# Promising In Vitro and In Vivo Antitumor Activity

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#### 1. Materials and Methods

S2

Reactions were performed in oven- or flame-dried glassware under a positive pressure of nitrogen  $(N_2)$  or argon (Ar), unless otherwise noted. Tetrahydrofuran (THF), toluene (PhMe), methylene chloride (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), methanol (MeOH), acetonitrile (MeCN), N,N-diisopropylethylamine (i-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt), and triethylamine (Et<sub>3</sub>N) were dried by passage through activated alumina columns prior to use. Benzaldehyde was distilled prior to use. Precipitated sulfur was recrystallized from benzene prior to use. All other commercial reagents were used as received from the manufacturer unless otherwise stated. Reaction temperatures were controlled using an IKAmag temperature module. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and preparative thin-layer chromatography (PTLC) were conducted with E. Merck silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> glassbacked plates (250 µm and 500 µm, respectively). Eluted plates were visualized by UV light (254 nm) or by staining with potassium permanganate or ceric ammonium molybdate. Flash chromatography was performed using forced flow of the indicated solvent system on EMD Geduran<sup>®</sup> Silica Gel 60. NMR spectra were obtained at 298 K, unless otherwise noted. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were obtained using Bruker FT NMR spectrometers (at 500 or 600 MHz) and a Varian FT NMR spectrometer (at 400 MHz). Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> signals ( $\delta = 7.26$ ). Data for <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$ ), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), and integration. Splitting patterns are abbreviated as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), quintet (quint), multiplet (m), broad (br), apparent (app). <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker FT NMR spectrometers (at 125 MHz) and a Varian FT NMR spectrometer (at 100 MHz). Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to residual CDCl<sub>3</sub> signals ( $\delta = 77.16$ ). Infrared (IR) spectra were obtained using a Varian 640-IR FT-IR spectrometer as thin films from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> on KBr plates and are reported in terms of frequency of absorption (cm<sup>-1</sup>). High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained from the UC Irvine Mass Spectrometry Facility using electrospray ionization (ESI) or chemical ionization (CI).

# 2. Experimental Procedures

## 2-1. Table Summary of Yields

Table 1 Examples and yields for each step of the synthesis									
Compound	EWG	$R^1$	$R^2$	R <sup>3</sup>	5	Yield"	3		
a	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	F F	Me	Ме	87% (endo)	40% (2 steps)	6%		
b	CO <sub>2</sub> Me		Me	Me	78% (endo)	59% (2 steps)	8%		
с	CN		Me	Me	48% (endo) 14% $(exo)^b$	80% (2 steps) 4:1 dr	<b>3c</b> 46% <b>13</b> 3%		
d	CN	O Br	Me	Me	46% (endo) <sup>c</sup>	59% (2 steps) 2.8:1 dr	<b>3d</b> 13% <b>SI-2</b> 3%		
e	CN	Me	Me	Me	50% (endo) 7% $(exo)^d$	44% (2 steps) 5:1 dr	<b>3e</b> 20% <b>12</b> 3%		
f	CN		Me	Me	62% (endo)	61% (2 steps) 10:1 dr	22%		
g	CN	MeO	Me	Me	48% (endo) 11% (exo) <sup>f</sup>	75% (2 steps)	30%		
h	CN	F	Me	Me	48% (endo) <sup>g</sup>	55% (2 steps) 8:1 dr	27%		
i	CN	F O F O	Me	Me	_h	53% (3 steps)	37%		
j	CN		Me	Me	13%	41% (2 steps)	28%		
k	CN	MeO	Me	Me	67% <sup><i>i</i></sup>	70% (2 steps)	13%		
I	CN		Me	Et	see 5c	73% (2 steps)	24%		
m	CN		Me	<i>n</i> -Bu	see <b>5c</b>	72% (2 steps)	31%		



"Yield of isolated product. <sup>b</sup> 2.4:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>c</sup>12:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>c</sup>3.1:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>c</sup>3.1:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>c</sup>3.1:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>c</sup>3.1:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>c</sup>3.1:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>c</sup>3.1:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>c</sup>3.1:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo products by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1 ratio of endo:exo prode cycloadduct. <sup>s</sup>3.5:1

#### 2-2. General Procedure 1: Preparation of Pyrrolidines



Imine **SI-1** was prepared using an adaptation of the procedure of Zhang and coworkers.<sup>1</sup> A 250 mL round-bottom flask was charged with piperonal (2.3 g, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), glycine ethyl ester hydrochloride (3.2 g, 23 mmol, 1.5 equiv), and a magnetic stir bar. MeCN (25 mL) was added, followed by Et<sub>3</sub>N (3.1 mL, 23 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The heterogeneous reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at 23 °C for 5 h. The crude reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and the resulting solid was transferred to a separatory funnel with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (25 mL) and  $H_2O$  (40 mL). The layers of the resulting biphasic mixture were partitioned, and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Upon concentrating under reduced pressure, imine **SI-1** (3.5 g, quantitative yield) was isolated as a light yellow oil and carried forward without further purification. A 100 mL round-bottom flask was charged with a solution of imine **SI-1** (3.5 g, 15 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (25 mL) and a magnetic stir bar. Solid LiBr (1.6 g, 18 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added followed by Et<sub>3</sub>N (2.5 mL, 18 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and methacrylonitrile (1.9 mL, 23 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added dropwise. The homogenous solution was allowed to warm to 23 °C. After 16 h, the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and

the resulting oil was transferred to a separatory funnel with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL). The layers of the resulting biphasic mixture were partitioned and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (40 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude material indicated a 2.4:1 mixture of 5c:epi-5c. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (4:1 to 1:1 EtOAc/hexanes, gradient elution) to afford pyrrolidines 5c (2.15 g, 48% yield) and epi-5c (650 mg, 14% yield) as yellow oils. The data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> Ethyl rac-(2S,4S,5S)-5spectral (benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-cyano-4-methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (5c). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.95 (dd, J = 9.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 13.5, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (br s, 1H), 2.25 (dd, J = 13.5, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 1.40 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.0 (C), 148.1 (C), 147.9 (C), 130.6 (C), 122.1 (C), 121.2 (CH), 108.2 (CH), 107.9 (CH), 101.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 72.2 (CH), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.1 (CH), 43.9 (C), 42.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3361, 2984, 2900, 2254, 1734, 1490, 1447, 1265, 1041, 909 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 325.1164: found. 325.1161. Ethyl rac-(2S,4R,5S)-5-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-cyano-4methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (*epi*-5c). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.98 (app d, J = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (app dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (app d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 4.24 (q, J = 7.1Hz, 2H), 4.05–4.02 (m, 1H), 2.72 (dd, J = 13.2, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.63 (br s, 1H), 2.21 (dd, J = 13.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.1 (C), 147.9 (C), 147.7 (C), 130.5 (C), 124.1 (C), 120.7 (CH), 108.4 (CH), 107.7 (CH), 101.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.3 (CH), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.2 (CH), 41.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.2 (C), 20.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3348, 2982, 2901, 2234, 1735, 1489, 1445 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 325.1164; found, 325.1156.



**2-Ethyl 4-methyl** *rac-*(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidine-2,4-dicarboxylate (5a). Prepared according to **General Procedure 1** from 4-fluorobenzaldehyde (110  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) and methyl methacrylate (160  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol) affording **5a** (270 mg, 0.87 mmol, 87% yield) as a clear oil. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2 1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.26 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (app t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.30–4.24 (m, 2H), 4.04 (s, 1H), 4.00 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (s, 3H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.61 (br s, 1H), 2.09 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H) 1.39 (s, 3H), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.6 (C), 173.8 (C), 162.4 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 245.0 Hz, C), 134.8 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.1 Hz, C), 128.4 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.0 Hz, 2CH), 115.0 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 21.2 Hz, 2CH), 73.2 (CH), 61.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 59.0 (CH), 54.7 (CH), 51.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 41.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3373, 2982, 2951, 1733, 1605, 1511, 1448, 1378, 1225, 1160, 1112, 1034, 839 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>FNO<sub>4</sub>Na, 332.1274; found, 332.1264.



**2-Ethyl 4-methyl** *rac-*(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-**5-**(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-**5-yl**)-**4-methylpyrrolidine-**2,**4-**dicarboxylate (**5b**). Prepared according to **General Procedure 1** from piperonal (630 mg, 4.2 mmol) and methyl methacrylate (680  $\mu$ L, 6.4 mmol) affording **5b** (1.1 g, 3.3 mmol, 78% yield) as a clear oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.77 (s, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29–4.22 (m, 2H), 3.96 (dd, *J* = 10.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.72 (br s, 1H), 2.67 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  174.8 (C), 173.8 (C), 147.6 (C), 147.2 (C), 132.7 (C), 120.2 (CH), 108.0 (CH), 107.3 (CH), 101.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.7 (CH), 61.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 58.9 (CH), 54.5 (C), 51.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 41.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3367, 2982, 2950, 2901, 2780, 1731, 1489, 1446, 1381, 1342, 1247, 1137, 1107, 1038, 933, 808 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na, 358.1266; found, 358.1262.



