David Johnson Young Investigator Award:

Biography: David Johnson grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, IL. He received his bachelor's degree in Biomolecular Engineering from Milwaukee School of Engineering where he participated in two undergraduate research projects that spurred his passion for tissue engineering. David then began his Ph.D. in the Biomedical Engineering department at Saint Louis University in Dr. Koyal Garg's Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering lab. His dissertation research focused on enhancing a translatable biosponge therapy through the addition of stem cells and rehabilitative technologies to promote muscle regeneration and functional gains after severe muscle trauma. David has six scientific publications and has presented at twenty national or local conferences, winning five best poster or oral presentation awards. He is proud to have mentored four graduate and eleven undergraduate students throughout his doctoral degree. As a graduating Ph.D. student, David is excited to face new scientific challenges, expand his network, and prepare for the next steps in his career as a postdoctoral fellow. His long-term goal is to improve the quality of life of patients suffering from musculoskeletal injuries. He also has interest in entrepreneurship.