Supporting Information

Development of a Concise, Scalable Synthesis of a CCR1 Antagonist Utilizing a Continuous Flow Curtius Rearrangement

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General. All reactions were performed under anhydrous conditions unless otherwise stated with oven-dried glassware and under an argon atmosphere. Anhydrous solvents (THF, MeOH, 1-PrOH, toluene, NMP, MeCN, and EtOAc) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or Fisher and were used without further purification. LDA (2 M solution in THF/EtPh/heptane) was purchased from Sigma Aldrich and used without further purification. All other starting materials and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received unless otherwise noted. Melting points are uncorrected. HPLC analysis was performed on an Agilent 1200 binary pump HPLC equipped with a Zorbax Eclipse XDB-C18 4.6x50 mm column eluted at 15 °C with a mobile phase consisting of 90:10 MeCN/MeOH and water containing 0.1% H₃PO₄ and 0.2% HClO₄. Flash chromatography was performed on a Combi-Flash system with silica column cartridges using either a dichloromethane/hexanes or ethyl acetate/hexanes solvent system. TLC was performed on EMD silica gel F2542.5x7.5 cm plates and visualized with UV (254 nm) and/or a cerium molybdate or potassium permanganate stain. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 or 500 MHz instruments. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were referenced to the internal deuterated solvent relative to TMS at 0 ppm. High resolution mass spectroscopy (HRMS) was performed on a TOF instrument with ESI in positive ionization mode. Flash chromatography was performed on a Combi-Flash

automated system with silica columns. FT-IR spectra were measured on a Mettler Toledo "ReactIR IC10" Fourier spectrometer with a silicon probe. Absorbance was measured with intervals of 15 sec.

Procedures and Data



1-(2-chloropyridin-4-yl)cyclopropane-1-carbonitrile 6. To a stirred solution of cyclopropanecarbonitrile **4** (3.06 kg, 45.6 mol, 1.2 eq.) and 2-chloro-4-fluoropyridine **5** (5 kg, 38.0 mol, 1.0 eq.) in THF (75 L) at 10 °C is added LDA (16.2 kg, 40.7 mol, 1.07 eq., 26 wt% solution in THF/heptane/ethylbenzene) over 4 h while maintaining the internal temperature ~10 °C. After reaction completion (as judged by HPLC analysis), the mixture is quenched with water (350 mL). The desired product **6** is obtained in ~89% assay yield and taken directly into the next step. (An analytical sample was obtained after EtOAc extraction and chromatographic purification (0-30% EtOAc in hexanes) to obtain nitrile **6** as a light yellow solid; see below for data).

1-(2-chloropyridin-4-yl)cyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid 7. The solution of **6** is concentrated under vacuum at 55-60 °C to minimum stirrable volume. Water (50 L) is added, followed by 50% aqueous NaOH (5.12 kg, 63.8 mol, 2 eq.). The mixture is heated to 95-100 °C over 1 h in order to control THF distillation, and further stirred at this temperature for 5 h. The resulting thin slurry is cooled to 10-15 °C over 3 h, after which it is filtered through Celite to remove LiF salts. The resulting solution of sodium-carboxylate 7 is taken directly into the next step. (An analytical sample was obtained after acidic quench, EtOAc extraction and chromatographic purification (0-30% EtOAc in hexanes) to obtain acid 7 as an off-white solid; see below for data).

1-(2-chloropyridin-4-yl)cyclopropane-1-carbonitrile 3. The aqueous filtrate containing 7 is returned back to the reactor, heated to 70-75 °C, and treated with H_2SO_4 (5.59 kg, 55.9 mol, 1.75 eq.) slowly to control splattering and the resulting exotherm. After addition, the batch is heated to 80-85 °C, and a solution of NaSO₂Me (4.93 kg, 47. 9 mol, 1.6 eq.) in water (5 L) is charged while maintaining the batch >80 °C. The resulting mixture is heated to 95-100 °C and stirred for 6 h. Following complete conversion, the batch is cooled to 85-90 °C and treated with a slurry of **3** seeds (5 g) in water (100 mL). The resulting mixture is stirred for 3 h at 85-90 °C, during which time a thick slurry is formed. The batch is cooled to 20 °C over 3 h, after which the solid is collected by filtration and washed with water (25 L). The product sulfone **3** is obtained as a light orange solid (6.6 kg, 72%).