Ethyl *rac-*(*2S*,*4S*,*5R*)-5-(6-bromobenzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-cyano-4-methylpyrrolidine-2carboxylate (5d). Prepared according to General Procedure 1 from 6-bromopiperonal (370 mg, 1.6 mmol) and methacrylonitrile (210 μL, 2.5 mmol) affording 5d (280 mg, 0.73 mmol, 46% yield) as a colorless solid (mp = 97–99 °C). The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2 1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (s, 1H), 4.33–4.24 (m, 2H), 4.04 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (br s, 1H), 2.31 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 1.57 (s, 3H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.8 (C), 148.6 (C), 147.8 (C), 130.6 (C), 122.0 (C), 114.7 (C), 112.6 (CH), 109.5 (CH), 102.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.7 (CH), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.3 (CH), 44.4 (C), 41.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3370, 2982, 2904, 2237, 1736, 1504, 1476, 1408, 1241, 1206, 1116, 1037, 931, 844 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 403.0269; found, 403.0256.



Ethyl *rac*-(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-4-cyano-4-methyl-5-(*p*-tolyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (5e) and ethyl *rac*-(2*S*,4*R*,5*S*)-4-cyano-4-methyl-5-(*p*-tolyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (*epi*-5e). Prepared according to General Procedure 1 from *p*-tolualdehyde (2.0 g, 17.0 mmol). The cycloaddition step was performed on a smaller scale using the resulting crude imine (310 mg, 1.5 mmol) and methacrylonitrile (190  $\mu$ L, 2.3 mmol) affording 5e (210 mg, 0.76 mmol, 50% yield) as a yellow oil and *epi*-5e (29 mg, 0.11 mmol, 7% yield) as a clear oil. 5e: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.41 (app d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (app d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.35–4.24 (m, 2H), 3.97 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 1H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H),

2.70 (br s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.29 (dd, J = 13.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.1 (C), 138.8 (C), 133.5 (C), 129.4 (2CH), 127.4 (2CH), 122.1 (C), 72.4 (CH), 61.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.4 (CH), 44.1 (C), 42.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3349, 2980, 2875, 2234, 1735, 1515, 1450, 1208 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 295.1422; found, 295.1412. *epi*-**5e**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.35 (app d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (app d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.55 (s, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.05 (dd, J = 9.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (dd, J = 13.5, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.22 (dd, J = 13.5, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H), missing NH signal; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.3 (C), 138.3 (C), 133.5 (C), 129.3 (2CH), 127.1 (2CH), 124.2 (C), 69.5 (CH), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.4 (CH), 42.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.1 (C), 21.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3344, 2982, 2875, 2234, 1736, 1514, 1452, 1200 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-CI (*m*/*z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 273.1603; found, 273.1594.

Relative stereochemistry of both **5e** and *epi-***5e** was confirmed by 2D NOESY <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Figure 1 shows the diagnostic NOE correlations for each diastereomer.



Figure 1. Diagnostic NOE correlations of 5e and epi-5e.



Ethyl *rac*-(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-4-cyano-4-methyl-5-phenylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (5f). Prepared according to General Procedure 1 from benzaldehyde (1.52 mL, 15.0 mmol) and methacrylonitrile (1.90 mL, 22.5 mmol) affording 5f (2.4 g, 9.4 mmol, 62% yield) as a clear oil. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.52 (app d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.34 (m, 3H), 4.34–4.24 (m, 2H), 3.98 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 1H), 2.90 (br s, 1H), 2.82 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 1.42 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, 200 Hz, 200

CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.0 (C), 136.5 (C), 128.9 (CH), 128.6 (2CH), 127.6 (2CH), 121.9 (C), 72.4 (CH), 61.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.3 (CH), 44.1 (C), 42.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3348, 2980, 2234, 1734, 1454 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 281.1266; found, 281.1263.



Ethyl *rac-*(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-4-cyano-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (5g) and ethyl rac-(2S,4R,5S)-4-cyano-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (epi-5g). Prepared according to General Procedure 1 from *p*-methoxybenzaldehyde (1.46 mL, 12.0 mmol). The cycloaddition step was performed on a smaller scale using the resulting crude imine (220 mg, 1.0 mmol) and methacrylonitrile (130 µL, 1.5 mmol) affording 5g (140 mg, 0.48 mmol, 48% yield) as a clear oil and *epi-***5g** (30 mg, 0.11 mmol, 11% yield) as a yellow oil. **5g**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.46 (app d, J =8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (app d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.35–4.25 (m, 2H), 3.98 (dd, J = 9.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 1H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 2.82 (dd, J = 13.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, J = 13.5, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.25 (br s, 1H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  173.2 (C), 160.1 (C), 128.8 (2CH), 128.5 (C), 122.2 (C), 114.1 (2CH), 72.2 (CH), 61.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.4 (CH), 55.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.1 (C), 42.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3350, 2979, 2838, 2234, 1735, 1514, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, 311.1372; found, 311.1362. *epi*-**5g**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.38 (app d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (app d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 4.53 (s, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (dd, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.049.7, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 2.74 (dd, J = 13.4, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.53 (br s, 1H), 2.21 (dd, J = 13.4, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.3 (C), 159.7 (C), 128.6 (C), 128.4 (2CH), 124.2 (C), 114.0 (2CH), 69.2 (CH), 61.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.3 (CH), 55.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 41.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 40.2 (C), 20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3346, 2982, 2838, 2234, 1736, 1514, 1249 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z)  $[M + Na]^+$  calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, 311.1372; found, 311.1371.

Relative stereochemistry of both **5g** and *epi*-**5g** was confirmed by 2D NOESY <sup>1</sup>H NMR. Figure 2 shows diagnostic NOE correlations for each diastereomer.



Figure 2. Diagnostic NOE correlations of 5g and epi-5g.



**Ethyl** *rac*-(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-4-cyano-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methyl-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (5h). Prepared according to **General Procedure 1** from *p*-fluorobenzaldehyde (1.6 mL, 15 mmol) and methacrylonitrile (1.90 mL, 22.5 mmol) affording **5h** (2.5 g, 9.2 mmol, 61% yield) as a clear oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.52 (app dd, J = 8.7, 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (app t, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.34–4.24 (m, 2H), 3.99 (dd, J = 9.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 1H), 2.83 (dd, J = 13.7, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (br s, 1H), 2.29 (dd, J = 13.7, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.1, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.9 (C), 163.2 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 246.1$  Hz, C), 132.4 (C), 129.4 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 8.3$  Hz, 2CH), 121.8 (C), 115.7 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 21.3$  Hz, 2CH), 71.7 (CH), 61.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.3 (CH), 44.0 (C), 42.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3348, 2982, 2235, 1736, 1605, 1510 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 299.1172; found, 299.1177.



Ethyl *rac-*(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-4-cyano-5-(2,2-difluorobenzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4-methylpyrrolidine-2carboxylate (5i). Prepared according to General Procedure 1 from 2,2-difluorobenzo[*d*][1,3]dioxole-5carbaldehyde (560 mg, 3.0 mmol) and methacrylonitrile (340 μL, 4.0 mmol) affording crude 5i (840 mg, 2.5 mmol, 83% yield) as a white solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.38 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.34–4.25 (m, 2H), 4.00 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (s, 1H), 2.85 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (dd, *J* = 13.7, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.8 (C), 144.2 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, C), 133.3 (C), 132.4, 131.8 (t, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 255.7 Hz, C), 123.2 (CH), 121.7 (C), 109.4 (CH), 109.1 (CH), 71.9 (CH), 61.8 (CH), 57.1 (CH), 44.0 (C), 41.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3351, 3078, 2983, 2236, 1738, 1497, 1448, 1382, 1239, 1148, 1034, 818, 703 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 361.0976; found, 361.0980.



