Gio:

Dr. da Silva has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of South Florida, where his work focused on Alzheimer’s disease and embryo development. He continued his training at Rice University as a NIH fellow where he investigated how Vitamin C plays an important role in tumor suppression, Sickle Cell Anemia, and the production of certain hormones important in cardiovascular health. As a faculty member at the UT Medical School, he worked on the discovery and engineering of molecules from microorganisms that use light to control cellular function. These “light-antennae” are currently being used to treat retinitis pigmentosa blindness and neuropathic pain. Throughout his career, he has participated in outreach programs involving students from underrepresented minorities, with emotional and learning disabilities, and visually impaired patients. He has joined the Medical Science Liaison team at Vanda Pharmaceuticals, studying circadian rhythm disorders, and educating health care providers about Non-24.