Data for nitrile **6**: m.p. = 70-73 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.35 (d, *J* = 5.3, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 1.5, 1H), 7.09 (dd, *J*₁ = 5.3, *J*₂ = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (dd, *J*₁ = 13.7, *J*₂ = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 1.55 (dd, *J*₁)

= 13.7, J_2 = 2.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 152.4, 150.1, 149.0, 120.3, 120.1, 118.4, 20.3, 13.5; HRMS: calcd for C₉H₈N₂Cl [M + H]: 179.0371. Found: 179.0381.

Data for acid 7: m.p. = 160-162 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.7 (bs, 1H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 5.1, 1H), 7.49, (s, 1H), 7.39 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.1, *J*₂ = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (dd, *J*₁ = 11.4, *J*₂ = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 1.28 (dd, *J*₁ = 11.4, *J*₂ = 3.0 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.1, 153.0, 150.6, 149.9, 125.8, 125.2, 28.1, 16.5; HRMS: calcd for C₉H₉CINO₂ [M + H]: 198.0316. Found: 198.0320.

Data for acid **3**: m.p. = 175-178 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 (d, *J* = 5.0, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.70 (dd, *J*₁ = 5.0, *J*₂ = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 1.58 (dd, *J*₁ = 11.4, *J*₂ = 2.9 Hz, 2H), 1.34 (dd, *J*₁ = 11.4, *J*₂ = 2.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 157.9, 152.2, 150.5, 129.3, 122.3, 40.3, 28.5, 16.7; HRMS: calcd for C₁₀H₁₂NO₄S [M + H]: 242.0482. Found: 242.0486.



tert-pentyl (1-(2-(methylsulfonyl)pyridin-4-yl)cyclopropyl)carbamate 8. To a 1 L reactor fitted with a mechanical stirrer, N₂ inlet and bubbler, and reflux condensor was added acid 3 (101.7 g, 382.7 mmol, 1.0 eq.), NEt₃ (79.58 mL, 574.1 mmol, 1.5 eq.), *t*-AmOH (83.3 mL, 765.5 mmol, 2 eq.) and toluene (712 mL) at 25 °C. The resulting mixture is heated to 100 °C. DPPA (78.8 mL, 363.6 mmol, 0.95 eq.) is added slowly over 15 min via syringe, and the resulting mixture is allowed to stir at 100 °C for 1 h and monitored by HPLC. After reaction completion, the mixture is then heated to 110 °C in order to remove excess *t*-AmOH (1:1 with toluene) by distillation. The batch is then cooled to 70 °C, treated with water (711.9 mL), and further cooled to 20 °C. The resulting biphasic slurry is filtered and washed with water (300 mL) and heptane (300 mL). Carbamate 8 is obtained as an off-white solid (76.7 g, 61% yield). m.p. = 87-93 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, mixture of rotamers) δ 8.62 (m, 1H), 7.96-7.63 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 1H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 4.52-4.45 (m,

1 H), 4.16-4.11 (m, 2 H), 2.47 (dd, $J_1 = 10.3$, $J_2 = 1.8$ Hz, 1 H), 1.96 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 1.77-1.48 (m, 2H), 1.40-1.26 (m, 10H), 0.89-0.55 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, mixture of rotamers) δ 158.1, 155.9, 150.4, 122.7, 116.5, 81.1, 40.2, 34.8, 33.3, 26.2, 25.7, 21.2, 8.6; HRMS: calcd for C₁₅H₂₃N₂O₄S [M + H]: 327.1373. Found: 327.1383.

Data for **10**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.72 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.63 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.68 (dd, J_I = 4.9, J_2 = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.36 (dd, J_I = 4.9, J_2 = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (s, 6H), 1.53 (dd, J_I = 11.4, J_2 = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 1.42 (m, 2H), 1.33 (m, 2H), 1.28 (dd, J_I = 11.4, J_2 = 2.4 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.8, 158.2 (2), 157.1, 152.7, 150.7, 150.5, 128.4, 123.2, 121.3, 116.3, 40.5, 40.2, 34.8, 20.8, 15.8; HRMS: calcd for C₁₉H₂₂N₃O₅S₂ [M + H]: 436.0995. Found: 436.1000.

Data for **11**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.63 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (s, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (s, 2H), 3.29 (s, 6H), 1.39 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 8H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.7, 158.2, 157.9, 150.3, 123.2, 116.3, 40.2, 34.7, 21.8; HRMS: calcd for C₁₉H₂₃N₂O₅S₂ [M + H]: 451.1104. Found: 451.1110.