Ethyl *rac*-(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-4-cyano-5-(2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-5-yl)-4-methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (5j). Prepared according to **General Procedure 1** from a 7.2:1 mixture of 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indene-5-carbaldehyde and 2,3-dihydro-1*H*-indene-4-carbaldehyde<sup>3</sup> (2.9 g, 20.0 mmol). The cycloaddition step was performed on a smaller scale using the resulting crude imine (2.3 g, 10 mmol) and methacrylonitrile (1.3 mL, 1.6 mmol) affording **5j** (390 mg, 1.3 mmol, 13% yield) as a yellow oil. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2 1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.40 (s, 1H), 7.27–7.23 (m, 2H), 4.34–4.26 (m, 2H), 3.98 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 1H), 2.97–2.89 (m, 4H), 2.83 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dd, *J* = 13.8, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (app quint, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.62 (br s, 1H), 1.42 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.2 (C), 145.3 (C), 144.8 (C), 134.3 (C), 125.6 (CH), 124.5 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 122.2 (C), 72.8 (CH), 61.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.5 (CH), 44.2 (C), 42.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film) 2940, 2234, 1735, 1447, 1378, 1209, 1139, 1097, 1032, 826 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 321.1579; found 321.1577.



Ethyl *rac-*(2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-4-cyano-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (5k). Prepared according to **General Procedure 1** from 3-methoxybenzaldehyde (2.9 mL, 24 mmol) and methacrylonitrile (3.5 mL, 42 mmol) affording **5k** (4.5 g, 16 mmol, 67% yield) as a yellow oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.31 (app t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (app t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (app d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92–6.89 (m, 1H), 4.37–4.24 (m, 2H), 4.00 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.84 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (br s, 1H), 2.30 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 1.44 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  173.0 (C), 159.9 (C), 138.2 (C), 129.7 (CH), 122.0 (C), 119.9 (CH), 114.6 (CH), 113.2 (CH), 72.5 (CH), 61.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 55.4 (CH), 44.1 (C), 42.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 22.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 14.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3346, 2979, 2938, 2905, 1876, 2837, 2234, 1734, 1602, 1586, 1490, 1455, 1379, 1316, 1273, 1206, 1142, 1095, 1043, 859, 785 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, 311.1372; found, 311.1379.

### 2-3. General Procedure 2: Preparation of Dioxopiperazines



*Rac-(3R,7S)-6-(benzo[d]*[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8c). A 50 mL round-bottom flask was charged with 5c (410 mg, 1.4 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and a magnetic stir bar. The solution was cooled to 0 °C. Et<sub>3</sub>N was added (240  $\mu$ L, 1.7 mmol, 1.2 equiv) followed by dropwise addition of 2-chloropropionyl chloride (160  $\mu$ L, 1.7 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The reaction was maintained at 0 °C for 30 min, then at 23 °C for 1 h. The reaction was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL).

The phases were partitioned in a separatory funnel and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (2 x 20 mL). Combined extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting orange foam was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and a solution of MeNH<sub>2</sub> (20 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) was added. The biphasic mixture was stirred vigorously at 23 °C for 12 h. The phases were partitioned in a separatory funnel and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 20 mL). Combined extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the crude material indicated a 4:1 mixture of methyl epimers. The pale yellow foam was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and MeOH (10 mL) was added. The solution was stirred under a stream of air until it became a thick slurry (ca. 3 mL). Filtration afforded dioxopiperazine 8c (330 mg, 1.0 mmol, 69% yield) as a colorless powder. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the trituration procedure was repeated to afford additional 8c (54 mg, 0.16 mmol, 11% yield) as a colorless powder. mp = 226–229 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.78 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.35 (dd, J = 11.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (s, 3H), 2.75 (app t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (dd, J = 13.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.46 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.7 (C), 166.1 (C), 148.3 (C), 148.2 (C), 130.9 (C), 120.0 (CH), 119.9 (C), 108.8 (CH), 106.3 (CH), 101.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.7 (CH), 60.9 (CH), 56.2 (CH), 42.7 (C), 36.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2982, 2917, 2244, 1671, 1491, 1447, 1246, 1037, 925, 721 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 364.1273; found, 364.1273.



Methyl rac-(3R,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2 $a]pyrazine-7-carboxylate (8a). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5a (210 mg, 0.68 mmol), 2-chloropropionyl chloride (70 <math>\mu$ L, 0.72 mmol) and MeNH<sub>2</sub> (5 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording 8a (95 mg, 0.27 mmol, 40% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 184–187 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.00–7.10 (m, 2H), 6.91 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.36 (dd, J = 11.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (q, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (s, 3H), 2.94 (s, 3H), 2.90–2.95 (m, 1H), 2.16 (dd, J = 14.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.53 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  172.1 (C), 167.2 (C), 166.8 (C), 162.3 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 247.4$  Hz, C), 133.6 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 3.2$  Hz, C), 128.3 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 7.6$  Hz, 2CH), 115.2 (d,  $J_{C-F} = 21.7$  Hz, 2CH), 69.4 (CH), 60.9 (CH), 56.9 (CH), 53.3 (C), 51.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2975, 2929, 1736, 1677, 1605, 1509, 1433, 1401, 1299, 1248, 1225, 1126, 1158, 849 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 349.1583; found, 349.1570.



Methyl *rac-*(*3R*,6*S*,7*S*,8*aS*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carboxylate (8b). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5b (170 mg, 0.51 mmol), 2-chloropropionyl chloride (60 μL, 0.62 mmol), and MeNH<sub>2</sub> (5 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording 8b (130 mg, 0.30 mmol, 59% yield) as a colorless powder (mp = 178–181 °C). The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (*ca.* 10:1 mixture of diastereomers, 500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.50 (s, 1H), 5.89 (s, 2H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 4.35 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 3.02–2.93 (m, 1H), 2.15 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 1.52 (s, 3H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (*ca.* 10:1 mixture of diastereomers, 125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 172.2 (C), 167.3 (C), 166.9 (C), 147.6 (C), 147.4 (C), 131.5 (C), 120.4 (CH), 108.1 (CH), 107.0 (CH), 101.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.9 (CH), 60.9 (CH), 56.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 53.3 (C), 52.0 (CH), 34.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2953, 2949, 1735, 1672, 1490, 1432, 1294, 1245, 1122, 1037 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na, 397.1376; found, 397.1367.



*Rac-*(*3R*,*6S*,*7R*,*8aS*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (*epi*-8c). Prepared in analogous fashion from pyrrolidine *epi*-5c (2.9 g, 9.6 mmol), 2-chloropropionyl chloride (1.1 mL, 11.4 mmol), and MeNH<sub>2</sub> (20 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O). The crude material was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0 to 10% EtOAc in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, gradient elution) to afford *epi*-8c (*ca.* 2.5:1 mixture of diastereomers, 2.9 g, 9.6 mmol, 35% yield) as a yellow solid (mp = 233–239 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (*ca.* 2.5:1 mixture of diastereomers, 600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.76 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (app br s, 2H), 5.95, (app d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 5.24 (s, 1H), 4.62–4.55 (m, 1H), 4.20 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.65 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 11.3 Hz, 1H), 1.54 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (*ca.* 2.5:1 mixture of diastereomers, 125 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 348 K):  $\delta$  168.0, 166.1, 147.1, 146.8, 129.6, 123.2, 119.7, 107.7, 106.8, 100.8, 66.3, 57.0, 55.0, 40.4, 36.0, 28.6, 19.3, 13.1; IR (thin film): 3056, 2990, 2937, 2899, 2235, 1673, 1490, 1448, 1422, 1390, 1244, 1097, 1038, 929 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 364.1273; found, 364.1267.



## Rac-(3R,6R,7S,8aS)-6-(6-bromobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-

dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8d). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5d (120 mg, 0.31 mmol) 2-chloropropionyl chloride (40  $\mu$ L, 0.41 mmol), and MeNH<sub>2</sub> (5 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording 8d (78 mg, 0.19 mmol, 59% yield) as a colorless crystalline solid after recrystallization from MeOH. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (*ca.* 2.8:1 mixture of diastereomers, 500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.07 (s, 1H), 6.34 (s, 1H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 5.34 (s, 1H), 4.36 (dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.66 (app t, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H),

2.48 (dd, J = 13.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.74 (s, 3H), 1.47 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (*ca.* 2.8:1 mixture of diastereomers, 125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.5 (C), 166.0 (C), 148.8 (C), 148.1 (C), 129.1 (C), 119.7 (C), 115.0 (C), 113.5 (CH), 105.0 (CH), 102.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.3 (CH), 60.8 (CH), 56.4 (CH), 42.2 (C), 37.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.2, 25.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2982, 2246, 1675, 1503, 1478, 1429, 1402, 1307, 1248, 1120, 1036, 928 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 442.0378; found, 442.0385.



