Supporting Information for

Overcoming solid handling issues in continuous flow substitution reactions through ionic liquid formation.

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1 General experimental details

Unless otherwise indicated, reagents were obtained from Sigma Aldrich, Fisher Scientific or Combi-Blocks and used as received. 2-Bromoacetophenone was recrystallized from EtOH, 4-methoxyphenol was recrystallized from benzene, and cinnamyl chloride was distilled over K_2CO_3 prior to use. Column chromatography was performed using Silicycle F60 40-63 µm silica gel. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was conducted with aluminum-backed EMD Millipore Silica Gel 60. Visualization of developed plates was performed under UV light (254 nm) and/or using KMnO₄, ninhydrin or I₂ stains.

1.1 Instrumentation and flow reactor details

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 400 MHz spectrometer and referenced to residual solvent signals. Data for ¹H NMR are reported as follows: chemical shift (δ ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), integration. Yields for optimization studies were determined by NMR or GC analysis of the crude reaction mixture using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as an internal standard. IR spectra were collected on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet 6700 FTIR equipped with a diamond ATR crystal (ThermoScientific) and are reported in terms of frequency of absorption (cm⁻¹). GC analysis were conducted on an Agilent Technologies 7890B GC with 30 m × 0.25 mm HP-5 column. Accurate mass data were obtained from an Agilent 5977A GC/MS using MassWorks 4.0 from CERNO bioscience.¹ Continuous flow experiments were performed using 1.0 mm inner diameter PFA tubing reactor coils heated in silicone oil baths and NE-300 syringe pumps from New Era Pump Systems Inc. equipped with 5 or 10 mL Hamilton Gastight glass syringes for reagents and 10 mL HSW Norm-Ject plastic syringes for quench streams when necessary. PEEK fittings, tee mixers and back-pressure regulators were purchased from UpChurch Scientific.

2 Solubility studies

Since the conjugate acids of organic bases are usually sparingly soluble in non-polar solvents, clogging is common even at dilute concentrations for substitution reactions that are performed with, e.g., triethylamine in toluene. When using more polar solvents, as is common for S_NAr and S_N2 reactions however, it can be difficult to predict whether or not precipitation of the conjugate acid will be problematic in a flow reaction. The likelihood of clogging depends on the choice of

solvent, temperature, concentration, base, and leaving group. These things are often optimized empirically when converting a batch procedure into flow. Because bases such as *N*-methylimidazole, tributylamine, and DBU form ionic liquids upon protonation, use of these species as bases should overcome the need to perform extensive optimization. Nonetheless, there are particular combinations of base, concentration, and temperature where-in the use of these ionic-liquid scavengers would be unnecessary.

To obtain some data to understand when the use of triethylamine would allow substitution reactions to occur in flow with NMP as a solvent, some crude solubility experiments were carried out (Table S1). For instance, when slowly heating a 0.50 M solution of triethylammonium chloride in NMP, the mixture became homogeneous at an external bath temperature of 112 °C (entry 1). A 1.0 M solution became homogeneous at 135 °C (entry 2), whereas a 2.0 M solution did not become homogeneous at 150 °C (entry 3), the maximum temperature tested. This information allowed us to focus our studies of S_NAr and S_N2 reactions at concentrations and temperatures that would otherwise lead to clogging if, e.g., triethylamine was used as a base.

However, even in cases where a reaction is carried out under conditions where the triethylammonium salt does not immediately precipitate, clogging issues can still occur upon exiting the reactor or during quench. In contrast, reactions performed herein with ionic liquid-forming bases were observed to be exceptionally robust. Furthermore, control reactions in batch with triethylamine as the base for each S_N2 reaction studied led to precipitate formation during the course of the reaction, demonstrating that clogging issues would be present with the conditions investigated in the absence of the ionic liquid-forming acid scavenger.

entry	Compound	Concentration (M)	Temperature to dissolve on heating (°C)
1	Et ₃ N·HCl	0.50	112
2	Et ₃ N·HCl	1.0	135
3	Et ₃ N·HCl	2.0	not fully dissolved at 150
4	Et ₃ N·HBr	0.50	78
5	Et ₃ N·HBr	1.0	120
6	Et ₃ N·HBr	2.0	not fully dissolved at 150