1-(2-(methylsulfonyl)pyridin-4-yl)cyclopropan-1-amine hydrochloride 2. A suspension of carbamate **8** (1.23 kg, 3.69 mmol, 1.0 eq.) in *n*-PrOH (6.14 L) is treated with conc HCl (923 mL, 11.0 mol, 3.0 eq.). The slurry is heated to 65 °C and stirred for 2 h, after which the solution became homogeneous and CO₂ gas evolution is observed. The resulting mixture is then cooled to 20-25 °C and stirred for 1 h, after which it is filtered and washed with cold *n*-PrOH (2.4 L). The product HCl salt **2** is obtained as an-off-white solid (840 g, 90%). m.p. = 198-202 °C (dec); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.48 (bs, 3H), 8.77 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, *J*₁ = 5.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.6 Hz 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 1.68 (dd, *J*₁ = 13.4 Hz, *J*₂ = 7.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.4, 151.4, 150.7, 124.2, 117.4, 40.4, 35.3, 15.9; HRMS: calcd for C₉H₁₃N₂O₂S [M + H⁺]: 213.0692. Found: 213.0696.

1-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(1-(2-(methylsulfonyl)pyridin-4-yl)cyclopropyl)-1H-pyrazolo[3,4clpvridine-4-carboxamide (1) via traditional amide coupling. To a suspension of acid 9¹ (1 kg, 3.89 mol, 1.0 eq.) and amine HCl salt 2 (1.06 kg, 4.28 mmol, 1.1 eq.) in NMP (2 L) is added NEt₃ (2.8 L, 19.4 mol, 5.0 eq.). After stirring for 15 min, the resulting slurry is treated with T3P (2.86 L, 4.86 mmol, 1.07 eq., 50 wt% in EtOAc) while maintaining the batch temperature <40 °C. After addition, the batch is heated to 65 °C over 30 min and stirred for 2 h. Water (2 L) is added over 30 min while maintaining the batch >60 °C. A slurry of amide 1 seeds (1 g) in water (100 mL) is added, after which water (4-6 L) is added over 30 min while maintaining the batch >60 °C. After holding for 30 min, the batch is cooled to 25 °C over 2 h. The solids were collected by filtration and washed with 1:4 NMP/water (2 L) and water (2 L). The product amide 1 was isolated as an off-white solid (1.71 kg, 95%). m.p. = 140-144 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 9.43 (s, 1H), 8.95 (s, 1H), 8.70 (s, 1H), 8.68 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (s, $J_1 = 8.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 1.61 (bs, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.1, 162.7, 160.3, 158.4, 156.9, 150.6, 139.2, 138.2, 135.8, 135.6, 125.4 (d, $J_{C-F} = 8.8$ Hz), 123.3, 121.9, 117.2 (d, $J_{C-F} = 23.1$ Hz), 116.4, 40.2, 34.9, 20.9; HRMS: calcd for $C_{22}H_{19}FN_5O_3S$ [M + H⁺]: 452.1187. Found: 452.1189.

Kinetic analysis of Curtius rearrangement (sequential azide and isocyanate formation):

An EasyMax reactor was fitted with a silicon FT-IR probe connected to a Mettler Toledo IC10 FT-IR spectrometer. Acid **3** (20 mmol) was charged, followed by toluene (0.5 M) and NEt₃ (30 mmol). The reactor jacket was set for 55 °C, and DPPA (20 mmol) was added in one portion (green line in graph). As DPPA concentration decreases, concentration of acyl azide **12** (red) increases, with completion achieved after 5 minutes. The reactor jacket was then set for 95 °C. The resulting increase in batch temperature induces Curtius rearrangement, corresponding to a decrease in concentration of **12** and increase in concentration of isocyanate **13** (blue). Rearrangement was found to be complete after 30 min at 95 °C. Acid **3** (20 mmol) is added in one portion, resulting in disappearance of isocyanate **13** and synthesis of a mixture of amide **10** and urea **11**.



