

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my research advisor Professor Sarah Reisman. Sarah has been extremely supportive throughout my time at Caltech, which has helped me immensely. I deeply appreciate the fact that Sarah has always wanted what is best for me and has allowed me the time and energy to figure out what that is. She is a brilliant scientist and I feel honored to have been given the opportunity to conduct research in her laboratory.

I would like to thank my undergraduate research advisor Professor Timo Ovaska at Connecticut College. After taking his sophomore organic chemistry class for a year, I decided to conduct organic chemistry research in his laboratory the following summer. This is where I developed my passion for organic chemistry, and I continued working with Timo for two more years. I'm so grateful to Timo for giving me such a strong foundation in organic chemistry that will stay with me for the rest of my career.

There are lots of other people at Caltech who contributed to the successful completion of my Master's degree that I would like to thank. I would like to thank Professor Brian Stoltz for his suggestions in helping me solve chemistry problems. I would like to thank Dr. Scott Virgil for taking great care of the catalysis center and for always being available and approachable to help students, and especially for helping me grow crystals. I would like to thank Larry Henling for X-ray crystallography. I would like to thank Dr. David VanderVelde for maintaining a great

NMR facility. I would like to thank Felicia Hunt for her generous support and encouragement.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family, Tracy, Richard, and Marley Campbell for their eternal love and support. I could not have got to where I am today without them.