# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

For

# Signal Transduction and Amplification through Enzyme-Triggered

# Ligand Release and Accelerated Catalysis

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#### **General information:**

Proton, carbon, fluorine and phosphorus nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 300 or 400 MHz spectrometer, or an Agilent Technologies 500 MHz spectrometer (<sup>1</sup>H NMR at 300 or 400 MHz,  $^{13}C$  NMR at 75.5 or 101 MHz,  $^{31}P$  NMR at 121.5 MHz and  $^{19}F$  NMR at 376.5 or 470.5 MHz). Chemical shifts for protons are reported downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced,<sup>1</sup> to residual protium in the solvent (<sup>1</sup>H NMR: CHCl<sub>3</sub> at 7.26 ppm,  $C_6H_6$  at 7.16 ppm,  $H_2O$  at 4.79 ppm, DMSO at 2.50 ppm). Chemical shifts for carbons are reported in parts per million downfield from tetramethylsilane and are referenced<sup>1</sup> to the carbon resonances of the solvent peak ( $^{13}$ C NMR: CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 77.0 ppm, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 128.1 ppm, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO at 39.5). Chemical shifts for fluorine resonances are reported in parts per million referenced to CFCl<sub>3</sub>. Chemical shifts for phosphorus are reported in parts per million referenced to 85% phosphoric acid. NMR data are represented as follows: chemical shift (integration, multiplicity [s = singlet, bs = broad singlet, d = double,dd = doublet of doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, sept = septet, m = multiplet], coupling constants (Hz)). IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1600 FT IR spectrophotometer, with absorbencies quoted as v in cm<sup>-1</sup>. High resolution mass spectrometry was performed on a Bruker Daltonik Electrospray Time-of-Flight mass spectrometery (ESI-UHR-TOF MS, negative ion mode). Melting points were obtained on a Bibby-Sterilin SMP10 melting point machine. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) were performed using aluminiumbacked plates coated with Alugram<sup>®</sup> SIL G/UV<sub>254</sub> purchased from Macherey-Nagel and visualised by UV light (254 nm) and/or KMnO<sub>4</sub>, 2,4-DNPH or ninhydrin staining. Silica gel column chromatography was carried out using 60 Å, 200–400 mesh particle size silica gel purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Reverse phase (C18) silica gel column chromatography was carried out using VersaPak<sup>®</sup> 30g C18 cartridges (23 mm × 110 mm) preloaded with 20-45 µm spherical C18 bonded silica purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

#### Materials:

All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen, in oven-dried glassware unless otherwise stated. Acetonitrile, dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran and toluene were dried and degassed by passing through anhydrous alumina columns using an Innovative Technology Inc. PS–400–7 solvent purification system and stored under an atmosphere of argon prior to use. Dichloro(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)iridium(III) dimer was purchased from Alfa Aesar and used as received. All other chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. *N*-Chlorosuccinimide (NCS) and triethylamine (TEA) were purified by standard published methods prior to use.<sup>2</sup> All other chemicals were used as received. Alkaline phosphatase was purchased as a lyophilised solid from Sigma-Aldrich and stored in a -20 °C freezer. Prior to use, a stock solution of the enzyme was made up using 0.05 M pH 9.8 CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2–</sup> buffer and stored at 4 °C until immediate use.

#### **Electrochemical Analysis:**

Electrochemical analysis was performed on a Metrohm Autolab PGSTAT30 potentiostat using General Purpose Electrochemical System (GPES) software in differential pulse mode (modulation = 0.04 s, interval = 0.1 s, initial voltage = -200 mV, end voltage = 400 mV, step potential = 3 mV, modulation amplitude 49.95 mV).

Typically, each reaction was performed at a ferrocene concentration of 0.25 M and at the required interval, a 1  $\mu$ L sample was taken from the reaction mixture and diluted into a 999  $\mu$ L solution of 0.05 M pH 9.8 CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> buffer. After shaking, a 100  $\mu$ L sample of this solution was diluted into 900  $\mu$ L 0.05 M pH 9.8 CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> buffer to give a 25  $\mu$ M ferrocene concentration. After shaking again, a 20  $\mu$ L sample of this twice-diluted solution was applied to a screen printed electrochemical cell (GM Nameplate) consisting of carbon working and counter electrodes and a silver (pseudo Ag/AgCl) reference electrode. Post scan, the 'peak search' function was performed and the peak integrals that correspond to the appropriate ferrocene signal were input into the following equation to calculate reaction conversion:

Conversion (%) = 
$$\left(\frac{\int \mathbf{2}}{(\int \mathbf{2} + \int \mathbf{1})}\right) \times 100$$



#### **Voltammogramatic Overlays**

**Fig S1** Typical voltammograms obtained and overlayed from a positive reaction (ALP + PL1) sampled every 3 minutes and analysed by differential pulse voltammetry. As seen, peak heights can vary tremendously due to errors accumulated during sampling and dilution, and also through the use of disposable screen-printed electrodes as electrode areas can vary from one cell to the next. This highlights the benefit of using ratiometric sensing to accurately obtain reaction conversions.