CSTR synthesis of Acyl Azide 12 and semi-continuous synthesis of carbamate 8. A stock solution of acid **3** (1.2 kg, 4.78 mol, 1 eq.), NEt₃ (998.4 mL, 7.16 mol, 1.5 eq.), and toluene (6 L) is prepared. A second stock solution containing DPPA (1.033 L, 4.78 mol, 1 eq.) in toluene (2 L) is also prepared. The two stock solutions are pumped via polypropylene tubes and combined in an equimolar ratio in a continuously stirred tank reactor (CSTR) jacketed at 50 °C at a rate to maintain a total residence time (RT) of 10 minutes, and the resulting homogeneous stream of azide **12** is allowed to overflow into a receiving tank containing *t*-AmOH (1.039 L, 9.54 mol, 1 eq.) in toluene (500 mL) stirred at 100 °C. After the flow of isocyanate **12** is complete, the resulting mixture in the receiving tank is stirred for 1 h at 100 °C. The batch is then cooled to 70 °C, treated with water

(7 L), and further cooled to 20 °C. The resulting biphasic slurry is filtered and washed with water (2 L) and heptane (2 L). Carbamate **8** is obtained as an off-white solid (1.53 kg, 75% yield).



Flow synthesis of Isocyanate 13 and semi-continuous synthesis of carbamate 8. A stock solution of acid 3 (600 g, 2.39 mol, 1 eq.), NEt₃ (499.2 mL, 3.58 mol, 1.5 eq.), and toluene (3 L) is prepared. A second stock solution containing DPPA (516.9 mL, 2.39 mol, 1 eq.) in toluene (1 L) is also prepared. The two stock solutions are pumped via polypropylene tubes and combined in an equimolar ratio via T-mixer and jacketed static mixer, and the resulting homogeneous stream is allowed to undergo Curtius rearrangement in a jacketed tube-in-tube reactor at 135 °C with 3 min residence time (RT) under a back-pressure of 10 bar. An in-line FTIR probe was utilized to ensure complete conversion to isocyanate (no remaining acyl azide present). After exiting the tube-in-tube reactor, the resulting solution of isocyanate 13 is allowed to flow into a receiving tank containing *t*-AmOH (519.6 mL, 4.77 mol, 1 eq.) in toluene (250 mL) stirred at 100 °C. After the flow of isocyanate 13 is complete, the resulting mixture in the receiving tank is stirred for 1 h at 100 °C. The batch is then cooled to 70 °C, treated with water (3.5 L), and further cooled to 20 °C. The resulting biphasic slurry is filtered and washed with water (1 L) and heptane (1 L). Carbamate 8 is obtained as an off-white solid (564 g, 72% yield). A second crop 84.52 g (9%) was isolated from the mother liquor.

Flow synthesis of carbamate 14. A stock solution of acid 3 (10 kg, 39.84 mol, 1 eq.), NEt_3 (5.83 L, 41.03 mol, 1.01 eq.), PMBOH (7.27 kg, 52.62 mol), and toluene (20 L) is prepared. A second

stock solution containing DPPA (8.98 L, 32.65 mol, 1 eq.) in toluene (10 L) is also prepared. The two stock solutions are pumped via polypropylene tubes and combined in an equimolar ratio via T-mixer and jacketed static mixer, and the resulting homogeneous stream is allowed to undergo Curtius rearrangement in a jacketed tube-in-tube reactor at 135 °C with 3 min residence time (RT) under a back-pressure of 10 bar. An in-line FTIR probe was utilized to ensure complete conversion to isocyanate (no remaining acyl azide present). After exiting the tube-in-tube reactor, the resulting solution of carbamate 14 is allowed to flow into a receiving tank held at a jacket temperature of 70 °C. After the flow of carbamate 14 is complete, the resulting mixture in the receiving tank is charged with water (6 V) while maintaining the internal temperature at 70 °C. The batch is then cooled to 20 °C over 3 h, and the resulting slurry is filtered and washed with water (3 L) and heptane (3 L). Carbamate 14 is obtained as an off-white solid (12.48 kg, 80% yield). m.p. = 152.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, d⁶-DMSO, mixture of rotamers) δ 8.63 (d, J = 5.20 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 1.52 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (dd, $J_1 = 5.06$, $J_2 = 1.38$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.44 Hz, 1H), 4.99 (s, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 1.35-1.44 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, d⁶-DMSO, mixture of rotamers) δ 159.5, 158.3, 157.6, 156.7, 130.1, 129.4, 129.2, 123.1, 116.4, 114.1, 65.9, 55.6, 35.0, 20.98; HRMS: calcd for $C_{15}H_{23}N_2O_4S$ [M + H]: 377.4345. Found: 377.5683.