Table S1 Solubility studies of triethylammonium salts in NMP

3 General Procedures

- A Acylation reactions to produce esters
- B Acylation reaction to produce amides
- $C = S_N Ar$ reaction with N nucleophiles
- D S_NAr reaction with O nucleophiles
- E S_NAr reaction with S nucleophiles
- F S_N2 reactions with N and S nucleophiles
- G S_N2 reactions with O nucleophiles (silylations)

Note: For flow chemistry reactions, it is important to accurately determine concentration when making solutions, particularly when using minimal solvent. All solutions of 0.5 M or greater were made by diluting a weighed quantity of solute to the desired final volume in a volumetric flask or tube. Diluting, e.g., 0.5 mmol of reagent with 1.0 mL solution would result in a final concentration of significantly below 0.5 M, resulting in inaccurate stoichiometry and molar flow rates within the flow reactor.

3.1 General procedure A for acylation reactions to produce esters

Nucleophile (2.25 mmol) and base (2.25 mmol) were combined and made up to 2.00 ml with toluene to give a 1.125 M solution and loaded into a 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. Electrophile (2.25 mmol) was made up to 2.00 mL with toluene to make a 1.125 M solution and loaded into a second 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. The continuous flow reactor depicted in Figure S1 was used with flow rates of 89 μ L/min for electrophile solution and 111 μ L/min for nucleophile solution to give a residence time of 2.5 min and a 1:1.25:1.25 ratio of electrophile:nucleophile:base (*N*-methylimidazole) through a 0.5 mL reactor coil submerged in a 90 °C oil bath. To quench the reaction mixture at the end of the reactor, pump C was loaded with water with flow rate of 300 μ L/min, and a 5 psi back pressure regulator was set at the end of the outlet line. The first 6 min (2.5 residence volumes) of effluent was discarded to reach steady-state, then effluent was collected for 5 min. 1 M HCl (20 mL) was added to the collected effluent and the product was extracted with DCM (3 × 40 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with 2 M NaOH (40 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to yield the pure product.



Figure S1 Schematic of flow reactor used for acylation reactions to produce esters

3.2 General procedure B for acylation reactions to produce amides

General procedure A was followed with three modifications. First, THF was used in the place of toluene for solution preparation. Second, an additional quench pump D, delivering 300 μ L/min EtOAc was added as shown in Figure S2. Lastly, the back pressure was increased to 40 psi. The first 6 min (2.5 residence volumes) of effluent was discarded to reach steady-state, then effluent was collected for 5 min. 1 M HCl (30 mL) was added to the collected effluent and the product was extracted with DCM (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with 1 M NaOH (20 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated. The white solids obtained were washed with hexanes to yield pure products when applicable, otherwise chromatographed on silica gel to yield pure compound.



Figure S2 Schematic of flow reactor used for acylation reactions to produce amides

3.3 General procedure C for S_NAr reactions with N nucleophiles

Nucleophile (9 mmol) and base (9 mmol) were combined and made up to 3.00 mL with NMP to make a 3 M solution and loaded into a 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. Electrophile (6 mmol) was made up to 3 mL with NMP to make a 2 M solution, and loaded into a second 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. The continuous flow reactor depicted in Figure S3 was used with flow rates of 50 μ L/min for both nucleophile and electrophile solutions, to give a residence time of 5 min and a 1:1.5:1.5 ratio of electrophile:nucleophile:base (DBU), through a 0.5 mL reactor submerged in a 115 °C oil bath. A 5 psi back pressure regulator provided back pressure for the system. The first 15 min (3 residence volumes) of effluent was discarded to reach steady-state, then effluent was collected for 5 min. DCM (60 mL) was added to the collected effluent and the organic phase was washed with water (5 × 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to yield the pure product.



Figure S3 Schematic of flow reactor used for S_NAr reactions

3.4 General procedure D for S_NAr reactions with O nucleophiles

General procedure C was followed with three modifications. First, the flow rates of the reagent pumps were set to 16.7 μ L/min instead of 50 μ L/min. Second, the 0.5 mL reactor coil was replaced with a 1.0 mL reactor coil. Third, the oil bath temperature was set to 130 °C instead of 115 °C. The first 75 min (2.5 residence volumes) of effluent was discarded to reach steady-state, then effluent was collected for 30 min. DCM (60 mL) was added to the collected effluent and the organic phase was washed with water (5 × 10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to yield the pure product.