## **Real-time Mass Spectrometry Experiments**

## Mass Spectra acquired before ALP addition, 6.3–9.4 and 29.5–31.5 minutes after ALP addition



Fig. S2 Individual spectra acquired before and after enzyme additions





Fig. S3 Traces acquired over time

# Table S1 Initial ligand screen

O H	0.5 mol% [(cp*lrCl <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] 1 mol% <b>L1-10</b> 5 eq. NaOOCH	ОН
Fe 1	H <sub>2</sub> O 1:1 EtOH rt, 9 mins	Fe 2
H <sub>2</sub> N N H	L1, R = H L2, R = 4-Me L3, R = 4- <sup>t</sup> Bu L4, R = 2,4,6-Me L5, R = 2,4,6- <sup>j</sup> Pr	L6, R = F L7, R = Br L8, R = 4-OMe L9, R = 4-NO <sub>2</sub> L10, R = 4-CF <sub>3</sub>
Entry	Ligand	Conversion <sup>a</sup>
1	None	1%
2	L1	22%
3	L2	40%
4	L3	39%
5	L4	43%
6	L5	3%
7	L6	39%
8	L7	18%
9	L8	18%
10	L9	25%
11	110	32%

 $^{\it a}$  Determined by ratiometric electrochemical analysis

#### **LOD Calibration Curve**



Fig. S4 Conversion of ferrocenecarboxaldehyde 1 to ferrocenemethanol 2 observed after 3 minutes at different enzyme concentration.

Curve fit equation  $y = A2 + (A1 - A2) / (1 + (x / x^{0}) ^{p})$ 

 $R^2 = 0.99105$ 

When enzyme concentrations are in units of  $UL^{-1}$ , A2 = 84.9, A1 = 2.8,  $x^0$  352.1 and p = 0.7. The mean conversion of 3 background runs after 3 minutes is 3.67%. LOD = mean + 3 \* StDev = 8% conversion. Entering this into the curve fit equation gives an enzyme concentration LOD of 7  $UL^{-1}$  Using 6500 Umg<sup>-1</sup> ALP, this approximates to a 7 pM concentration ALP.

#### **General Procedures**

#### General procedure for the synthesis of mono-N-sulfonated ethylenediamines (L1-L10)



A solution of the sulfonyl chloride (10 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (25 mL) was added, *via* a dropping funnel, to a stirring solution of ethylenediamine (100 mmol, 6.7 mL) in anhydrous dichloromethane (25 mL) at 0 °C. After complete addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was then quenched with water (50 mL) and the organics separated. The aqueous layer was then extracted with further dichloromethane ( $2 \times 25$  mL). The combined organics were then washed with water (50 mL) followed by brine (50 mL), then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude residue was then purified by silica gel column chromatography (dichloromethane 9:1 methanol + 1% triethylamine).

#### N-(2-aminoethyl)benzenesulfonamide (L1)



Benzenesulfonyl chloride (1.28 mL, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as an off-white waxy solid (0.49 g, 25%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  7.79 (2H, m), 7.59 (3H, m), 3.90 (2H, br s), 2.73 (2H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.52 (2H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  140.6, 132.3, 129.2, 126.4, 46.0, 41.3. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>3</sup>

#### N-(2-aminoethyl)benzenesulfonamide (L2)



4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (1.77 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a white solid (1.06 g, 49%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  7.66 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.37 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 3.37 (2H, br s), 2.68 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.49 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.36 (3H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  142.8, 138.1, 130.0, 126.9, 46.6, 41.7, 21.3. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>3</sup>

#### N-(2-aminoethyl)-4-(tert-butyl)benzenesulfonamide (L3)



4-(*tert*-butyl)benzenesulfonyl chloride (2.33 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a white solid (1.87 g, 77%). <sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (300 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  7.70 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.59 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 3.36 (2H, br s), 2.69 (2H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.50 (2H, m), 1.29 (9H, s). <sup>13</sup>**C** NMR (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  155.2, 137.7, 126.3, 126.0, 46.2, 41.4, 34.8, 30.8. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>3</sup>

#### N-(2-aminoethyl)-2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonamide (L4)



2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (2.19 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a white solid (1.87 g, 77%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  7.01 (2H, s), 3.31 (2H, br s), 2.68 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.54 (6H, s), 2.47 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.24 (3H, s). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  141.6, 138.6, 134.9, 132.0, 45.7, 41.6, 22.9, 20.7. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>3</sup>

#### N-(2-aminoethyl)-2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonamide (L5)



2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (3.03 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a white solid (2.52 g, 77%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  7.21 (2H, s), 4.13 (2H, sept, J = 6.7 Hz), 3.39 (2H, br s), 2.89 (1H, sept, J = 6.9 Hz), 2.78 (2H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.53 (2H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.49 (1H, t, J = 1.8 Hz), 1.20-1.17 (18H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  152.2, 149.9, 133.6, 123.8, 45.7, 41.7, 33.7, 29.1, 25.1, 23.8. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>3</sup>