Rac-(3R,6S,7S,8aS)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxo-6-(p-tolyl)octahydropyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazine-7-

**carbonitrile (8e).** Prepared according to **General Procedure 2** from pyrrolidine **5e** (200 mg, 0.74 mmol), 2-chloropropionyl chloride (86 μL, 0.88 mmol), and methylamine (2 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording **8e** (100 mg, 0.32 mmol, 44% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 204–209 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.17 (app d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (app d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.38 (dd, *J* = 11.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 166.7 (C), 166.2 (C), 138.9 (C), 134.0 (C), 129.8 (2CH), 125.9 (2CH), 120.0 (C), 69.6 (CH), 60.9 (CH), 56.2 (CH), 42.6 (C), 36.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3054, 2982, 2935, 2877, 2243, 1681, 1515, 1452, 1430, 1402, 1306, 1246, 1230, 1063, 804, 734 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 334.1531; found, 334.1536. Structure was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray analysis (CCDC 1061870).<sup>4</sup>



carbonitrile (8f). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5f (2.4 g, 9.3 mmol), 2chloropropionyl chloride (1.1 mL, 11 mmol), and methylamine (19 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording 8f (1.7 g, 5.7 mmol, 61% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 258–262 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.39–7.33 (m, 3H), 7.12 (app d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.40 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H), 2.79 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.48 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.7 (C), 166.2 (C), 136.9 (C), 129.2 (2CH), 129.1 (2CH), 126.1 (CH), 119.9 (C), 69.8 (CH), 60.9 (CH), 56.3 (CH), 42.6 (C), 36.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2981, 2937, 2244, 1673 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 320.1375; found, 320.1380. Structure was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray analysis (CCDC 1061869).<sup>4</sup>



#### Rac-(3R,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2-

*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8g). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5g (55 mg, 0.2 mmol) affording 8g (46 mg, 0.14 mmol, 70% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.06 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.38 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.8 (C), 166.0 (C), 139.2 (C), 132.5 (2CH), 130.7 (2CH), 123.3 (C), 119.6 (C), 69.3 (CH), 60.9 (CH), 56.4 (CH), 42.5 (C), 37.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2981, 2919, 2852, 2246, 1673, 1490, 1303, 1235, 1093, 756 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, 350.1481; found, 350.1465.



*Rac-*(*3R*,*6S*,*7S*,*8aS*)-6-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxo-octahydropyrrolo-[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8h). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5h (2.5 g, 9.2 mmol), 2-chloropropionyl chloride (1.1 mL, 11 mmol), and methylamine (18 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording 8h (1.6 g, 5.1 mmol, 55% yield, *ca.* 8:1 mixture of diastereomers) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 235–237 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (*ca.* 8:1 mixture of diastereomers, 500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.13–7.05 (m, 4H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 4.39 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.76 (app t, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (*ca.* 8:1 mixture of diastereomers, 125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.8 (C), 166.1 (C), 163.0 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 245.5 Hz, C), 132.8 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.1 Hz, C), 127.9 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.4 Hz, 2CH), 119.8 (C), 116.2 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 21.8 Hz, 2CH), 69.2 (CH), 60.9 (CH), 56.3 (CH), 42.6 (C), 36.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2989, 2940, 2241, 1681 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>FN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 338.1281; found, 338.1283.



#### Rac-(3R,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(2,2-difluorobenzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-

dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8i). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5i (840 mg, 2.5 mmol), 2-chloropropionyl chloride (390 µL, 4.0 mmol) and MeNH<sub>2</sub> (5 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording 8i (600 mg, 1.6 mmol, 64% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 246–249 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.07 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.39 (dd, J = 11.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92

(q, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.75 (app t, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dd, J = 13.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.50 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.9 (C), 165.9 (C), 144.3 (C), 144.2 (C), 133.3 (C), 131.8 (t,  $J_{C-F}$  = 256.3 Hz, C), 121.9 (CH), 119.7 (C), 110.1 (CH), 107.5 (CH), 69.5 (CH), 60.9 (CH), 56.3 (CH), 42.6 (C), 36.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2984, 2939, 2246, 1674, 1500, 1452, 1429, 1403, 1241, 1150, 912, 732 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 400.1085; found, 400.1092.



## (3R, 6S, 7S) - 6 - (2, 3 - dihydro - 1H - inden - 5 - yl) - 2, 3, 7 - trimethyl - 1, 4 - dioxooctahydropyrrolo [1, 2 - yhydropyrrolo - 1, 2 - yhydropyrrolo -

*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8j). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5j (390 mg, 1.3 mmol) affording 8j (180 mg, 0.53 mmol, 41% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 190–195 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.19 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.38 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.90–2.80 (m, 5H), 2.45 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (app quint, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.8 (C), 166.3 (C), 145.5 (C), 145.2 (C), 134.8 (C), 125.0 (CH), 123.9 (CH), 122.1 (CH), 120.1 (C), 70.1 (CH), 61.0 (CH), 56.3 (CH), 42.8 (C), 36.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 15.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>); IR (thin film) 1940, 1673, 1431, 1402, 1306, 1239, 1062, 814, 733 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 360.1688; found 360.1684.



*Rac-(3R,6S,7S)-6-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazine-7*carbonitrile (8k). Prepared according to General Procedure 2 from pyrrolidine 5k (4.5 g, 16 mmol), 2chloropropionyl chloride (1.7 mL, 17.5 mmol), and MeNH<sub>2</sub> (30 mL, 40% in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording 8k (3.6 g, 11 mmol, 70% yield) as a colorless powder (mp = 245–248 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.29 (app t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (app t, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.39 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.80 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 11.6 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.8 (C), 166.2 (C), 160.0 (C), 138.5 (C), 130.3 (CH), 119.9 (C), 118.2 (CH), 114.1 (CH), 112.5 (CH), 69.8 (CH), 61.0 (CH), 56.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 55.3 (CH), 42.6 (C), 36.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3056, 2983, 2939, 2881, 2839, 2244, 1673, 1603, 1492, 1492, 1453, 1430, 1308, 1285, 1262, 1166, 1227, 1048, 785, 734, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, 350.1481; found 350.1475.



#### Rac-(3R,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-ethyl-3,7-dimethyl-1,4-

**dioxooctahydropyrrolo**[1,2-*a*]**pyrazine-7-carbonitrile** (**8**]). Prepared according to **General Procedure 2** from pyrrolidine **5c** (300 mg, 1.0 mmol), 2-chloropropionyl chloride (120  $\mu$ L, 1.2 mmol), and ethylamine (10 mL, 70% solution in H<sub>2</sub>O) affording **8**l (260 mg, 0.73 mmol, 73% yield) as a colorless powder. mp = 220–224 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 4.38 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (dq, *J* = 14.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (dq, *J* = 14.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (app t, *J* = 12.3 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (*J* = 13.3, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.2 (C), 165.8 (C), 148.4 (C), 148.3 (C), 130.9 (C), 120.0 (C), 119.9 (CH), 108.8 (CH), 108.8 (CH), 106.2 (CH), 101.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.6 (CH), 58.8 (CH), 56.3 (CH), 42.8 (C), 40.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 36.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 16.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2982, 2936, 2244, 1669, 1504, 1491, 1448, 1427, 1245, 1038, 927, 734 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 378.1430; found 378.1426.



Rac-(3R,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-butyl-3,7-dimethyl-1,4-

**dioxooctahydropyrrolo**[1,2-*a*]**pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8m**). Prepared according to **General Procedure 2** from pyrrolidine **5c** (58 mg, 0.2 mmol) and *n*-butylamine (0.2 mL, 146 mg, 2 mmol) affording **8m** (54 mg, 0.14 mmol, 72% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2 1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 4.84 (s, 1H), 4.38 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.97–3.86 (m, 2H), 3.00–2.94 (m, 1H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.66–1.56 (m, 2H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) 1.41–1.30 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.2 (C), 166.3 (C), 148.6 (C), 148.4 (C), 131.1 (C), 120.0 (CH), 119.9 (C), 108.8 (CH), 106.4 (CH), 101.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.7 (CH), 59.0 (CH), 56.5 (CH), 44.8 (C), 42.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 36.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 16.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>). 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2982, 2917, 2244, 1671, 1491, 1447, 1246, 1037, 925, 721 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 406.1743; found, 406.1730.



#### Rac-(3R,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-cyclopropyl-3,7-dimethyl-1,4-

dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8n). Pyrrolidine 5c (450 mg, 1.5 mmol) was acylated with 2-chloropropionyl chloride (200  $\mu$ L, 2.1 mmol) as described in General Procedure 2. The resulting crude amide was dissolved in THF (14 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (9 mL) and cyclopropylamine (360  $\mu$ L, 5.2

mmol) was added. The biphasic mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h, then at 100 °C for 2 days. The biphasic mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 20 mL). Combined extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude material was purified by trituration as described in **General Procedure 2** to afford **8n** (96 mg, 0.26 mmol, 17% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 220–223 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.38 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.74–2.69 (m, 2H), 2.45 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.65 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (dq, *J* = 9.5, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 0.88–0.83 (m, 1H), 0.79 (dq, *J* = 9.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 0.58 (dq, *J* = 10.4, 5.2 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  168.2 (C), 167.2 (C), 148.3 (C), 148.2 (C), 130.9 (C), 119.9 (CH), 119.8 (CH), 108.7 (CH), 106.1 (CH), 101.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.4 (CH), 59.8 (CH), 56.7 (CH), 42.7 (C), 36.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.0 (CH), 25.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 16.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 8.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>); IR (thin film): 2984, 1675, 1490, 1424, 1376, 1245, 1189, 1036, 932, 733 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>, 390.1430; found, 390.1433.