3.5 General procedure E for S_NAr reactions with S nucleophiles

Nucleophile (3.75 mmol) and base (3.75 mmol) were combined and made up to 3 ml with NMP to give a 1.25 M solution and loaded into a 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. Electrophile (3.75 mmol) was made up to 3 mL with NMP to make a 1.25 M solution and loaded into a second 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. The continuous flow reactor depicted in Figure S4 was used with flow rates of $10 \,\mu$ L/min for the electrophile solution and $15 \,\mu$ L/min for the nucleophile solution to give a residence time of 20 min and a 1:1.5:1.5 ratio of electrophile:nucleophile:base (*N*-metylimidazole), through a 0.5 ml reactor submerged in a 90 °C oil bath. Two quench pumps, one delivering water at 37.5 μ L/min and one delivering EtOAc at 37.5 μ L/min prevented precipitation upon exiting the heated zone and a 5 psi back pressure regulator provided system pressure. The first 50 min (2.5 residence volumes) of effluent was discarded to reach steady-state, then effluent was collected for 30 min. 1 M HCl (20 mL) was added to the collected effluent and the product was extracted with DCM (3 × 40 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with 2 M NaOH (40 mL) and washed with distilled water multiple times to remove NMP from the solution then dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to yield the pure product.



Figure S4 Schematic of flow reactor used for S_NAr reactions with S nucleophiles

3.6 General procedure F for S_N2 reactions with N and S nucleophiles

Nucleophile (10 mmol) and base (12.5 mmol) were combined neat and loaded into a 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. Electrophile (12.5 mmol) was made up to 3.13 mL with NMP to make a 4.0 M solution and loaded into a second 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. The continuous flow

reactor depicted in Figure S5 was used with flow rates set to give a residence time of 30 min and a 1:1.25:1.25 ratio of nucleophile:electrophile:base ("Bu₃N for aniline or sulfur nucleophiles, DBU for aliphatic amine nucleophiles). Flow rates differed for each reaction based on density differences between different nucleophile-base solutions. Specific flow rates used for each product are given in the Section 4 below. Reaction concentration also varied, depending on nucleophile-base solution density. Concentrations within the reactor ranged from 1.7 M to 2.1 M. and are given in Section 4 below. The first 40 min (1.33 residence volumes) of effluent was discarded to reach steady-state, then effluent was collected for 60 min. The material collected was partitioned between 0.1 M K₂CO₃ (50 mL) and 2:1 EtOAc:hexanes (20 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with an additional 2×15 mL 2:1 EtOAc:hexanes and the combined organic extracts were then washed with 3×5 mL H₂O, dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to yield the pure product.



Figure S5 Schematic of flow reactor used for S_N2 reactions with N or S nucleophiles

3.7 General procedure G for S_N2 reactions with O nucleophiles (silylations)

TBSCl (5.75 mmol) was made up to 2.50 mL with DCM to give a 2.3 M solution and loaded into a 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. Alcohol (5.0 mmol) and *N*-butylimidazole (10 mmol) were made up to 2.50 mL with DCM to give 2 M and 4 M concentrations respectively and loaded into another 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. The continuous flow reactor and flow rates depicted in Figure S6 were used to give a residence time of 5 min and ratio of 1:1.15:2 alcohol:TBSCl:*N*-butylimidazole. The first 15 min (3 residence volumes) of effluent was discarded to reach steady-state, then effluent was collected for 15 min. Work-up varied by compound and details for each compound are given in Section 4 below.



Figure S6 Schematic of flow reactor used for S_N2 reactions (silylations) with O nucleophiles

4 Substitution reactions in flow



phenyl benzoate (3)

General procedure A was followed with reaction of benzoyl chloride and phenol. Column chromatography (6:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a white solid (83 mg, 83% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.² ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.65 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.32-7.18 (m, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.3, 151.1, 133.7, 130.3, 129.7, 129.6, 128.7, 126.0, 121.9.



