

**Programming Protein Patterns on DNA Nanostructures  
With Pyrrole-Imidazole Polyamides**

Thesis by

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy

California Institute of Technology

Pasadena, California

2009

(Defended 10 November 2008)

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*For my family*

## Acknowledgements

I would like to begin by thanking Professor Peter B. Dervan who has given me the opportunity to work in a world class research group here at CalTech. Without Peter's guidance I would not be the scientist that I am today. I would like to thank him for his support, advice, generosity, and understanding during my stay here. I truly appreciate his willingness to support my research as it entered a new and unexplored field. It was truly an honor to work with him. I would also like to thank the members of my committee, Professors Robert Grubbs, Doug Rees, and Erik Winfree for their time and assistance in helping me through candidacy and my research proposals. I would also like to further thank Professor Erik Winfree for all of his assistance and guidance in my research. Without his support it would not have been possible to perform many of the experiments that are described in this thesis.

Next, I would like to thank my family, my mother Alma, my father Joel, and my sister Lea. Without their constant support and understanding, I would not be here today. Thank you for all of the pep talks, the snacks and cards in the mail, and most of all, for your constant belief in me. I would never have gotten half this far without your love and support. You have been my inspiration and motivation to keep pushing myself, and I owe you a debt of gratitude for all of my accomplishments. I love you very much.

I am indebted to John Sadowski, one of the most intelligent undergraduates I have had the pleasure of working with. I truly appreciate all of the hard work he did while working on our DX project. I would also be remiss if I did not thank Dr. Sung Ha Park for his incredible patience in teaching me how to use an AFM and answering all of my questions. His assistance was invaluable.

Next, I would like to thank the members of the Dervan lab. They are an outstanding group of scientists and people. It has been my pleasure to be associated with such a classy, intelligent, and caring group of people. I owe a debt to the many older students who helped to guide me when I first joined the lab; Tim Best, Adam Kerstein, Ben Edelson, Eric Fechter, Michael Marques, and Ray Doss. Adam Kerstein was the first one to teach me to make a polyamide when I joined the group and helped me a great deal in my first year, in addition to providing a place to play cards and tagging along on many trips to the Bike. I would like to thank Eric Fechter for his friendship in and out of the lab. I want to thank Michael Marques for his assistance in lab, and for being a great roommate. Tim Best has been a great person to talk to for some real world after graduation perspective, as well as a great person to take on a ski trip. And last, I would like to thank Ray Doss, for keeping me sane in my first few years and for being a great friend and a great scientist. Thank you for all of the fun times, for convincing me it was a good idea to throw a toga party, and I am looking forward to more adventures in the future.

I also want to thank all of my more recent labmates for their friendship, advice, and assistance. I want to thank Carey Hsu and Jim Puckett, who I have had the good fortune of joining the Dervan group at the same time as. I could not think of two better people to go through this journey with. Michelle Farkas and Katy Muzikar, I don't even know how to begin to thank you. Your help in lab and in life has been invaluable to me. I seriously would not be here today if it was not for the friendship and support you have given me. I am indebted to Ryan Stafford for his knowledge and assistance, for teaching me how to footprint, and for captaining our basketball team. I would also like to thank

Dave Chenoweth, whose help and knowledge in lab has been invaluable and who has always been a great person to talk. I am looking forward to seeing you at MIT. I want to thank Claire Jacobs for many funny moments, fun conversations and for her help in lab. Mareike Goeritz has been a good friend these past 2 years, and I want to thank her for all of the fun times, and for getting me addicted to coffee. I would also like to thank all of the first years who have provided a new sense of excitement this past year. Ben (weaksauce), Fei (cream puffs), and Dave (softball), it has been a pleasure getting to know you and I wish you guys the best. Last, I would also like to thank all of the other members of the Dervan group who I have had the pleasure of working with throughout the years, John Phillips, Jim Sanchez, Anne Viger, Christian Dose, Sherry Tsai, Nick Nichols, Julie Poposki, Dan Harki, and Mike Brochu. Although there are too many good memories to list here, I can truly say it has been an honor to work with each and every one of you.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my friends from outside CalTech. Even though most of you are far away, your continued support and friendship has made all the difference to me. Kara, Chris, Jules, Tim, and the rest of the hot soup squad, you guys have been like family. And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank Rachel for all of her love and support, especially over the past 6 months. I want to thank all of you guys for the phone calls, IM conversations, and visits that kept things interesting and helped me remember that there is a world outside of lab.

## Abstract

Molecular recognition of DNA has important applications for gene regulation, molecular biology, and DNA nanotechnology. Pyrrole-Imidazole polyamides are a unique class of molecules with the ability to bind to DNA in a programmable manner. These small molecule analogues of distamycin A can be programmed to target virtually any DNA sequence with high affinity and specificity. Originally characterized for their ability to bind to B-form DNA, polyamides are also able to target DNA in architectures such as the nucleosome core particle (NCP) and two-dimensional DNA nanostructures including DX-arrays and DNA origami. In addressing DNA nanostructures, polyamide-biotin conjugates can be used to create nanoscale molecular assemblies in a bottom-up approach to self-assembly. The ability to address unique sequences on a DNA nanostructure with different polyamides makes it possible to create unique arrangements of protein on a single 2-dimensional DNA template. Polyamides targeted to the NCP can be used for a variety of exciting applications including NCP-templated ligation reactions, gene regulation, and as tools for X-ray crystallography. The programmability of polyamides makes them an ideal tool for addressing a variety of DNA architectures for varying applications.

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