

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jay Park Barbor was born on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1993 to John and Gretchen Barbor. He and his older brother, Peter, were born and raised in Indiana, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Indiana Area Senior High School in 2011, Jay attended Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Initially unsure of a major, he had always had a special fondness for chemistry and quickly decided that this would be the focus of his studies. While at Smith, he was lucky to work in the lab of Professor Kevin Shea, studying the use of the Nicholas reaction to form medium-sized cycloalkynes.

After earning his B.A. in 2015, he moved on to work as a medicinal chemist at Microbiotix in Worcester, Massachusetts. While there, he refined his passion for chemical research and was encouraged to pursue a doctoral degree. After spending four years as an industrial researcher, he moved to Pasadena, California with his partner, Jessie Ricker, and cat, Maeby, to study under the guidance of Professor Brian Stoltz at Caltech.

In the Stoltz group, Jay has largely focused on the development of new Ni- and Pd-catalyzed cross-couplings. While at Caltech, he has added a new member to his family, Tuna, who came in off the streets shortly before his candidacy. Following the completion of his doctoral studies, he will be moving back to Massachusetts to start work as a medicinal chemist at Merck.