#### N-(2-aminoethyl)-4-fluorobenzenesulfonamide (L6)



4-fluorobenzenesulfonyl chloride (2.45 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a white solid (0.46 g, 21%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  7.86 (2H, m), 7.43 (2H, m), 3.50 (2H, br s), 2.73 (2H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.52 (2H, m). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (101 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  164.1 (d, <sup>1</sup> $J_{C-F} = 251$  Hz), 137.0 (d, <sup>4</sup> $J_{C-F} = 3$  Hz), 129.5 (d, <sup>3</sup> $J_{C-F} = 9$  Hz), 116.3 (d, <sup>2</sup> $J_{C-F} = 23$  Hz), 46.2, 41.3. <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (376.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  -107.2. **IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3349, 3298, 3068, 2951, 2897, 2854, 2591, 2161, 2029, 1658, 1590, 1512, 1490, 1404, 1315, 1286, 1234, 1155, 1143, 1088, 1063, 1013, 967, 832, 819, 797, 707, 661. **HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>FN<sub>2</sub>Q<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : *m*/z 219.0598, found 219.0547.

#### N-(2-aminoethyl)-4-bromobenzenesulfonamide (L7)



4-bromobenzenesulfonyl chloride (2.56 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a white solid (1.84 g, 66%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  7.81 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.72 (2H, d, J = 8.7 Hz), 3.48 (2H, br s), 2.73 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.50 (2H, m). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  139.9, 132.3, 128.5, 126.1, 46.2, 41.3. **IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3401, 3350, 3299, 3056, 2951, 2861, 2582, 2162, 2026, 1591, 1574, 1491, 1469, 1388, 1316, 1294, 1235, 1145, 1089, 1065, 1008, 968, 926, 817, 779, 736, 702, 662. **HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : *m/z* 278.9797, found 278.9715.

N-(2-aminoethyl)-4-methoxybenzenesulfonamide (L8)



4-methoxybenzenesulfonyl chloride (2.07 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a white crystalline solid (0.84 g, 37%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  7.71 (2H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 7.09 (2H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 3.82 (3H, s), 3.36 (2H, br s), 2.67 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.49 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  162.4, 132.6, 129.0, 114.6, 56.0, 46.5, 41.7. IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3367, 3056, 2944, 2839, 2603, 2161, 2039, 1595, 1577, 1495, 1459, 1442, 1412, 1319, 1296, 1254, 1180, 1143, 1092, 1025, 927, 832, 806, 763, 661, 627. HRMS (ESI); calc'd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : *m/z* 231.0803, found 231.0785.

#### N-(2-aminoethyl)-4-nitrobenzenesulfonamide (L9)



4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl chloride (2.22 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a pale-yellow crystalline solid (0.71 g, 29%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  8.40 (2H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 8.03 (2H, d, J = 8.9 Hz), 3.67 (2H, br s), 2.78 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.51 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO);  $\delta$  149.9, 146.7, 128.4, 124.9, 46.4, 41.7. **IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3362, 3274, 3111, 2931, 2868, 2162, 2032, 1602, 1528, 1469, 1441, 1401, 1349, 1297, 1154, 1111, 1090, 1055, 1009, 959, 854, 830, 776, 737, 698, 681, 640, 606. **HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : *m/z* 246.0543, found 246.0482.

N-(2-aminoethyl)-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfonamide (L10)



4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenesulfonyl chloride (2.45 g, 10 mmol) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a white crystalline solid (1.58 g, 59%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO); δ 8.03-8.00 (4H, m), 3.59 (2H, br s), 2.77 (2H, t, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.53 (2H, t, J = 6.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO); δ 145.1, 132.6 (q,  ${}^{2}J_{C-F} = 32$  Hz), 127.9, 126.9 (q,  ${}^{3}J_{C-F} = 4$  Hz), 124.0 (q,  ${}^{1}J_{C-F} = 273$  Hz), 46.6, 41.8. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376.5 MHz,  $d_6$ -DMSO); δ -61.6. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>3</sup>

#### Procedure for the synthesis of both N- and N'-methyl-N-sulfonated ethylenediamines (L16-L17)



A solution of mesitylsulfonyl chloride (3.82 mmol, 836 mg) in anhydrous dichloromethane (10 mL) was added, *via* a dropping funnel, to a stirring solution of *N*-methylethylenediamine (11.47 mmol, 1.0 mL) in anhydrous dichloromethane (1 mL) at 0 °C. After complete addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 3 hours. The reaction was then quenched with water (10 mL) and the organics separated. The aqueous layer was then extracted with further dichloromethane ( $2 \times 10$  mL). The combined organics were then washed with water (30 mL) followed by brine (30 mL), then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude residue contained a mixture of both compounds which were purified by silica gel column chromatography (chloroform 9:1 methanol + 1% triethylamine) to give **L16** as a waxy pale-yellow solid (0.18 g, 7%) and **L17** as a waxy dark-yellow solid (0.55 g, 22%).

