

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Daniel D. Caspi was born on February 7, 1980, in Berkeley, CA. He was raised by his parents, Susan and Shlomo, and was joined shortly after his second birthday by his younger sister, Sara. Dan's childhood years were spent living in Alameda, CA, a suburb in the Bay Area and a former Naval base. He attended College Preparatory High School in Oakland, CA, where he played piano in the high school jazz band. His enthusiasm for chemistry was ignited by the AP Chemistry course, where he convinced the charismatic Mr. Coakley to add highly explosive laboratory experiments to the course repertoire.

After graduating from high school in 1998, Dan began his undergraduate studies at Revelle College at UC San Diego as a Chemistry major. After completing the organic chemistry lecture and laboratory series, and realizing that he was deeply interested in the subject, he was inspired to further his knowledge outside of the classroom. During the summer after his sophomore year, he began working at a local biotech company, Metabasis Therapeutics, Inc., where he received his first taste of medicinal chemistry research under the guidance of Dr. Jorge Gomez. Dan was also a teaching assistant for an undergraduate chemistry course for non-chemistry majors, where he tried, with limited success, to convert social science majors to the physical sciences.

In 2002, Dan's passion for organic chemistry led him to sunny Pasadena, CA, to pursue doctoral studies with Professor Brian M. Stoltz at the California Institute of Technology. In 2008, he earned his Ph.D. in chemistry for investigations involving the use of palladium in the context of pharmaceutical and natural product synthesis. Dan will join the process group at Abbott Laboratories in North Chicago, IL, in March of 2008.