

**John Sorensen, Assistant Professor,
Department of Chemistry, University of Manitoba**

Dr. John Sorensen is originally from Theodore Saskatchewan, a small town in the southeast of the province. In 1995 Sorensen completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and then stayed on to complete a Masters degree in 1998. He worked under the supervision of Prof. Soledade Pedras on the isolation of antifungal compounds from Japanese wasabi plants. Sorensen then moved to Edmonton and the Ph.D. program at the University of Alberta under the supervision of Prof. John Vederas. His doctoral work was focused on examining the biosynthesis of the cholesterol-lowering drug lovastatin by the fungus *Aspergillus terreus*. In 2003 Dr. Sorensen left Canada for England to take up a post-doctoral fellowship with Prof. Chris Schofield at the University of Oxford where he examined the biosynthesis of carbapenem antibiotics. In 2006 Sorensen returned to the prairies, accepting an assistant professor position in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Manitoba where he has established a research program specializing in the biologically active natural products produced by fungi native to Manitoba. Sorensen also serves as a member of the editorial advisory board for *Natural Products Communications*.



During his time at the University of Manitoba Sorensen has become actively involved with the undergraduate student society and acts as the faculty liaison. In addition, Sorensen serves on the executive of the local section of the CSC as student advocate. Sorensen has also acted as faculty advisor to the organizing committee for the Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry Conference in 2008 and again in 2011 when the University of Manitoba acted as host for the event. Sorensen is a member of the Organic Division of both the CSC and the ACS.