#### 2,4,6-trimethyl-N-(2-(methylamino)ethyl)benzenesulfonamide (L16)



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 6.92 (2H, s), 3.95 (2H, br s), 2.94-2.91 (2H, m), 2.69-2.65 (2H, m), 2.61 (6H, s), 2.31 (3H, s), 2.26 (2H, s). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 142.1, 139.1, 133.5, 131.9, 49.8, 41.1, 35.4, 22.9, 20.9. **IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3318, 2975, 2935, 2846, 2162, 1977, 1664, 1603, 1563, 1454, 1404, 1382, 1310, 1262, 1186, 1146, 1118, 1098, 1056, 1035, 966, 933, 845, 796, 757, 718. **HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [**M**+**H**]<sup>+</sup>: *m/z* 257.1324, found 257.1357.

N-(2-aminomethyl)-N,2,4,6-tetramethylbenzenesulfonamide (L17)



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 6.84 (2H, s), 3.11 (2H, t, J = 6.2 Hz), 2.74 (2H, t, J = 6.2 Hz), 2.62 (3H, s), 2.50 (6H, s), 2.19 (3H, s), 1.27 (2H, br s). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 142.3, 140.0, 132.1, 131.8, 51.9, 39.3, 32.9, 22.6, 20.7. **IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3357, 2975, 2935, 2161, 2024, 1603, 1563, 1457, 1401, 1380, 1309, 1256, 1208, 1143, 1104, 1076, 1053, 1039, 999, 950, 852, 749, 713, 644. **HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : m/z 257.1324, found 257.1363.

#### General procedure for the synthesis of N-dimethyl mono-N-sulfonated ethylenediamines (L18–L19)



A solution of mesitylsulfonyl chloride (10 mmol, 2.19 g) in anhydrous dichloromethane (25 mL) was added, *via* a dropping funnel, to a stirring solution of the *N*-dimethylethylenediamine (10 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (25 mL) at 0 °C. After complete addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was then quenched with water (50 mL) and the organics separated. The aqueous layer was then extracted with further dichloromethane ( $2 \times 25$  mL). The combined organics were then washed with water (50 mL) followed by brine (50 mL), then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude residue was then purified by silica gel column chromatography (dichloromethane 9:1 methanol + 1% triethylamine).

#### N-(2-(dimethylamino)ethyl)-2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonamide (L18)



*N*,*N*-dimethylethylenediamine (10 mmol, 1.1 mL) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as an amorphous crystalline solid (2.20g, 81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  6.95 (2H, s), 5.45 (1H, br s), 2.95-2.91 (2H, m), 2.64 (6H, s), 2.39-2.35 (2H, m), 2.29 (3H, s), 2.15 (6H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  142.1, 139.2, 133.5, 131.9, 57.0, 44.7, 39.4, 22.8, 20.9. **IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3303, 2943, 2862, 2824, 2775, 2160, 2026, 1604, 1564, 1457, 1384, 1319, 1232, 1186, 1152, 1091, 1152, 1091, 1039, 958, 851, 759, 653. **HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : *m*/*z* 271.1480, found 271.1504.

#### N,2,4,6-tetramethyl-N-(2-(methylamino)ethyl)benzenesulfonamide (L19)



*N,N*<sup>'</sup>-dimethylethylenediamine (10 mmol, 1.1 mL) was reacted according to the general procedure to give the title compound as a yellow oil (0.20 g, 7%). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  6.90 (2H, s), 3.22 (2H, t, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 2.74-2.69 (5H, m), 2.56 (6H, s), 2.32 (3H, s), 2.25 (3H, s), 1.56 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  142.5, 140.3, 132.1, 132.0, 48.9, 48.2, 36.0, 33.3, 22.8, 20.9. **IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 2937, 2161, 2031, 1603, 1564, 1454, 1403, 1382, 1312, 1187, 1148, 1054, 1035, 956, 889, 853, 743, 727, 702, 645. **HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> : *m/z* 271.1480, found 271.1517.

#### Procedure for the synthesis of tert-butyl (2-((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)ethyl)carbamate (L20)



Di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (2 mmol, 436 mg) dissolved in chloroform (10 mL) was added dropwise to a stirring solution of ethylenediamine (10 mmol, 0.67 mL) in chloroform (50 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was left to warm to room temperature and left to stir overnight. The reaction was then quenched with NaHCO<sub>3 (sat.)</sub> and the organics separated. The organic layer was then washed with brine before being dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was then taken up in anhydrous dichloromethane (5 mL) and cooled to 0 °C. A solution of 2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonyl chloride **L4** (2 mmol, 437 mg) in anhydrous dichloromethane (45 mL) was then added dropwise. After complete addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 3 hours. The reaction was then quenched with water (25 mL) and the organics separated. The aqueous layer was then extracted further with dichloromethane ( $2 \times 25$  mL) before the combined organics were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was then purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane 8:2 ethyl acetate) to give the title compound as a colourless oil which solidifies to a white solid upon standing (137 mg, 20%).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 6.92 (2H, s), 5.57 (1H, br s), 5.04 (1H, br s), 3.20-3.19 (2H, m), 3.00-2.94 (2H, m), 2.60 (6H, s), 2.27 (3H, s), 1.39 (9H, s).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 156.5, 142.2, 139.1, 133.5, 132.0, 79.7, 43.0, 40.3, 28.3, 22.9, 20.9.

NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>4</sup>

#### Procedure for the synthesis of benzyl (2-((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)ethyl)carbamate (L21)



To a stirring solution of 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (5 mmol, 0.81 g) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20 mL) was added a solution of benzyl alcohol (5 mmol, 0.52 mL) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20 mL) dropwise at room temperature. The reaction mixture was left to stir for 2 hours before the portionwise addition of *N*-(2aminoethyl)-2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonamide **L4** (5 mmol, 1.21 g). The reaction mixture was left to stir overnight before being concentrated. The residue was then taken up in ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with water (3 × 20 mL), then brine (20 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane 7:3 ethyl acetate) to give the title compound a white solid (0.95 g, 50%).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 7.34-7.29 (5H, m), 6.92 (2H, s), 5.47 (1H, br s), 5.34 (1H, br s), 3.30-3.24 (2H, m), 3.01-2.99 (2H, m), 2.60 (6H, s), 2.28 (3H, s).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 157.0, 142.4, 139.1, 136.4, 133.4, 132.1, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 66.9, 42.7, 40.8, 23.0, 21.0.

**IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3435, 3200, 2956, 2164, 1978, 1680, 1604, 1506, 1456, 1439, 1402, 1385, 1311, 1261, 1217, 1149, 1118, 1094, 1046, 990, 966, 916, 861, 833, 780, 755, 706, 653.

**HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for  $C_{19}H_{24}N_2O_4SNa [M+Na]^+$ : m/z 399.1354, found 399.1322.

# Procedure for the synthesis of 4-methoxybenzyl (2-((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)ethyl)carbamate (L22)



To a stirring solution of 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (1.3 mmol, 211 mg) in anhydrous acetonitrile (7.5 mL) was added a solution of 4-methoxybenzyl alcohol (5 mmol, 0.52 mL) in anhydrous acetonitrile (20 mL) dropwise at room temperature and the reaction mixture was left to stir overnight. The reaction was then concentrated, quenched with water (10 mL) and extracted with chloroform (3  $\times$  10 mL). The combined organics were then washed with water (15 mL), then brine (15 mL) before being dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was then taken up in anhydrous tetrahydropyran (15 mL) and N-(2-aminoethyl)-2,4,6trimethylbenzenesulfonamide L4 (1 mmol, 242 mg) was added. The reaction mixture was left to stir overnight before being concentrated. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (15 mL), washed with water (15 mL), then brine (15 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane 7:3 ethyl acetate) to give the title compound a white crystalline solid (283 mg, 72%).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 7.27 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 6.93 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 5.21 (1H, br t, *J* = 5.4 Hz), 5.10 (1H, br t, *J* = 5.7 Hz), 5.00 (2H, s), 3.80 (3H, s), 3.29-3.24 (2H, m), 3.04-2.98 (2H, m), 2.60 (6H, s), 2.29 (3H, s).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 159.7, 157.1, 142.4, 139.2, 133.5, 132.2, 130.1, 128.4, 114.0, 66.9, 55.4, 42.9, 40.9, 23.0, 21.1.

**IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3328, 2939, 2161, 2032, 1682, 1616, 1532, 1445, 1397, 1329, 1303, 1268, 1242, 1157, 1077, 1027, 976, 911, 849, 826, 806, 779, 652.

**HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for  $C_{20}H_{26}N_2O_5SNa [M+Na]^+$ : m/z 429.1460, found 429.1455.

#### Procedure for the synthesis of diallyl (4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl) phosphate (5)



Phosphorus trichloride (8.7 mL, 100 mmol, 2 eq.), allyl alcohol (13.6 mL, 200 mmol, 4 eq.), anhydrous TEA (31 mL, 220 mmol, 4.4 eq.), *N*-chlorosuccinimide (11.7 g, 87.5 mmol, 1.75 eq.), 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (6.1 g, 50 mmol, 1 eq.), anhydrous TEA (10.5 mL, 75 mmol, 1.5 eq.) and sodium borohydride (3.8 g, 100 mmol, 2 eq.) were reacted together in a telescoped manner according to a previously reported literature procedure.<sup>5</sup> The crude colourless oil was then purified by silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate 1:1 hexane ( $R_f = 0.20$ , UV<sub>254</sub> nm & KMnO<sub>4</sub>)) gave the title compound as a colourless liquid (4.0 g, 28%).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 7.22 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.08 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 5.89-5.80 (2H, m), 5.29 (2H, ddd, *J* = 17.1, 2.6, 1.5 Hz), 5.18 (2H, ddd, *J* = 10.4, 2.6, 1.1 Hz), 4.56-4.51 (6H, m), 2.90 (1H, br s).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  149.7 (d,  $J_{C-P} = 7$  Hz), 138.3 (d,  $J_{C-P} = 1$  Hz), 132.0 (d,  $J_{C-P} = 7$  Hz), 128.2, 119.9 (d,  $J_{C-P} = 5$  Hz), 118.8, 68.9 (d,  $J_{C-P} = 6$  Hz), 64.2.