### Rac-(3R,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3,7-dimethyl-2-(2-morpholinoethyl)-1,4-

dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (80). Pyrrolidine 5c (180 mg, 0.60 mmol) was acylated with 2-chloropropionyl chloride (70  $\mu$ L, 0.72 mmol) as described in General Procedure 2. The resulting crude amide was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(5 mL) and 2-morpholinoethylamine (5.0 mL, 38 mmol) was added. The solution was maintained at 23 °C for 12 h, then diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL). The biphasic mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(3 x 10 mL). Combined extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 5 to 10% MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, gradient elution) afforded 8o (180 mg, 0.41 mmol, 69% yield) as a colorless solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 160–165 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, 1:1 CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.61 (d, *J* = 9.5

Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 5.77 (s, 2H), 4.67 (s, 1H), 4.31 (dd, J = 11.0, 6.5 Hz 1H), 3.88 (q, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.84–3.76 (m, 1H), 3.44–3.50 (m, 4H), 2.88–2.95 (m, 1H), 2.55 (app t, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.20–2.45 (m, 7H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.31 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, 1:1 CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  167.1 (C), 166.2 (C), 147.9 (C), 147.8 (C), 130.7 (C), 119.9 (CH), 119.7 (C), 108.2 (CH), 105.5 (CH), 101.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.1 (CH), 66.6 (2CH<sub>2</sub>), 59.4 (CH), 56.1 (C), 55.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 53.4 (2CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.5 (C), 41.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 36.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2955, 2858, 2813, 2244, 1672, 1491, 1448, 1427, 1296, 1246, 1115, 1037, 922 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na, 463.1957; found, 463.1946.

#### 2-4. Synthesis of Dioxopiperazine 8p



To a solution of *N*-Boc-phenylalanine (260 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in  $CH_2Cl_2(2 \text{ mL})$  at 0 °C was added *i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (0.12 mL, 0.66 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and BOPCI (250 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and the reaction was allowed to warm to 23 °C over 1 h. After recooling to 0 °C additional *i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (0.23 mL, 1.3 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added, followed by the dropwise addition of a solution of **5c** (200 mg, 0.66 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (1.3 mL). The reaction was allowed to warm to 23 °C overnight, after which time TLC analysis showed full consumption of the starting material. After an extractive work up ( $CH_2Cl_2/H_2O$ ), the crude product was filtered through a silica gel plug using hexanes/EtOAc (1:1) as the eluent and the volatile components were removed *in vacuo* to afford crude acylated pyrrolidine **9** (370 mg, 0.66 mmol, 100% yield), which was used directly without further purification.



Crude amide 9 (370 mg, 0.66 mmol) was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2.1 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, 0.8 mL) was added, the reaction allowed to warm to room temperature over 3 h, and the volatile components were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was dissolved in a 4:1 mixture *i*-BuOH/PhMe (18 mL) containing *i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt (0.46 mL, 2.7 mmol, 4.0 equiv) and transferred to a scintillation vial. The vial was sealed with a Teflon cap and heated to 100 °C overnight. After an extractive work up (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O) and concentration, two diastereomeric dioxopiperazines were separated by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 3:1 EtOAc:hexanes). NMR data for 10 diastereomer A: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.38–7.35 (m, 3H), 7.26–7.25 (m, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 3.78.0 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 4.71 (s, 1H), 4.29 (app q, J = 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 2.95 (dd, *J* = 13.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.64 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (app t, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (dd, J = 13.0, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.32 (s, 3H). NMR data for **10** diastereomer B: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.37–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.32–7.29 (m, 1H), 7.22–7.19 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, J = 1.5Hz, 1H), 5.69 (br s, 1H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 4.40 (dd, J = 11.3, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (dd, J = 10.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, J = 14.7, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (dd, J = 11.5, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (dd, J = 10.3, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (dd, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.40 J = 13.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H).



*Rac-*(6*S*,7*S*,8*aS*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3-benzyl-2,7-dimethyl-1,4-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8p diastereomer A).<sup>5</sup> To dioxopiperazine 10, diastereomer A (91 mg, 0.23 mmol) in acetone (2.8 mL) was added K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (620 mg, 4.5 mmol) and MeI (1.4 mL, 23 mmol) and the

reaction was maintained for 2 d at 23 °C with the exclusion of light. The reaction was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Combined extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrate *in vacuo* to afford **8p** diastereomer A (77 mg, 0.18 mmol, 80% yield) as a colorless amorphous solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.34–7.31 (m, 3H), 7.18–7.13 (m, 2H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 4.18 (t, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.14–3.10 (m, 4H), 2.40–2.39 (m, 2H), 2.04–2.01 (m, 1H), 1.26 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.5 (C), 165.5 (C), 148.3 (C), 148.2 (C), 135.4 (C), 131.1 (C), 129.9 (2CH), 129.2 (2CH), 128.1 (CH), 120.0 (C), 119.9 (CH), 108.8 (CH), 106.1 (CH), 101.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.5 (CH), 66.4 (CH), 55.4 (CH), 42.3 (C), 36.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 36.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2934, 2247, 1673, 1505, 1491, 1446, 1403, 1304, 1247, 1102, 1053 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 440.1586; found, 440.1580.



*Rac-*(,6*S*,7*S*,8*aS*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3-benzyl-2,7-dimethyl-1,4-dioxooctahydropyrrolo[1,2*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (8p diastereomer B). Prepared by same procedure as 8p diastereomer A from 10 diastereomer B (91 mg, 0.23 mmol), affording 8p diastereomer B (96 mg, 0.23 mmol, 100%) as a colorless amorphous solid.<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.26–7.19 (m, 3H), 7.14–7.11 (m, 2H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 5.99–5.96 (m, 2H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 4.43 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.48 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 16.0, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  168.1 (C), 165.8 (C), 148.3 (C), 136.5 (C), 130.8 (C), 129.0 (2CH), 128.8 (2CH), 127.1 (CH), 120.1 (C), 120.07 (C), 120.4 (CH), 108.8 (CH), 106.7 (CH), 101.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.8 (CH), 61.3 (CH), 57.4 (CH), 42.8 (C), 37.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 30.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 1675, 1504, 1491, 1448, 1390, 1306, 1244, 1039, 912, 733, 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 440.1586; found, 440.1577.

#### 2-5. Synthesis of Epidithiodioxopiperazines

Two variations on the procedure for ETP formation were used (**General Procedures 3** and **4**) as our studies evolved and the procedure used to prepare each compound is indicated. However, these procedures were not optimized and which procedure was best for the formation of a particular product was rarely ascertained. Yields are not directly related to reaction efficiency but reflect the efficiency of chromatographic purification of pure (>95%) ETPs **3**.



General Procedure 3: *Rac-*(3*S*,6*S*,7*S*,8a*S*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3c) and *rac-*(3*R*,6*S*,7*S*,8a*R*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-

epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (13). Dioxopiperazine 8c (370 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and  $S_8$  (290 mg, 1.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) were added to a 50 mL round-bottom flask and azeotropically dried with dry PhMe (3 x 10 mL). The solids were suspended in THF (11 mL) and the heterogeneous mixture was sparged with Ar for 10 min. The suspension was cooled to 0 °C for 5 min, then NaHMDS (0.6 M in PhMe, 11 mL, 6.6 mmol, 6.0 equiv) was added over *ca*. 2 min with vigorous stirring. The reaction was maintained at 0 °C for 3 h, then quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). Combined extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in MeCN (40 mL) and washed with hexanes (3 x 20 mL) to remove HMDS-related byproducts. The MeCN layer was concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 3% EtOAc in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) afforded **3c** (200 mg, 0.50 mmol, 45% yield) and **13** (14 mg, 0.035 mmol, 3% yield) as colorless solids.

