

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Douglas Carl Behenna was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, on May 14, 1978. He is the only child of Donald B. and Dorothy R. Behenna. Shortly after his birth the family moved from Norristown to bucolic Warwick township, in northern Chester County, Pennsylvania, which was until recently home to more livestock than people. His formative years were largely spent outside biking, gardening, or fishing. He attended Owen J. Roberts High School, where he pursued tennis, theatre, and alto saxophone as extracurricular activities.

In the fall of 1996, Doug began his studies at the University of Pennsylvania and began acclimating to the very urban environment of west Philadelphia. He quickly realized his interests lay in chemistry, but it wasn't until he had the pleasure of taking Professor Winkler's class that he decided to focus on organic chemistry. After getting a taste of research in the laboratory of Dr. Axelsen, Doug got his first chemistry research experience under the guidance of Professor Dewey McCafferty studying the mechanism of action and chemical synthesis of the potent lipoglycopeptide antibiotic ramoplanin. When not in lab, Doug could frequently be found helping with the construction of the Penn Solar Racing Team's car "lightning." Despite his grades in French, Doug graduated Magna cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry and a minor in computer science in 2000.

In the fall of 2000, Doug moved to Pasadena, California, where he began doctoral research with Professor Brian Stoltz at the California Institute of Technology. Doug's doctoral research involved efforts to synthesize the natural product zoanthenol and the development of an asymmetric allylation methodology. On Christmas day 2005, he became engaged to Ms. Angela Jenks. He is looking forward to starting their life together in Cambridge. Doug will begin postdoctoral studies with Professor Corey at Harvard University in November 2006.