

About the Author

Yiyang Liu was born on April 18, 1986 in Hefei, China. He is the only child of Yonglin Liu and Junling Yan. While in high school, Yiyang was given an opportunity to participate in the American Field Service (AFS) exchange program and spent his junior year in Twentynine Palms High School, California. His American experience at an early age made him excited about studying abroad in the future.

In the fall of 2005, Yiyang matriculated at Peking University in Beijing, China. He changed his major to chemistry after spending his first year at the School of Government. In the summer of 2008, Yiyang enrolled in the University of Michigan/Peking University (UM/PKU) undergraduate research exchange program and traveled to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he worked in the laboratory of Professor Zhan Chen on the spectral analysis of polymer interfaces. During his brief stay in Michigan, a tour of the Pfizer site at Kalamazoo and introductory lectures aroused his interest in synthetic organic chemistry. Upon returning to Peking University, Yiyang joined the laboratory of Professors Jianbo Wang and Yan Zhang, where he studied migratory insertion reactions of palladium carbene species and their applications in β -lactam synthesis.

In the fall of 2010, Yiyang moved to Pasadena, California, where he began doctoral research with Professor Brian M. Stoltz at the California Institute of Technology. His research involves palladium-catalyzed decarboxylative and decarbonylative transformations and their applications in the synthesis of fine and commodity chemicals. During his graduate studies at Caltech, Yiyang became interested in chemical process design and development. He will move back to Ann Arbor, Michigan, in September 2015 and begin postdoctoral studies with Professor Adam J. Matzger in the field of crystal engineering.