The spectral data for **3c** and **13** were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> **3c**: mp = 196–200 °C (decomp.); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.96 (s, 1H), 6.91 (s, 2H), 6.06 (s, 2H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 3.36 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 3.06 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.73 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.6 (C), 162.1 (C), 148.5 (C), 148.3 (C), 127.5 (C), 120.7 (CH), 120.3 (C), 108.6 (CH), 107.2 (CH), 101.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.4 (C), 73.3 (C), 72.4 (CH), 44.4 (C), 42.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2984, 2902, 2250, 1688, 1491, 1446, 1358, 1250, 1038, 731 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 426.0558; found, 426.0555. Structure was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray analysis (CCDC 1061873).<sup>4</sup> **13**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.51 (s, 1H), 5.98 (app d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 3.81 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.4 (C), 162.5 (C), 148.7 (C), 148.6 (C), 129.5 (C), 120.1 (CH), 119.7 (C), 109.0 (CH), 106.4 (C), 101.7 (CH), 73.9 (C), 73.8 (C), 71.7 (CH), 43.9 (C), 42.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2988, 2940, 2900, 2249, 1694, 1504, 1448, 1355, 1248, 1111, 1038, 912, 731 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 426.0558; found, 426.0553.



General Procedure 4: Rac-(3S,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3j). To a suspension of S<sub>8</sub> (74 mg, 0.29 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in dry THF (1.5 mL) was added a solution of NaHMDS (0.6 M in PhMe, 1.4 mL, 0.84 mmol, 3.3 equiv) at 23 °C over 1 min. After 1 min of vigorous stirring, a solution of dioxopiperazine **8j** (85 mg, 0.25 mmol) in THF (2.3 mL) was added dropwise, followed by additional NaHMDS solution (0.6 M in PhMe, 0.9 mL, 0.54 mmol, 2.2 equiv) over 1 min. The resulting orangeyellow solution was stirred for 50 min at 23 °C and quenched by the sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5 mL). The resultant mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). Combined extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain a yellow-brown amorphous residue. This residue was evaporated onto 2.2 g SiO<sub>2</sub> and placed on top of a filter frit containing 12 g SiO<sub>2</sub>. The silica plug was washed with hexanes (150 mL) then with MeCN (150 mL). The MeCN filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the resulting crude material was purified by preparative TLC (3% EtOAc/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) to afford **3j** (28 mg, 0.070 mmol, 28% yield) as an off-white solid. mp = 195–197 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.26 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.94–2.89 (m, 4H), 2.08 (app quint, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.8 (C), 162.2 (C), 145.8 (C), 145.0 (C), 131.5 (C), 124.9 (CH), 124.8 (CH), 122.9 (CH), 120.5 (C), 73.6 (C), 73.4 (C), 72.8 (CH), 44.6 (C), 43.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 33.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 32.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film) 2941, 2251, 1696, 1440, 1359, 1254, 1202, 1145, 1112, 1067, 1030, 911, 731 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 422.0973; found 422.0965.



Methyl *rac-(35,65,75,8aS)-6-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6H-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazine-7-carboxylate (3a).* Prepared according to **General Procedure 3** from **8a** (44 mg, 0.13 mmol) affording **3a** (3 mg, 0.008 mmol, 6% yield) as a pale yellow solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 148–151 °C (decomp.); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.42–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.34 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  171.6 (C), 166.4 (C), 163.2 (C), 162.7 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 246.5 Hz, C), 131.9 (C), 129.5 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.3 Hz, 2CH), 115.6 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 21.7 Hz, 2CH), 74.7 (C), 73.5 (C), 72.5 (CH), 55.1 (C), 52.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 39.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9

(CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2951, 1736, 1692, 1606, 1511, 1255, 1228, 1161, 1129, 848, 733 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M +Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>HF<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 433.0668; found, 433.0660.



Methyl *rac-*(*3S*,6*S*,7*S*,8*aS*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8*a*-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carboxylate (3*b*). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from 8*b* (46 mg, 0.12 mmol) affording 3*b* (*ca*. 5:1 mixture of diastereomers, 5 mg, 0.01 mmol, 8% yield) as a pale yellow solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 167–171 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (*ca*. 5:1 mixture of diastereomers, 500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.98 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 5.03 (s, 1H), 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.34 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (*ca*. 5:1 mixture of diastereomers, 500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 171.6 (C), 166.3 (C), 163.1 (C), 147.9 (C), 147.6 (C), 129.7 (C), 121.3 (CH), 108.2 (CH), 108.0 (CH), 101.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 74.6 (C), 73.4 (C), 72.9 (CH), 55.1 (C), 52.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 38.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2953, 1736, 1692, 1490, 1447, 1356, 1250, 1038 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 459.0660; found, 459.0652.



*Rac-(3S,6R,7S,8aS)-6-(6-bromobenzo[d]*[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3d). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from 8d (78 mg, 0.19 mmol) affording 3d (12 mg, 0.025 mmol, 13% yield) as a colorless solid and SI-2 (3 mg, 0.06 mmol, 3% yield) as a pale yellow solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> 3d: mp = 142–146 °C (decomp.); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.13 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz,

1H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 3.88 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.57 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.6 (C), 162.3 (C), 149.2 (C), 148.3 (C), 126.9 (CH), 120.1 (C), 114.5 (C), 113.3 (C), 108.1 (CH), 102.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.7 (C), 73.4 (C), 71.1 (CH), 44.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.9 (C), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2986, 2880, 2250, 1695, 1457, 1357, 1242, 1059, 1035, 932, 731 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 503.9663; found, 503.9655. **SI-2:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.13 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (s, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 5.65 (s, 1H), 3.88 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 3H), 2.57 (d, J = 15.5 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.5 (C), 161.7 (C), 147.7 (C), 145.2 (C), 126.5 (CH), 119.7 (C), 117.8 (C), 115.0 (C), 110.5 (CH), 102.2 (CH2), 74.7 (C), 73.7 (C), 68.6 (CH), 44.4 (CH2), 43.1 (C), 27.7 (CH3), 27.6 (CH3), 18.4 (CH3). IR (film): v/cm-1 2986, 2880, 2250, 1695, 1457, 1357, 1242, 1059, 1035, 932, 731. HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>BrS<sub>2</sub>Na, 503.9663; found, 503.9655. Structure was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray analysis (CCDC 1061872).<sup>4</sup>



*Rac-*(3*S*,6*S*,7*S*,8*aS*)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxo-6-(*p*-tolyl)hexahydro-6*H*-3,8*a*-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3e) and *Rac-*(3*R*,6*S*,7*S*,8*aR*)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxo-6-(*p*tolyl)hexahydro-6*H*-3,8*a*-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (12). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from 8*e* (98 mg, 0.31 mmol) affording 3*e* (24 mg, 0.064 mmol, 21% yield) as a colorless solid and 12 (4 mg, 0.01 mmol, 3%) as a pale yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 7.28–7.35 (m, 4H), 4.94 (s, 1H), 3.37 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 3.06 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.74 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.8 (C), 162.2 (C), 139.4 (C), 130.7 (C), 129.8 (2CH), 126.8 (2CH), 120.4 (C), 73.6 (C), 73.4 (C), 72.4 (CH), 44.5 (C), 43.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2990, 2921, 2245, 1685, 1516, 1358, 1253, 816 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 396.0816; found, 396.0800. Structure was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray analysis (CCDC 1061871).<sup>4</sup> **12**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.19 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H) 5.09 (s, 1H), 3.83 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.52 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.3 (C), 162.3 (C), 139.4 (C), 132.5 (C), 129.9 (2CH), 125.9 (2CH), 119.6 (C), 73.72 (C), 73.67 (C), 71.4 (CH), 43.6 (C), 42.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 27.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2923, 2246, 1692, 1515, 1355, 912 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 396.0816; found, 396.0831.



*Rac-*(*3S*,*6S*,*7S*,*8aS*)-2,*3*,*7*-trimethyl-1,*4*-dioxo-6-phenylhexahydro-6*H*-3,*8*a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (*3f*). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from dioxopiperazine *8f* (100 mg, 0.34 mmol) affording *3f* (27 mg, 0.08 mmol, 22% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 243–246 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 7.46–7.38 (m, 5H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.7 (C), 162.2 (C), 133.8 (C), 129.6 (CH), 129.1 (2CH), 126.9 (2CH), 120.2 (C), 73.4 (C), 72.5 (CH), 44.5 (C), 43.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.8 (C), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2917, 2849, 1705, 1680 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 382.0660; found, 382.0671.



*Rac-*(3*S*,6*S*,7*S*,8*aS*)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8*a*epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3g). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from

**8g** (33 mg, 0.1 mmol) affording **3g** (12 mg, 0.03 mmol, 30% yield) as a colorless solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.32 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.7 (C), 162.2 (C), 160.4 (C), 128.2 (2CH), 125.7 (C), 120.4 (C), 114.4 (2CH), 73.55 (C), 73.45 (C), 72.2 (CH), 55.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 44.6 (C), 42.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2988, 2940, 2246, 1690, 1493, 1359, 1255, 1093, 756 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 412.0760; found, 412.0753.