4-cyanophenyl benzoate (4)

General procedure A was followed with reaction of benzoyl chloride and 4-cyanophenol. Column chromatography (3:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a white solid (96 mg, 86% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.² ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.4, 154.4, 134.3, 133.9, 130.4, 128.9, 128.8, 123.1, 118.4, 110.0.



4-methoxyphenyl benzoate (5)

General procedure A was followed with reaction of benzoyl chloride and 4-methoxyphenol. Column chromatography (3:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a white solid (100 mg, 88% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 2H) 3.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.7, 157.5, 144.6, 133.6, 130.3, 129.8, 128.7, 122.6, 114.7, 55.7.



4-methoxybenzyl 4-methoxybenzoate (6)

General procedure A was followed with reaction of 4-methoxybenzoyl chloride and 4-methoxybenzylalcohol. Column chromatography (10:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a colourless oil (107 mg, 78% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.⁴ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.94-6.87 (m, 4H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4, 163.5, 159.7, 131.8, 130.1, 128.5, 122.8, 114.1, 113.7, 66.4, 55.5, 55.4.



N-phenylbenzamide (7)

General procedure B was followed with reaction of benzoyl chloride and aniline. Washing with hexanes yielded the pure product as a white solid (80 mg, 81% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.⁵ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.80 (br s, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.5

Hz, 2H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.8, 138.1, 135.2, 131.9, 129.2, 128.9, 127.1, 124.7, 120.3.



N-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzamide (8)

General procedure B was followed with reaction of benzoyl chloride and 4-methoxyaniline. Washing with hexanes yielded the pure product as a white solid (99 mg, 87% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.⁶ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (br s, 1H), 7.58-7.44 (m, 5H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.8, 156.8, 135.2, 131.8, 131.1, 128.9, 127.1, 122.2, 114.4, 55.6.



3,3-dimethyl-*N*-(pyridin-2-yl)butanamide (9)

General procedure B was followed with reaction of 3,3-dimethylbutanoyl chloride and 2aminopyridine. Column chromatography (3:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as an offwhite solid (68 mg, 71% yield). mp: 86–87 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.53 (br s, 1H), 8.35-8.37 (m, 2H), 7.75-7.64 (m, 1H), 7.08-6.97 (m, 1H), 2.24 (s, 2H), 1.06 (s, 9H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.7, 151.7, 147.7, 138.6, 119.8, 114.3, 51.6. 31.4, 29.9. IR v (cm⁻¹) 3243, 3074, 2952, 2861, 1658, 1590, 1576, 1523, 1474, 1456, 1428, 1395, 1361, 1328, 1306, 1285, 1233, 1146, 1134, 1095, 1051, 974, 952, 909, 878, 846, 805, 771, 737, 649, 618, 561. HRMS calc. for C₁₁H₁₆N₂O: 192.1019; found: 192.1106, spectral accuracy 99.3%.



N-mesitylbenzamide (10)

General procedure B was followed with and the modification that DCM was used in the place of EtOAc during the quench. The product was produced by reaction of benzoyl chloride and 2,4,6-trimethylaniline. Washing with hexanes yielded the pure product as a white solid (119 mg, 99% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (br s, 1H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 6H). 13C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3) δ 166.2, 137.2, 135.4, 134.8, 131.8, 131.3, 129.1, 128.9, 127.3, 21.1, 18.5.



N-benzyloctanamide (11)

General procedure B was followed with the modification that DCM was used in the place of EtOAc during the quench and DBU was used as base instead of *N*-methylimidazole. The product was produced by reaction of octanoyl chloride and benzyl amine. Column chromatography (2:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a white solid (111 mg, 95% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36-7.24 (m, 5H), 5.72 (s, 1H), 4.44 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 2.22 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.70-1.60 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.22 (m, 8H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.1, 138.6, 128.8, 128.0, 127.6, 43.7, 37.0, 31.8, 29.4, 29.1, 25.9, 22.7, 14.2.



1-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropan-1-one (12)

General procedure B was followed with the modification that DCM was used in the place of EtOAc during the quench and DBU was used as base instead of *N*-methylimidazole. The product was

produced by reaction of *tert*-butylacetyl chloride and 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline. Column chromatography (2:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a white solid (99 mg, 91% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.^{9,10} ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.23-7.07 (m, 4H), 4.75 (s, 2H), 3.85 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (t, *J* = 6.32 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (s, 9H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.8, 134.5, 133.7, 128.8, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 47.6, 43.5, 47.6, 43.5, 38.9, 29.1, 28.5.



