

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Lyn Roizen was born on August 3, 1981, in San Francisco, CA, and was the second child (after Jeffrey David) of doctors Nancy Jean Roizen and Michael Frederick Roizen. After two years on the Oakland/Piedmont border, the family took a sabbatical year in Bethesda, MD, before settling into the respectfully argumentative and curious community of Hyde Park in Chicago, IL. From nursery through high school (1984–1999), Jenny attended the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, the experimental laboratory for Dewey's theories about education. She graduated with a surplus of unfocused curiosity, considering majors ranging from anthropology to math.

In 1999, Jenny entered Williams College, following in the footsteps of her brother and father. While she almost left the chemistry sequence after her first year, her brother Jeff convinced her to continue. He claimed that she would fall in love with organic chemistry. Indeed, the enthusiasm of Professors David Richardson and Thomas E. Smith was contagious. At the next available opportunity, Jenny snuck into the historic labs of the late J. Hodge Markgraf for a January-term exploration of the total syntheses of benzoisocanthenones. In the summer of 2002, Jenny started thesis work in the youthful and energetic group of Professor Smith to continue studies toward the asymmetric total synthesis of hennoxazole A, aided by a Pfizer SURF in organic synthesis.

In 2003, Jenny joined the laboratory of Professor Brian M. Stoltz at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, CA, immediately embarking on investigations into the application of the Wolff/Cope rearrangement to the enantioselective total synthesis of ineleganolide. Jenny will move on to study with Justin Du Bois at Stanford.