<sup>31</sup>**P NMR** (121.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ – 5.52.

**IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3419, 2881, 1651, 1608, 1506, 1459, 1425, 1365, 1267, 1210, 1164, 1097, 1013, 988, 931, 874, 824, 733, 693, 638.

**HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for  $C_{13}H_{17}O_5P [M+Na]^+$ : m/z 307.0706, found 307.0760.

## Procedure for the synthesis of 4-((bis(allyloxy)phosphoryl)oxy)benzyl (2-((2,4,6trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)ethyl)carbamate (6)



To a stirring solution of 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (8.4 mmol, 1.36 g) in anhydrous acetonitrile (25 mL), was added a solution of diallyl (4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl) phosphate **5** (6.5 mmol, 1.86 g) in anhydrous acetonitrile (25 mL) slowly *via* a dropping funnel. After complete addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to stir overnight before concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in chloroform (50 mL) and washed with water (50 mL). The organics were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with chloroform (2 × 50 mL). The combined organics were washed with water (3 × 50 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was taken up in anhydrous acetonitrile (50 mL) and *N*-(2-aminoethyl)-2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonamide **L4** (8.4 mmol, 2.71 g) was added. The reaction mixture was then allowed to stir at room temperature for 4 hours before being concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in chloroform (2 × 50 mL) and washed with water (50 mL) and washed with water (50 mL). The combined organics were ten washed under reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in chloroform (50 mL) and washed with water (50 mL). The organics were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with chloroform (2 × 50 mL). The combined organics were then washed with water (2 × 50 mL) and brine (50 mL) before dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the crude product. The product was then purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane 1:1 ethyl acetate) to give the title compound as a colourless oil (2.71 g, 76%).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  7.03 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 6.91 (2H, d, J = 8.3 Hz), 6.66 (2H, s), 5.64 (4H, m), 5.12 (2H, dq, J = 17.2, 1.3 Hz), 5.01 (2H, ap dd, J = 10.4, 1.3 Hz), 4.74 (2H, s), 4.38 (4H, ddd, J = 8.4, 5.7, 1.3 Hz), 2.97 (2H, ap dd, J = 10.9, 5.5 Hz), 2.71 (2H, ap dd, J = 10.9, 5.5 Hz), 2.33 (6H, s), 2.02 (3H, s).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ 156.8, 150.2 (d, *J*<sub>C-P</sub> = 7 Hz), 142.1, 139.0, 133.6, 132.0, 132.0, 131.9, 129.6, 121.1 (d, *J*<sub>C-P</sub> = 5 Hz), 118.8, 69.0 (d, *J*<sub>C-P</sub> = 5 Hz), 65.9, 42.5, 40.7, 22.9, 20.9.

<sup>31</sup>**P NMR** (121.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>); δ –5.65.

**IR** (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3299, 2942, 1707, 1605, 1508, 1456, 1425, 1382, 1324, 1255, 1218, 1153, 1095, 1015, 989, 936, 853, 828, 776, 734, 654.

**HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for  $C_{25}H_{33}N_2O_8PS [M+H]^+$ : m/z 553.1773, found 553.1765.

#### Procedure for the synthesis of

#### 4-((((2-((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)ethyl)carbamoyl)oxy)methyl)phenyl phosphate (PL1)



To a stirring solution of 4-((bis(allyloxy)phosphoryl)oxy)benzyl (2-((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)ethyl) carbamate **7** (276 mg, 0.5 mmol) in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (5 mL), was sequentially added polymer-bound tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (14 mg, 0.01 mmol), formic acid (0.3 mL, 7.5 mmol) and triethylamine (0.7 mL, 5 mmol) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and left to stir overnight. The reaction mixture was then filtered through filter paper and washed through with tetrahydrofuran (15 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure with the excess formic acid being removed *via* its hexane azeotrope. The residue was then cooled to 0 °C and 1M NaOH (6 mL, 6 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure with the excess triethylamine removed *via* its toluene azeotrope to obtain the crude product. The product was then purified by reverse phase (C18) silica gel column chromatography (water) to give the title compound as a white powder (257 mg, *quant*.).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O/NaOD); δ 7.23 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.12 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 6.92 (2H, s), 4.79 (2H, s), 2.93 (2H, m), 2.78 (2H, s), 2.49 (6H, s), 2.16 (3H, s).

<sup>31</sup>**P NMR** (121.5 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O/NaOD); δ 1.05.

**IR** (solid, cm<sup>-1</sup>); v 3299, 1707, 1605, 1508, 1456, 1425, 1382, 1324, 1255, 1218, 1153, 1095, 1015, 989, 936, 853, 828, 776, 734, 654.