Actual Flow Setup





React IR data: Typical graph showing product at 1724 cm⁻¹, with absence of acyl azide and isocyanate monitored in situ

Temperature Monitoring during Typical Run



1-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(1-(2-(methylsulfonyl)pyridin-4-yl)cyclopropyl)-1H-pyrazolo[3,4c]pyridine-4-carboxamide (1) via Curtius rearrangement acid-isocyanate coupling. A stock solution of acid **3** (116 g, 480.9 mmol, 1.4 eq.), NEt₃ (81.4 mL, 583.9 mmol, 1.7 eq.), and toluene (621.6 mL) is prepared. A second stock solution containing DPPA (103.4 mL, 477.5 mol, 1.4 eq.) in toluene (300 mL) is also prepared. The two stock solutions are pumped via polypropylene tubes and combined in an equimolar ratio via T-mixer and jacketed static mixer, and the resulting homogeneous stream is allowed to undergo Curtius rearrangement in a jacketed tube-in-tube reactor at 135 °C with 3 min residence time (RT). An in-line FTIR probe was utilized to ensure complete conversion to isocyanate (no remaining acyl azide present). After exiting the tube-intube reactor, the resulting solution of isocyanate **13** is allowed to flow into a receiving tank containing acid **9** (88.8 g, 343.5 mmol), NEt₃ (62.2 mL, 449.0 mmol, 1.3 eq.), and toluene (888 mL) stirred at 100 °C. After the flow of isocyanate **13** is complete, the resulting mixture in the receiving tank is stirred for 1 h at 100 °C. The batch is then cooled to 70 °C, treated with water (2 L), and further cooled to 20 °C. The resulting biphasic slurry is filtered and washed with water (1 L) and heptane (1 L). Amide **1** is obtained as an off-white solid (117.9 g, 76% yield).



E-factor and GAL calculations:²

Definitions:

- $cEF = complete E factor = \Sigma(raw materials + reagents + solvent + water product) / product$
- Complexity = no. of construction steps (CS) + no. of strategic redox steps $(SR)^3$
- CR = construction reaction
- SR = strategic redox reaction
- CS = concession reaction
- %ideality = complexity / total steps
- Complexity = #CR + #SR
- Simplified Literature E factor analysis (outsourced raw materials): cEF (literature) = 37 kg/kg x literature step #
- GAL = Green Aspiration Level = DS Complexity x 26 kg/kg
- RPG = Relative Process Greenness = $GAL / cEF \times 100\%$.
- RPI = Relative Process (Greenness) Improvement = RPG (current route) RPG (initial route)

- RCI = Relative Complexity Improvement = 1- [Complexity (current route) / Complexity (initial route)]
- PI = (Overall) Process Improvement = (RPI + RCI) / 2

Route 1 (Batch Curtius Process):



- cEF = **144 kg/kg**
- Complexity = 8
- Ideality = $\frac{8}{10} = 80\%$
- GAL(cEF/early phase project) = $26 \times 8 = 208 \text{ kg/kg}$
- RPG = (208) / 144 = 144% (44% better than the industry average).

Route 2 (CSTR Curtius Process):



- cEF = 96 kg/kg
- Complexity = 8
- Ideality = 8/10 = 80%
- GAL(cEF/early phase project) = $26 \times 8 = 208 \text{ kg/kg}$
- RPG = (208) / 96 = 216% (116% better than the industry average).
- RPI = 216 144 = 72%
- RCI = 0
- PI = (72+0)/2 = 36%

Route 3: PMB Flow Route



- cEF = **95 kg/kg**
- Complexity = 8
- Ideality = 8/10 = 80%
- GAL(cEF/early phase project) = 26 x 8 = **208 kg/kg**
- RPG = (208) / 95 = 218% (118% better than the industry average).
- RPI = 144-95 = 49
- RPI = 218-144 = 74%
- RCI = 0
- PI = (74+0)/2 = 37%

Route 4: Direct Flow Curtius Amide Coupling:



- RPG = (208) / 78 = 266% (166% better than the industry average).
- RPI = 266-144 = 122%
- RCI = 0
- PI = (122+0)/2 = 61%



¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all compounds:



¹H NMR spectrum of 7



¹H NMR spectrum of 3



¹H NMR spectrum of 8



¹H NMR spectrum of 10



¹H NMR spectrum of 11



¹H NMR spectrum of 14



¹H NMR spectrum of 2





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