Rac-(3S,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(4-fluorophenyl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6H-3,8a-

epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3h). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from dioxopiperazine 8h (110 mg, 0.34 mmol) affording 3h (35 mg, 0.09 mmol, 27% yield) as a colorless powder. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 221–223 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.37 (app dd, *J* = 8.6, 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (app t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.6 (C), 163.4 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 248.2 Hz, C), 162.2 (C), 129.6 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.1 Hz, C), 128.8 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.5 Hz, 2CH), 120.2 (C), 116.2 (d, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 22.1 Hz, 2CH), 73.52 (C), 73.46 (C), 71.9 (CH), 44.5 (C), 42.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2988, 2926, 1687, 1511 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>FN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 400.0566; found, 400.0559.



*Rac-(3S*,6*S*,7*S*,8*aS*)-6-(2,2-difluorobenzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3i). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from 8i (100 mg, 0.27 mmol) affording 3i (44 mg, 0.10 mmol, 37% yield) as an off-white solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 199–201 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.09–7.15 (m, 3H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 3.33 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.5 (C), 162.1 (C), 144.5 (C), 144.3 (C), 131.8 (t, *J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 256.8 Hz, C), 130.1 (C), 122.7 (CH), 120.0 (C), 109.9 (CH), 108.4 (CH), 73.5 (C), 73.4 (C), 72.1 (CH), 44.5 (C), 43.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2986, 2942, 2253, 1697, 1501, 1450, 1358, 1240, 1154, 1034, 903, 731 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>15</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 462.0370; found, 462.0377.



Rac-(35,65,75,8aS)-6-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6H-3,8a-

epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3k). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from 8k (130 mg, 0.40 mmol) affording 3k (20 mg, 0.05 mmol, 13% yield) as a colorless solid. mp = 189–195 °C, decomp.); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.34 (app t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.99–6.90 (m, 3H), 4.91 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.6 (C), 162.1 (C), 160.0 (C), 135.3 (C), 130.0 (CH), 120.2 (C), 119.2 (CH), 115.3 (CH), 112.1 (CH), 73.8 (C), 73.5 (C), 72.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 55.4 (CH), 44.4 (C), 42.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3056, 2984, 2939, 2836, 2240, 1696, 1604, 1438, 1492, 1456, 1361, 1288, 1263, 1161, 1112, 1049, 735 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 412.0766; found, 412.0757.



*Rac-*(*3S*,*6S*,*7S*,*8aS*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-ethyl-3,7-dimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3l). Prepared according to General Procedure 4 from 8l (32 mg, 0.12 mmol) affording 3l (12 mg, 0.029 mmol, 24% yield) as a colorless solid. mp = 218–220 °C (decomp.); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.88 (s, 1H), 6.84 (app s, 2H), 5.99 (app s, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 3.86 (dq, *J* = 14.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.41 (dq, *J* = 14.4, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.00 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.27 (app t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  164.8 (C), 162.2 (C), 148.6 (C), 148.3 (C), 127.6 (C), 120.7 (CH), 120.4 (C), 108.7 (CH), 107.2 (CH), 101.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.8 (C), 72.8 (C), 72.4 (CH), 44.5 (C), 42.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 38.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 17.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 12.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2978, 2903, 1687, 1491, 1446, 1362, 1313, 1248, 1038, 927, 736 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 440.0715; found 440.0707.



*Rac-*(*3S*,*6S*,*7S*,*8aS*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-butyl-3,7-dimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3m). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from 8m (37 mg, 0.1 mmol) affording 3m (13 mg, 0.03 mmol, 33% yield) as a colorless solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.88 (s, 1H), 6.84 (app s, 2H), 5.99 (s, 2H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 3.83–3.74, (m, 1H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.66–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.42–1.32 (m, 2H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.2 (C), 162.3 (C), 148.6 (C), 148.4 (C), 127.7 (C), 120.7 (CH), 120.4 (C), 108.7 (CH), 107.3 (CH), 101.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.8 (C), 72.9 (C), 72.4 (CH), 44.5 (C), 43.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 17.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2984, 2902, 2250, 1688, 1491,

1446, 1358, 1250, 1038, 731 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 468.1022; found, 468.1018.



*Rac-(35,65,75,8aS)-6-(benzo[d]*[1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-cyclopropyl-3,7-dimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-*6H-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo*[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3n). Prepared according to General **Procedure 4** from **8n** (120 mg, 0.33 mmol) affording **3n** (19 mg, 0.044 mmol, 13% yield) as an off-white solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 220–222 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.87 (s, 1H), 6.83 (app s, 2H), 5.99 (s, 2H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 3.27 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.57–2.53 (m, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.29–1.24 (m, 1H), 1.06–0.97 (m, 2H), 0.96–0.90 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.7 (C), 162.3 (C), 148.6 (C), 148.3 (C), 127.6 (C), 120.7 (CH), 120.4 (C), 108.6 (CH), 107.2 (CH), 101.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 74.4 (C), 74.1 (C), 72.4 (CH), 44.5 (C), 42.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 25.8 (CH), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 17.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 8.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>); IR (thin film): 1696, 1491, 1446, 1348, 1248, 1189, 1037, 930, 735 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 452.0715; found, 452.0702.



Rac-(35,65,75,8aS)-6-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3,7-dimethyl-2-(2-morpholinoethyl)-1,4-

dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (30). Prepared according to General Procedure 4 from 80 (60 mg, 0.14 mmol) affording 30 (19 mg, 0.038 mmol, 27% yield) as a colorless solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.88 (s, 1H), 6.84 (s, 2H), 6.0 (s, 2H), 4.82 (s, 1H), 3.92 (app dt, *J* = 14.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.70,

(app s, 4H), 3.41 (s, 1H), 3.28 (d, J = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (d, J = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 2.67–2.44 (m, 6H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.0 (C), 162.1 (C), 148.5 (C), 148.2 (C), 127.4 (C), 120.6 (CH), 120.2 (C), 108.5 (CH), 107.1 (CH), 101.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.4 (C), 72.8 (C), 72.2 (CH), 66.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 53.8 (2CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 42.7 (2CH<sub>2</sub>) 40.4 (C), 24.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 17.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 3055, 2958, 2921, 2856, 2814, 2241, 1690, 1504, 1492, 1447, 1383, 1314, 1249, 1116, 1038, 930, 735 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 525.1242; found, 525.1257.



*Rac-(3S*,6*S*,7*S*,8*aS*)-6-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3-benzyl-2,7-dimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (3p). Prepared according to General Procedure 4 from dioxopiperazine 8p (diastereomer B, 75 mg, 0.18 mmol) affording 3p (10 mg, 0.021 mmol, 12% yield) as a colorless solid. The spectral data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>2</sup> mp = 182–184 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.33–7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29–7.24 (m, 3H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.82–6.81 (m, 2H), 5.99–5.98 (m, 2H), 4.90 (s, 1H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 3.02 (d, *J* = 14.9 Hz, 1H), 1.70 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  166.4 (C), 161.4 (C), 148.6 (C), 148.3 (C), 133.6 (C), 129.9 (2CH), 128.7 (2CH), 127.8 (CH), 127.4 (C), 120.8 (CH), 120.3 (C), 108.7 (CH), 107.4 (CH), 101.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 77.8 (C), 73.5 (C), 72.7 (CH), 44.5 (C), 42.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 36.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 25.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2917, 1695, 1491, 1447, 1357, 1249, 1190, 1037, 931, 817 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na, 502.0871; found, 502.0867.


Rac-(3R,6S,7R,8aR)-6-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6H-3,8a-

epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (14) and *rac-(3S,6S,7R,8aS)-6-(benzo[d]*[1,3]dioxol-5yl)-2,3,7-trimethyl-1,4-dioxohexahydro-6*H*-3,8a-epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-7-carbonitrile (15). Prepared according to General Procedure 3 from *epi*-8c (60 mg, 0.18 mmol) affording 14 (8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 11% yield) and 15 (8 mg, 0.02 mmol, 11% yield) as colorless solids. 14: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.78 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (app br s, 2H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 5.49 (s, 1H), 3.18 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.79 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO, 348 K):  $\delta$  164.7, 161.4, 147.3, 147.2, 128.1, 123.0, 119.8, 108.0, 106.8, 101.0, 7.3.4, 73.2, 68.2, 41.0, 40.1, 27.0, 20.6, 17.3; IR (thin film): 2922, 2852, 1689, 1504, 1490, 1447, 1355, 1246, 1100, 1036, 9288, 732 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na 426.0558; found 426.0555. 15 (mp, 194–195 °C, decomp.): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.87–6.82 (m, 2H), 5.99 (s, 2H), 5.46 (s, 1H), 3.78 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.50 (d, *J* = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  165.2 (C), 162.6 (C), 148.5 (C), 148.4 (C), 126.9 (C), 122.4 (C), 121.3 (CH), 108.9 (CH), 107.7 (CH), 101.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 73.75 (C), 73.73 (C), 71.0 (CH), 42.1 (C), 41.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 18.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film): 2993, 2942, 2900, 1696, 1504, 1491, 1357, 1251, 1109, 1038, 911, 731 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na 426.0558; found, 426.0554.