**HRMS** (ESI); calc'd for  $C_{19}H_{24}N_2O_8PS [M-H]^-$ : m/z 471.0991, found 471.1025.

#### General procedures for the enzyme-triggered transfer hydrogenation of aldehydes to alcohols

Procedure A:

$$R \xrightarrow{0.25 \text{ mol}\% [(cp*IrCl_2)_2]}{0.50 \text{ mol}\% PL1}$$

$$25 \text{ UmL}^{-1} \text{ ALP}$$

$$5 \text{ eq. NaOOCH}$$

$$PH 9.8 \text{ CO}_3^{2^2} \text{ buffer}$$

$$1:1 \text{ EtOH}$$

$$37 ^{\circ}\text{C}, 30 \text{ mins}$$

To a medium screw-top vial equipped with a magnetic flea was added dichloro(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl )iridium(III) dimer (1 mg, 0.00125 mmol), 4-((((2-((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)ethyl)carbamoyl)oxy) methyl)phenyl phosphate **PL1** (1.3 mg, 0.0025 mmol) and sodium formate (170 mg, 2.5 mmol) and dissolved in pH 9.8 0.05M sodium carbonate buffer (1 mL). Alkaline phosphatase (2.5 mg, 10 Umg<sup>-1</sup>) was then added. Immediately thereafter, a solution of the aldehyde (0.5 mmol) in ethanol (1 mL) was added. The vial was then secured into a DrySyn vial holder upon a stirrer hotplate and stirred at 1000 rpm for 30 minutes at 37 °C. The reaction was then poured into a 100 mL conical flask containing water (20 mL) and ethyl acetate (20 mL). The organics were extracted and the aqueous layer was extracted further with ethyl acetate (2 × 20 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was then analysed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR to obtain conversions. To confirm the diagnostic peaks used to calculate conversions corresponded with those of the product; analytically pure samples of the product were obtained through purification of the crude material by flash silica gel column chromatography (hexane 9:1 ethyl acetate).

Procedure B:

$$R \xrightarrow{O}_{H} H \xrightarrow{0.125 \text{ mol\%} [(cp^* \text{IrCl}_2)_2]}{0.25 \text{ mol\%} PL1} R \xrightarrow{O}_{F} H \xrightarrow{25 \text{ UmL}^{-1} \text{ ALP}}{5 \text{ eq. NaOOCH}} R \xrightarrow{O}_{F} H \xrightarrow{PH 9.8 \text{ CO}_3^{2-} \text{ buffer}}{1:1 \text{ EtOH}} R \xrightarrow{O}_{F} OH$$

To a medium screw-top vial equipped with a magnetic flea was added dichloro(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl )iridium(III) dimer (1 mg, 0.00125 mmol), 4-((((2-((2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)sulfonamido)ethyl)carbamoyl)oxy) methyl)phenyl phosphate **PL1** (1.3 mg, 0.0025 mmol) and sodium formate (340 mg, 5 mmol) and dissolved in pH 9.8 0.05M sodium carbonate buffer (2 mL). Alkaline phosphatase (2.5 mg, 10 Umg<sup>-1</sup>) was then added. Immediately thereafter, a solution of the aldehyde (1 mmol) in ethanol (2 mL) was added. The vial was then secured into a DrySyn vial holder upon a stirrer hotplate and stirred at 1000 rpm for 30 minutes at 37 °C. The reaction was then poured into a 100 mL conical flask containing water (20 mL) and ethyl acetate (20 mL). The organics were extracted and the aqueous layer was extracted further with ethyl acetate (2 × 20 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was then analysed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR to obtain conversions. To confirm the diagnostic peaks used to calculate conversions corresponded with those of the product; analytically pure samples of the product were obtained through purification of the crude material by flash silica gel column chromatography (hexane 9:1 ethyl acetate).

#### Naphthalen-1-ylmethanol (7)



1-Naphthaldehyde (68 µL, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a colourless oil (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  8.13-8.10 (1H, m), 7.91-7.88 (1H, m), 7.84-7.81 (1H, m), 7.59-7.42 (4H, m), 5.13 (2H, s), 1.95 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  136.3, 133.9, 131.3, 128.8, 128.7, 126.5, 126.0, 125.5, 125.4, 123.8, 63.8. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>6</sup>

#### Anthracen-9-ylmethanol (8)



Anthracene-9-carboxaldehyde (103 mg, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a pale yellow crystalline solid (77% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  8.44 (1H, s), 8.37 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 8.02 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.58-7.46 (4H, m), 5.61 (2H, s), 1.87 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  131.6, 131.1, 130.2, 129.3, 128.5, 126.6, 125.2, 124.0, 57.5. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>7</sup>

#### Pyren-1-ylmethanol (9)



Pyrene-1-carboxaldehyde (115 mg, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a pale yellow crystalline solid (95% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  8.26 (1H, d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 8.17 (2H, d, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 8.09-7.94 (6H, m), 5.31 (2H, s), 2.02 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  133.8, 131.29, 131.26, 130.8, 128.8, 127.9, 127.49, 127.45, 126.04, 126.01, 125.35, 125.33, 124.9, 124.8, 123.0, 63.8. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>8</sup>