1-(2,4-dinitrophenyl)piperidine (13)

General procedure C was followed with reaction of 2,4-dinitrochlorobenzene and piperidine. Column chromatography (3:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as an orange solid (117 mg, 93% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.68 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (dd, *J* =9.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.28-3.22 (m, 4H), 1.77-1.67 (m, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.9, 137.6, 128.2, 124.1, 119.2, 52.0, 25.6, 23.7.



4-(4-nitrophenyl)morpholine (14)

General procedure C was followed with reaction of 4-fluoronitrobenzene and morpholine. Column chromatography (1:2 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a yellow solid (88 mg, 85% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹² ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.15 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 2H), 3.87 (t, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 4H), 3.37 (t, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 4H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 155.1, 139.2, 126.0, 112.8, 66.5, 47.3.



2-(3-nitropyridin-2-yl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline (15)

General procedure C was followed with reaction of 2-chloro-3-nitro-pyridine and 1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinoline. Column chromatography (3:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a yellow solid (151 mg, 85% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.36 (dd, *J* = 4.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 1H), 6.73 (q, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 3.77 (t, *J* = 5.5 Hz, 2H), 3.02 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 152.7, 151.9, 135.8, 135.2, 133.6, 132.4, 128.6, 126.9, 126.5, 126.4, 112.8, 50.4, 46.1, 28.7.



1-methoxy-4-(4-nitrophenoxy)benzene (16)

General procedure D was followed with reaction of 4-fluoronitrobenzene and 4-methoxyphenol. Column chromatography (6:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as an off-white solid (218 mg, 89% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3): δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 4H), 3.83 (s, 3H). ¹³C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3): δ 164.3, 157.3, 147.9, 142.4, 126.0, 122.0, 116.5, 115.4, 55.8.



3-nitro-2-(phenylthio)pyridine (17)

General procedure E was followed with reaction of 2-chloro-3-nitropyridine and thiophenol. Column chromatography (10:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a yellow solid (85 mg, 97% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹⁴ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.51-8.47 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.48-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.19-7.15 (m, 1H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 158.4, 153.5, 141.5, 136.1, 133.7, 129.7, 129.5, 129.3, 119.5.



N-benzyl-N-methylaniline (18)

General procedure F was followed. Benzyl chloride solution flow rate was 14.3 µL/min and *N*-methylaniline/ⁿBu₃N mixture flow rate was 19.0 µL/min giving a reaction concentration of 1.7 M. Column chromatography (hexanes \rightarrow 2.5% EtOAc in hexanes) yielded the pure product as a colourless oil (0.51 g, 96% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹⁵ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.25 (m, 5H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (s, 2H), 3.06 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.9, 139.2, 129.3, 128.7, 127.0, 126.9, 116.4, 112.5, 56.8, 38.6.

Alternatively, the reaction could be performed neat by preparing a solution of *N*-methylaniline (1.07 g, 10 mmol), benzyl chloride (1.58 g, 12.5 mmol) and ^{*n*}Bu₃N (2.31 g, 12.5 mmol) was prepared and loaded into a 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. The reactor coil depicted in Figure S5 was used, fed via a single pump at 33.3 μ L/min. The first 40 min of effluent were discarded then product was collected for 60 min. Work-up the same as the experiment using general procedure F. Yield: 0.63 g, 90%.



N-methyl-N-phenacylaniline (19)

General procedure F was followed. 2-Bromoacetophenone solution flow rate was 14.3 µL/min and *N*-methylaniline/ⁿBu₃N mixture flow rate was 19.0 µL/min giving a reaction concentration of 1.7 M. Column chromatography (5% \rightarrow 17% EtOAc in hexanes) followed by recrystallization from hexanes yielded the pure product as yellow needles (0.43 g, 78% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹⁶ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.01–7.99 (m, 2H), 7.61 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.23–7.20 (m, 2H), 6.73 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 8.8

Hz, 2H), 4.78 (s, 2H), 3.11 (s, 3H). ¹³C{1H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.6, 149.3, 135.6, 133.7, 129.3, 128.9, 127.9, 117.2, 112.4, 59.1, 39.7.

