

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jenn Stockdill was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, 1981 in Mankato, Minnesota to Dave and Lucy Stockdill. She was the youngest of three children, and as such benefited both from her parents' exhaustion and her siblings' guidance. The Stockdills moved to King George County, Virginia when Jenn was 2. When she was 5, they moved to Stafford County, where she then spent her formative years. Jenn spent her childhood exploring nature, and it is this background in combination with the (occasionally long-winded) descriptive answers that her parents gave to her questions that shaped her mind scientifically. The attraction to science became irreversible in eighth grade owing to an especially gifted teacher and family friend, M. A. Robinson.

After graduating from Stafford Senior High School, Jenn went to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to pursue a degree in Chemistry. Ultimately, it was Richard Gandour's Organic Chemistry class that sealed Jenn's fate as an organic chemist. Professor Gandour's enthusiasm and rigorous teaching style led to a fantastic learning environment. After one term of organic chemistry, Jenn decided to conduct undergraduate research in the area with Professor Felicia Etzkorn. And just to be sure, she also spent a few summers working in a physical chemistry lab with Professor Alan Esker.

Upon completion of a Bachelor of Science degree at Virginia Tech, Jenn sought an increase in population density and moved to the California Institute of Technology to pursue her doctorate with Professor Brian Stoltz. She has spent the last five and half years there, working toward the total synthesis of the marine natural product zoanthenol. After her defense, Jenn will move to the Big Apple to conduct postdoctoral studies with Professor Sam Danishefsky at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.