

Benjamin R. Taft is a CSU Chico alumni who graduated in 2004 completing a B.Sc. with Honors in Professional Chemistry. He then completed his Ph.D. in 2008 with Prof. Bruce Lipshutz at UC Santa Barbara with research topics focusing on transition-metal-catalysis and aqueous micelles used for organic synthesis. From UC Santa Barbara, Benjamin moved onto a NIH funded postdoctoral appointment working with Prof. Barry Trost at Stanford University on the Enantioselective Total Synthesis of the Marine Alkaloid Citrinadin. In 2011 Benjamin began his medicinal chemistry career at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR) in Emeryville, CA. During his time at NIBR, Benjamin has supported many drug discovery projects in the areas of oncology, virology, and tropical disease.