#### 2-6. Resolution of 3c enantiomers



The two enantiomers were resolved by preparative chiral HPLC (stationary phase: CHIRALPAK IA (250 x 50 mm i.d., 5 micron), mobile phase: reagent alcohol 100%), flow rate 2.5 mL/min). The enantiomeric excess was determined by means of analytical chiral HPLC (stationary phase CHIRALPAK IA-3 (50 x 4.6 mm i.d., 3 micron), mobile phase: reagent alcohol 100%, flow rate 1 mL/min, 254 nm):

(3S,6S,7S,8aS)-enantiomer:  $t_{ret} = 1.40$  min; (3R,6R,7R,8aR)-enantiomer:  $t_{ret} = 2.11$  min. Enantiomer 1: (+)-(S,S,S,S)-**3c**:  $t_{ret} = 1.40$  min; Enantiomer 2: (-)-(R,R,R,R)-**3c**:  $t_{ret} = 2.11$  min.



b) Circular Dichroism Data: Obtained using solutions EtOH (c  $\approx 1 \text{ x } 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ )



Absolute configuration was assigned on the basis of CD data and existing precedent.<sup>7</sup> Absolute configuration was also confirmed by X-ray analysis.<sup>4</sup>

### 2-7. Enantioselective Synthesis of ETP 3c



Ethyl (2*S*,4*S*,5*S*)-1-((((9*H*-fluoren-9-yl)methoxy)carbonyl)-*L*-alanyl)-5-(benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-4isocyano-4-methylpyrrolidine-2-carboxylate (16). To a stirred solution of racemic 5c (2.1 g, 6.9 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (14 mL) were added Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.9 mL, 1.4 g, 14 mmol) and Fmoc-L-alanyl chloride<sup>8</sup> (3.3 g, 10 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (14 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to dryness. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 33% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford 16 (1.9 g, 3.2 mmol, 46% yield) as a colorless solid and the (2*R*,4*R*,5*R*)-*L*alanyl diastereomer (1.7 g, 2.8 mmol, 42% yield) as a colorless solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.76 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H), 7.20 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 5.22 (s, 1H), 5.19 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.61 (dd, J = 9.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.40–4.23 (m, 4H), 4.22–4.14 (m, 2H), 2.59 (dd, J = 12.8, 9.8 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (dd, J = 12.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.35 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.99 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 174.4, 170.4, 156.2, 148.49, 148.45, 143.9, 143.8, 141.5, 132.0, 127.94, 127.91, 127.2, 125.3, 125.2, 121.5, 120.18, 120.16, 108.7, 108.0, 101.6, 70.5, 67.4, 62.1, 58.4, 48.0, 47.2, 44.7, 37.5, 24.5, 17.6, 14.2; IR (thin film): 2988, 2920, 2245, 1671, 1491, 1447, 1246, 1039, 928, 782, 721 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na, 618.2211; found, 618.2205; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup>= +63.4 (c=0.72, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



## (35,65,75,8aS)-6-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-7-isocyano-3,7-dimethylhexahydropyrrolo[1,2-

*a*]pyrazine-1,4-dione (17). To a stirred solution of intermediate 16 (2.8 g, 4.7 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (18 mL) was added piperidine (4.0 g, 47 mmol). After 30 min, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 3% MeOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) to afford dioxopiperazine 17 (1.4 g, 4.3 mmol, 91% yield) as colorless solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 6.79 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 5.96 (s, 2H), 5.91 (br s, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.43 (dd, J = 11.0, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (dd, J = 13.4, 11.2, Hz, 1H), 2.35 (dd, J = 13.4, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.44 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 169.1, 167.1, 148.5, 148.4, 131.0, 119.9, 108.9, 106.4, 101.6, 69.5, 57.7, 51.8, 43.0, 36.0, 25.5, 15.6; IR (thin film): 2983, 2915, 2244, 1671, 1490, 1447, 1248, 1037, 921, 725 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m/z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 350.1111; found, 350.1123. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup>= -38.2 (c=0.43, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



### (3S,6S,7S,8aS)-6-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-7-isocyano-2,3,7-trimethylhexahydropyrrolo[1,2-

*a*]pyrazine-1,4-dione (18). To a stirred solution of compound 17 (1.4 g, 4.3 mmol) in THF (43 mL) was added NaH (60 wt% in mineral oil, 260 mg, 6.5 mmol) at 0 °C. After 20 min at 23 °C, MeI (1.85 g, 13 mmol) was added at 0 °C. After 2 h at 23 °C, the reaction was quenched with sat. aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (20 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the resulting residue was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 25% EtOAc/hexanes) to afford dioxopiperazine 18 (1.25 g, 3.7 mmol, 86% yield) as a colorless solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 4.74 (dd, *J* = 10.6, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (s, 3H), 2.93 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.56 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 166.1, 165.4, 148.4, 148.3, 129.5, 120.5, 119.6, 108.7, 106.3, 101.6, 70.4, 60.8, 58.6, 44.3, 41.8, 32.3, 22.9, 16.9; IR (thin film): 2982, 2917, 2244, 1671, 1491, 1447, 1246, 1037, 925, 721 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS-ESI (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calculated for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 364.1268; found, 364.1272. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup>= +129.0 (c=0.57, CHCl<sub>3</sub>);



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epidithiopyrrolo[1,2-*a*]pyrazine-1,4-dione ((*S*,*S*,*S*,*S*)-3c). Prepared according to General Procedure 4 from dioxopiperazine 18 (340 mg, 1.0 mmol) affording (*S*,*S*,*S*,*S*)-3c (130 mg, 0.32 mmol, 32% yield) as a colorless solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, IR, and HRMS data were identical with racemic 3c. HPLC analysis

as described above indicated 99% *ee*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +210.0$  (c=0.18, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); (*S*,*S*,*S*,*S*)-**3c** was recrystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-EtOAc (1:4) and the absolute streochemistry was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray analysis.<sup>4</sup>

### 3. Biology Experimental Procedures

**Cell viability assays.** Cell viability was determined using a MTS metabolic activity assay as described by the supplier (Promega).<sup>6</sup> Briefly, cells (2500/well and 5000/well for solid and blood tumor cell lines, respectively) were seeded in 96-well plates, incubated overnight at 37 °C in 5% (v/v) CO<sub>2</sub> and exposed to ETPs in a dose-dependent manner for 48 h. DMSO was used as the vehicle control. Cell viability was determined by tetrazolium conversion to its formazan dye and absorbance was measured at 490 nm using an automated ELISA plate reader. Each experiment was performed in quadruplicate and mean values are reported in Tables 2 and 3.

Mouse xenograft models. A2058 human melanoma cells (3 x 10<sup>6</sup>) were resuspended in serum-free RPMI1640 medium and subcutaneously injected into the flanks of 5–6 weeks old Athymic female nude mice (NCI). When palpable tumor sizes reached at approximately 100 mm<sup>3</sup>, mice were divided into two groups (vehicle = 5, treatment = 5). Then, ETP **3c** was administered by IP injection at 20 mg/kg with vehicle (10% DMSO + 0.5% TWEEN<sup>®</sup> 20 + 89.5% saline) once daily for 13 days. For xenograft model of human lung cancer, A549 human non-small lung cancer cells (5 x 10<sup>6</sup>) were resuspended in serum-free DMEM medium and Matrigel (ratio of 1:1) and subcutaneously injected into the flanks of 5–6 weeks old female NOD/SCID/ IL-2rg(ko)(NSG) mice. When palpable tumor sizes reached at approximately 50 mm<sup>3</sup>, mice were divided into two groups (vehicle = 10, treatment = 10). Then, ETP **3c** was administered orally at 10 mg/kg with vehicle (10% DMSO + 30% Solutol + 60% saline) once daily for 31 days. Tumor volumes were calculated by the formula ½ a x b<sup>2</sup>, where a is the long diameter, and b is the short diameter. Tumors were weighed at end points. The statistical

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- 4. X-ray coordinates deposited with CSD.
- 5. Although diastereomers of compound **11** were isolated, the configuration at C3 of the dioxopiperazine ring was not assigned.
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