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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christopher Dennis Gilmore was born June 19, 1983 in the Midwestern metropolis of Cincinnati, OH, to Jane and Dennis Gilmore, Ph.D. organic chemists working for local companies. In the first of several relocations throughout his life, he was moved, at 18 months of age, to Katy, TX, in the suburban sprawl of nearby Houston. Growing up in Houston was a Darwinian experience, with high temperatures, high humidity and low gas prices forcing the smart to survive by hopping from one air-conditioned space to another while avoiding killer mosquitoes, tornadoes and hurricanes. But, it was a fulfilling experience, because Chris was joined by his brother, Brian, and sister, Ellen. In 2001, 7 days after he graduated from Taylor High School, Chris' family moved again, to North Carolina. Largely in revolt, Chris chose to attend Boston College that fall to study economics—the farthest thing from chemistry that interested him.

At BC, Chris began his studies in economics, but, while acting on instinct, he also chose the honors chemistry curriculum as a freshman. Economics did not last terribly long. Sophomore year, Chris joined the lab of Professor Scott Miller, where he did work probing the mechanism of polypeptide catalysts through the synthesis of dipeptide isosteres. Under Prof. Miller's mentorship, Chris finally realized that his parents had studied an exciting field of science, and decided that organic chemistry was his passion as well. After graduating BC in 2005, he enrolled at Caltech in the fall of that year.

At Caltech, Chris worked under the patient, enthusiastic and supportive tutelage of Prof. Brian Stoltz to develop aryne annulation reactions for constructing heterocycles. In 2012, he received a Ph.D. for this work. From this experience he developed a passion for the integration of various scientific concepts, which will pursue in his capacity as a chemist at Dow Advanced Materials in Marlborough, MA beginning in April 2012.

While in Pasadena, Chris was joined by his family once more, and had the privilege of seeing his little sister off to her high school prom at the Polytechnic School, across the street from Caltech. He has met countless people of fundamental importance to him, including the best friend, coworker, and love of his life, Dr. Pamela Tadross, whom he will gleefully wed in July, 2012 in New York.