

Robert H. Cichewicz, Ph.D.
Regents' Professor and INPART Director

Robert has had a long-standing fascination for the chemistry and biology of natural products. These interests were initially cultivated during his childhood and young adult life in rural western Michigan and further refined during his undergraduate experiences in biology (B.S. 1994) and anthropology (B.S. 1994) at Grand Valley State University. Next, Robert went on to the University of Louisiana, Monroe where he obtained his M.S. degree in pharmaceutical sciences (1999) under the guidance of Dr. S. Kouzi in the microbial biotransformation of natural products. Shortly after, Robert joined the plant natural products lab of Dr. M. G. Nair at Michigan State University where he earned his Ph.D. in 2002. Upon moving to the University of California, Santa Cruz, Robert conducted postdoctoral studies in the field of bioactive marine-derived natural products under the mentorship of Dr. P. Crews. In 2005, Robert began his independent research career by establishing the Natural Products Discovery Group (<http://npdg.ou.edu>) as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Oklahoma. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2011 and later named a Regents' Professor in 2012. Also in 2012, Robert was appointed the Director of the University of Oklahoma, Institute for Natural Products Applications and Research Technologies (INPART) where he currently oversees the group's efforts for converting natural products into therapeutic leads to combat cancer, infectious diseases, and other unmet medical needs. In 2014, Robert was promoted to full professor. Robert's research group merges chemical, biological, and microbiological approaches for the development and application of new techniques aimed at the discovery of bioactive metabolites from fungi and bacteria.

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