## ASYMMETRIC DECARBOXYLATIVE PROTONATION OF $\alpha$ -AMINOMALONIC ESTERS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF $\alpha$ -AMINO ACIDS



Bradley L. Nilsson, University of Rochester, Department of Chemistry

 $\alpha$ -Amino acids ( $\alpha$ -AAs) are among the most important and useful families of natural products. The objective of this PRF-funded research project has been to develop novel synthetic methods for the chemical synthesis of  $\alpha$ -AAs that combine classical aminomalonate alkylation/decarboxylation with modern asymmetric catalysis. This work has been pursued in an effort to enable access to noncanical  $\alpha$ -AAs that can be used in the creation of amyloid-inspired materials derived from  $\alpha$ -AAs and peptides.