

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raul Navarro was born on May 22, 1986, in Los Angeles, California to Raul Navarro Sr. and Lina Navarro. He grew up in several suburbs of the greater Los Angeles area before moving to Baldwin Park, CA at the age of six, where his parents currently reside. Raul attended Baldwin Park High School, where he ran for the cross country and track teams, and was heavily involved with several student organizations.

Raul decided to leave sunny southern California to attend Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. While he quickly learned of the harsh winters in New England, it was during this time that Raul also discovered his passion for chemistry. The summer after his freshman year, he had the opportunity to conduct research in the laboratory of Professor John F. Hartwig. After taking organic chemistry the following school year, he decided to conduct research in the lab of Professor Glenn C. Micalizio, where he investigated polyketide synthesis and a titanium-mediated cross-coupling reaction to prepare allylic amines. It was this research experience that inspired Raul to apply to graduate school and pursue a career in academia.

Upon obtaining his bachelor's degree in 2008, Raul decided to come back to Southern California to conduct doctoral research in the lab of Professor Sarah E. Reisman at the California Institute of Technology. As an NIH predoctoral fellow, his graduate work focused on the development of new synthetic strategies for the synthesis of aza-propellane natural products. In January 2014, Raul will commence an NSF postdoctoral fellowship with Professor Thomas J. Wandless in the Chemical and Systems Biology Department at Stanford University, where he hopes to broaden his knowledge of organic chemistry through its applications in biological systems.