#### 4-Fluorobenzyl alcohol (10)



4-Fluorobenzaldehyde (94 µL, 1 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **B** to give the title compound as a colourless oil (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  7.35-7.29 (2H, m), 7.08-7.00 (2H, m), 4.64 (2H, s), 1.97 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  162.4 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 246 Hz), 136.7 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3 Hz), 128.9 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8 Hz), 115.5 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 21 Hz), 64.7. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (470.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  -114.9.<sup>9</sup>

#### 4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzyl alcohol (11)



4-(Trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (136 µL, 1 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **B** to give the title compound as a colourless oil (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  7.57 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.39 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 4.65 (2H, s), 3.24 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  144.8 (q, <sup>4</sup> $J_{C-F} = 1$  Hz), 129.8 (q, <sup>2</sup> $J_{C-F} = 32$  Hz), 126.9, 125.5 (q, <sup>3</sup> $J_{C-F} = 32$  Hz), 124.3 (q, <sup>1</sup> $J_{C-F} = 272$  Hz), 64.3. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (470.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  -62.5. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>10</sup>

#### 4-Nitrobenzyl alcohol (12)



4-Nitrobenzaldehyde (76 mg, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **B** to give the title compound as a white solid (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  8.18 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 7.51 (2H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 4.82 (2H, s), 2.29 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  148.4, 147.3, 127.1, 123.8, 64.0. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>11</sup>

#### 4-Methoxybenzyl alcohol (13)



*p*-Anisaldehyde (61 µL, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a colourless oil (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  7.20 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 6.81 (2H, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 4.51 (2H, s), 3.72 (3H, s), 1.89 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  159.3, 133.2, 128.8, 114.0, 65.1, 55.4. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>12</sup>

#### 2-Hydroxybenzyl alcohol (14)



Salicylaldehyde (53 µL, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a white crystalline solid (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  7.34 (1H, br s), 7.24-7.18 (1H, m), 7.04 (1H, dd, J = 7.4, 1.3 Hz), 4.85 (2H, s), 2.46 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  156.1, 129.7, 128.0, 124.8, 120.3, 116.6, 64.7. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>13</sup>

#### 4-Isopropylbenzyl alcohol (15)



Cuminaldehyde (76 µL, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a colourless oil (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  7.31 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.24 (2H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 4.66 (2H, s), 2.92 (1H, hept, *J* = 6.9 Hz), 1.71 (1H, br s), 1.26 (6H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  148.5, 138.3, 127.2, 126.7, 65.3, 33.9, 24.1. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>14</sup>

#### 4-(Hydroxymethyl)benzaldehyde (16)



Terephthalaldehyde (67 mg, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a white solid (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ );  $\delta$  9.98 (1H, s), 7.85 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 7.51 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 4.79 (2H, s), 2.28 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ );  $\delta$  192.2, 148.0, 135.8, 130.1, 127.1, 64.6. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>15</sup>

#### 1-Octanol (17)

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Octanal (79 µL, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a colourless oil (>99% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  3.64 (2H, t, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.61-1.52 (2H, m), 1.39-1.28 (11H, m), 0.88 (3H, t, *J* = 6.8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  63.2, 33.0, 29.5, 29.4, 25.9, 22.8, 14.2. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>9</sup>

#### 2-Methoxycinnamyl alcohol (18)



2-Methoxycinnamaldehyde (81 mg, 0.5 mmol) was reacted according to general procedure **A** to give the title compound as a colourless oil (75% conversion by <sup>1</sup>H NMR). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  7.44 (1H, dd, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz), 7.27-7.21 (1H, m), 6.96-6.86 (3H, m), 6.38 (1H, dt, J = 16.0, 5.9 Hz), 4.32 (2H, d, J = 5.0 Hz), 3.84 (3H, s), 1.81 (1H, br s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>);  $\delta$  156.8, 129.4, 128.9, 127.1, 126.2, 125.8, 120.8, 110.9, 64.3, 55.5. NMR data in accordance with literature precedent.<sup>16</sup>

## General Procedure for the <sup>31</sup>P NMR Experiment

13 mg of **PL1** was dissolved in 400  $\mu$ L of pH 9.8 CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> buffer and to this solution was added 100  $\mu$ L of 2.5 mg of ALP in 1 mL of pH 9.8 CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2</sup> buffer to give an overall reaction concentration of 50 mM **PL1** and 5 UmL<sup>-1</sup> ALP. The mixture was then spiked with a small amount of D<sub>2</sub>O for NMR locking and analysed. At regular intervals, the NMR tube was inverted and return to its upright position to induce reagent mixing before being reanalysed. This was repeated until complete consumption of **PL1** was observed.

#### **General Procedure for the Mass Spectrometry Experiment**

1.3 mg of **PL1** was dissolve in 900  $\mu$ L of water and to this solution was added 100  $\mu$ L of a solution containing 2.5 mg of 10 Umg<sup>-1</sup> ALP in 1 mL of  $\mu$ L of pH 9.8 CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> buffer. The reaction mixture was then taken up in a micro-syringe and injected at 3  $\mu$ Lmin<sup>-1</sup> directly into an Electrospray Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (ESI-UHR-TOF MS, negative ion mode). Injection was stopped after complete consumption of **PL1** was observed.

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