N-decyl-*N*-methylaniline (20)

General procedure F was followed. Iododecane solution flow rate was 14.3 µL/min and *N*-methylaniline/^{*n*}Bu₃N mixture flow rate was 19.0 µL/min giving a reaction concentration of 1.7 M. Column chromatography (hexanes \rightarrow 3% EtOAc in hexanes) yielded the pure product as colourless oil (0.60 g, 90% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹⁷ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.25–7.21 (m, 2H), 6.72–6.66 (m, 3H), 3.30 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 1.57 (pent, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.32–1.28 (m, 14H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 149.5, 129.3, 115.9, 112.2, 53.0, 38.4, 32.0, 29.8, 29.71, 29.70, 29.5, 27.3, 26.8, 22.8, 14.3.



2-phenylthioacetophenone (21)

General procedure F was followed with two modifications. First, the nucleophile and base were separately dosed neat via syringe pumps equipped with 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringes due to immiscibility. The three reagent streams: electrophile solution (4M in NMP), nucleophile and base were combined in a PEEK cross mixer and then entered the reaction coil as in Fig S4. 2-Bromoacetophenone solution flow rate was 14.6 μ L/min, ^{*n*}Bu₃N flow rate 13.9 μ L/min, thiophenol flow rate 4.8 μ L/min giving a reaction concentration of 1.8 M. Second, 1 M HCl was used in the place of 0.1 M K₂CO₃ during the work-up steps. Column chromatography (5% \rightarrow 10% Et₂O in hexanes) yielded the pure product as a white solid (0.53 g, 83% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹⁸ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96–7.94 (m, 2H), 7.58 (tt, *J* = 7.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.38 (m, 2H), 7.31–7.26 (m, 2H), 7.25–7.23 (m,

1H), 4.28 (s, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 191.2, 135.5, 134.9, 133.6, 130.6, 129.2, 128.8, 127.2, 41.3.



N-cinnamylpiperidine (22)

General procedure F was followed. Cinnamyl chloride solution flow rate was 17.6 µL/min and piperiding/DBU mixture flow rate was 15.7 µL/min giving a reaction concentration of 2.1 M. Column chromatography over silica deactivated with Et₃N (2:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded the pure product as a pale yellow oil (0.58 g, 84% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.¹⁹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (dt, *J* = 15.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (br s, 4H), 1.61 (pent, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 4H), 1.45 (pent, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.2, 132.7, 128.7, 127.5, 127.4, 126.4, 62.1, 54.8, 26.2, 24.5.



N-benzylmorpholine (23)

General procedure F was followed. Benzyl chloride solution flow rate was 17.8 µL/min and morpholine/DBU flow rate was 15.5 µL/min giving a reaction concentration of 2.1 M. Column chromatography (30% \rightarrow 50% EtOAc in hexanes) yielded the pure product as a pale yellow oil (0.63 g, 94% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.^{20 1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.33–7.26 (m, 5H), 3.71 (t, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 4H), 3.50 (s, 2H), 2.44 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.9, 129.3, 128.4, 127.3, 67.2, 63.6, 53.8.

tert-butyl(4-methoxyphenoxy)dimethylsilane (24)

General procedure G was followed with reaction of TBSCl and 4-methoxyphenol. A photograph of the biphasic effluent is shown in Figure S7 below. To the collected biphasic effluent, DCM (40 mL) was added and the mixture washed with 3×20 mL of 1 M HCl. The organic phase was then

dried over Na₂SO₄, the solvent evaporated and the product purified on silica gel (6:1, hexanes:EtOAc) to yield the pure product as colourless oil (0.35 g, 97% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.²¹ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 6.77 (s, 4H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 0.99 (s, 9H), 0.18 (s, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 154.2, 149.5, 120.7, 114.6, 55.7, 25.9, 18.3, -4.3.



