

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Victor Wei-Dek Mak was born on March 21, 1991 in Oakland, CA, to parents Michael Mak and Cathy Mak. He grew up around the San Francisco Bay Area, and developed an early interest in science through school and television. He later moved to Irvine, CA to pursue undergraduate studies at University of California, Irvine. He developed an interest in organic chemistry, and in the summer of 2010, began working in the laboratory of Professor Kenneth J. Shea, under the supervision of Dr. Leah Cleary. As an undergraduate, Victor conducted research towards the total synthesis of a biologically active alkaloid, stenine, and found his passion for total synthesis. In 2012, he moved to Pasadena, CA to pursue doctoral studies under Professor Sarah Reisman at Caltech. In her laboratory, Victor has focused on the total synthesis of architecturally complex small molecules such as longikaurin E and talatisamine. Upon completion of his Ph.D., Victor will move back to the Bay Area to join a new medicinal chemistry team at Merck in South San Francisco.