

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael R. Krout was born on November 2, 1979 in Lewisburg, PA to Raymond and Debra Krout. He spent his childhood with his older brother, Jan, and twin brother, Eric, in the small rural town of Mifflinburg, PA. His enthusiasm for science was stimulated by a challenging course instructed by Mr. Daryl Dreese, who emphasized the fundamental skills of observation and creativity in science. Michael attended Mifflinburg Area High where he competed in varsity football and pursued advanced math and science studies.

In 1998, he began undergraduate studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, PA. Although he majored in biochemistry, an audited summer course (for “fun”) in organic chemistry, lectured by John T. Wood, triggered a new challenge and inspired his pursuit of advanced organic coursework and two summer internships that solidified his zeal for organic chemistry. In 2002, Michael graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.S. in biochemistry, along with minors in biology, chemistry, and mathematics.

In 2003, Michael ameliorated his chemistry skills for eight months in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at Merck in West Point, PA, and then moved to sunny Pasadena, CA to pursue doctoral studies with Professor Brian M. Stoltz (an IUP alum!) at the California Institute of Technology. In 2009, he earned his Ph.D. in chemistry for investigations involving progress toward the asymmetric total synthesis of variegolins and gas-phase studies of the twisted amide 2-quinuclidone. Three weeks prior to his defense in August of 2009, he married his fiancée, Kristy Dax. In October of 2009, Michael began his NIH-sponsored postdoctoral studies under the direction of Professor David Y. Gin at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY.