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About the Author

Ryan Michael McFadden was born in Evansville, IN on October 15th, 1979. He is the son of Michael L. and Sharon A. McFadden and the brother of Erin and Kevin McFadden. He spent his younger years playing basketball and tennis, cub scouting, and building legos. His interest in chemistry began when he joined the science club at Plaza Park Middle School, led by James Kimsey. He took on a science project investigating the stoichiometry of the reaction between vinegar and baking soda, winning the science fair in eighth grade. Later, he attended William Henry Harrison high school, where he pursued the clarinet, marched four years in the band, and participated in community outreach.

In the fall of 1998, Ryan began his undergraduate studies in chemistry at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. He served as concertmaster of the Purdue Symphonic Band and treasurer of Shreve Residence Hall Club, while actively participating in Campus Crusade for Christ. It was at Purdue where he undertook undergraduate research with Dr. Timothy Zwier, studying the chemistry of hydrogen-bonded clusters. He later began undergraduate research in the labs of Dr. Hicham Fenniri, where he found his true love for organic chemistry. He graduated from Purdue with honors, earning an ACS accredited Bachelors in chemistry and a BS in Chemistry and Biochemistry in May of 2002.

In the Fall of 2002, he moved to Pasadena, CA to begin graduate studies at the California Institute of Technology. He joined the labs of Dr. Brian M. Stoltz, where he investigated the applications of palladium-catalyzed enantioselective decarboxylative alkylation in total synthesis. On July 30th, 2005 he married Marcia Jean Liem, the daughter of Bian Bie and Linny Liem. He is eagerly looking forward to starting a new life with Marcia in the San Francisco area, where he will be working as a medicinal chemist at Gilead Pharmaceuticals.