Figure S7 Photograph of the biphasic reaction mixture after production of silyl ether 24



Recovered *N*-butylimidazole

The aqueous acidic extracts (combined 60 mL) from the work-up of **24** were basified by the addition of 2 M NaOH (60 mL) and extracted with 3×40 mL of DCM. The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated to yield 0.1769 g of analytically pure *N*-butylimidazole, 95%. Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.²² ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.41 (s, 1H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 6.85 (s, 1H), 3.88 (t, *J* = 7.1, 2H), 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.28 (m, 2H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7.4, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 137.1, 129.4, 118.8, 46.7, 33.1, 19.7, 13.5.



tert-butyl((2-iodobenzyl)oxy)dimethylsilane (25)

General procedure G was followed with reaction of TBSCl and 2-iodobenzyl alcohol. The biphasic effluent collected was partitioned between 1 M HCl (20 mL) and 2:1 EtOAc:hexanes (20 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with an additional 2×15 mL 2:1 EtOAc:hexanes and the combined organic extracts were washed with 5 mL brine, dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvent evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel (hexanes) to yield the pure product as colourless oil (0.50 g, 95% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.²³ ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (t, *J* = 7.8, 1H), 4.63 (s, 2H), 0.98 (s, 9H), 0.14 (s, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 142.9, 138.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.4, 95.8, 69.4, 26.0, 18.4, -5.3.



lidocaine

The conditions used were based on the literature batch procedure²⁴ with minimal modifications necessary to allow telescoping in flow. Specifically, toluene was used as the solvent for both reaction steps to facilitate telescoping without solvent switching, both reaction steps were performed at 90 °C in the same heated zone to prevent crystallization of the amide intermediate produced in the first acylation step, and ^{*n*}Bu₃N and DBU respectively were used as acid scavengers to prevent precipitate formation during both reactions.

2,6-Dimethylaniline (0.61 g, 5.0 mmol) and ^{*n*}Bu₃N (0.93 g, 5.0 mmol) were made up to 5.00 mL with toluene and loaded into a 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. Chloroacetyl chloride (0.63 g, 5.5 mmol) was made up to 5.00 mL with toluene and loaded into another 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. Et₂NH (1.01 g, 15 mmol) and DBU (1.51 g, 10 mmol) were combined neat and loaded into a third 5 mL Hamilton Gastight syringe. The continuous flow reactor depicted in Figure S8 was used to give a residence time of 1.25 min for the acylation and 9.5 min for the S_N2 reaction.

Reaction stoichiometry was 2,6-Dimethylaniline with 1.1 eq. of chloroacetyl chloride and 1 eq. of $^{n}Bu_{3}N$ for the acylation reaction, then 3 eq. of Et₂NH and 2 eq. of DBU (1 eq. consumed by $^{n}Bu_{3}N$ ·HCl from the previous acylation step) for the S_N2 reaction.



Figure S8 Schematic of flow reactor used for telescoped synthesis of Lidocaine

The first 20 min (~2 residence volumes) of effluent was discarded to reach steady-state, then effluent was collected for 60 min. All material collected was partitioned between 1 M NaOH (20 mL) and 2:1 EtOAc:hexanes (20 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with an additional 2 × 15 mL 2:1 EtOAc:hexanes and the combined organic extracts were washed with 3 × 5 mL water, then extracted with 5×5 mL 1M HCl. The combined aqueous extracts were washed with 5 mL Et₂O then the *p*H was raised to >14 by addition of 50% NaOH. The solution was extracted with 4 × 5 mL hexanes and the combined extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was evaporated and the residue chromatographed on Et₃N deactivated silica gel (25 × 150 mm column, 10%→30% EtOAc in hexanes eluent) to yield the pure product as a white powder (0.37 g, 66% yield). Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.^{25 1}H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.92 (s, 1H), 7.09 (m, 3H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 2.69 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.23 (s, 6H), 1.14 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 170.4, 135.2, 134.1, 128.3, 127.2, 57.6, 49.1, 18.7, 12.8.

5 Determination of tributylammonium chloride melting point



Tributylammonium chloride

4 M HCl (8 mmol) in dioxane was added dropwise to tributylamine (8 mmol) in diethyl ether and stirred for 20 minutes in room temperature. Removing volatile chemicals under reduced pressure and recrystallizing from mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate gave tributylammonium chloride as white needles. Characterization data were in agreement with the literature.²⁶ mp: 58–62 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO): δ 10.43 (br s, 1H), 3.02–2.93 (m, 6H), 1.68–1.57 (m, 6H), 1.36–1.25 (m, 6H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 9H).

6 NMR Spectra





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