



Keith Fitzhugh McDaniel, Ph.D. **Class of 1976**

Although Keith did not move to Cumberland until his sophomore year of high school, he was very lucky to be taken in by a wonderful group of friends and several outstanding teachers. He was especially attracted to science by teachers John Van Ackeren (chemistry) and William Leeson (physics) and moved on to study organic chemistry at Gettysburg College under the guidance of professor Alex Rowland. During college Keith again developed a strong network of friends, with whom he continues to share outdoor adventures such as canoeing, hiking and camping. After college Keith attended Princeton University and obtained a Ph.D. in 1985 in Organic Chemistry with Professor Ted Taylor, followed by post doctoral work with Professor Louis Hegedus at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. While studying at CSU, Keith met his wonderful wife Linda. They are the proud parents of two lovely daughters, Lianna and Adelle.

Keith got his first job in 1987 as a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry at Ohio University, where he taught classes ranging from 5 - 240 students and carried out a research program focused on the use of transition metals in organic synthesis. In 1998, Keith moved on to pharmaceutical company Abbott (since split off as AbbVie) where he currently serves as a Senior Principal Research Scientist and Senior Group Leader in the Oncology Discovery program. He is most proud of his contributions to the Antiviral Research program at AbbVie as the inventor of paritaprevir, an HCV protease inhibitor that is an ingredient in Viekira Pak and Technivie. These medications have treated over 100,000 patients infected with the hepatitis C virus. Keith is a co-author of over 30 peer-reviewed scientific journal publications, and is a co-inventor on more than 20 patents.