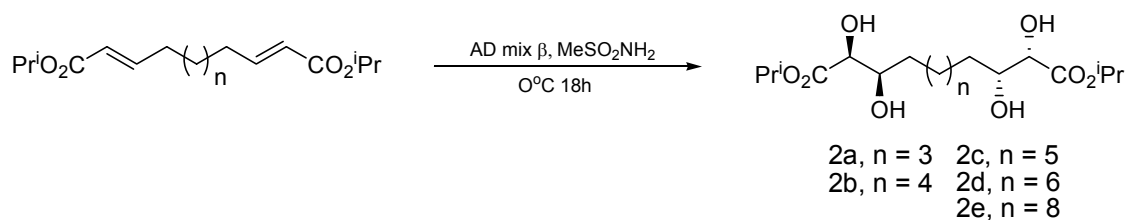


The synthesis of bis- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated esters\* **1a-e** proceeded efficiently utilising Grubb's second generation catalyst in cross metathesis with isopropyl acrylate.<sup>1,2,3</sup> The organogelators **2a-e** were synthesised under standard asymmetric dihydroxylation conditions (AD mix  $\beta$ ) affording the tetra-ols in excellent yield and purity.<sup>4</sup>



1. Chatterjee, A.K; Grubbs, R.H; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, 41, 3171-3174.
2. Of noteworthy interest was the quantity of catalyst needed, ca 0.15 %, a factor of thirty times less than reported in the original publication.
3. Randl, S; Connon, S.J; Blechert, S; *Chem. Commun.* **2001**, 1791-1797.
4. Sharpless, K.B.; *J. Org. Chem.* **1992**, 57, 2768.

\*For n = 3, 8 the derived bis- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ester (**1a, e**) were obtained from the corresponding cycloalkene.