## Supporting Information

# Highly Enantio- and Diastereoselective Organocatalytic Cascade aza-Michael-Michael Reactions: A Direct Method for the Synthesis of Trisubstituted Chiral Pyrrolidines

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**General Information:** Commercial reagents were used as received, unless otherwise stated. Merck 60 silica gel was used for chromatography, and Whatman silica gel plates with fluorescence  $F_{254}$  were used for thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analysis. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Broker Avance 500, and tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as a reference. Data for <sup>1</sup>H are reported as follows: chemical shift (ppm), and multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet). Data for <sup>13</sup>C NMR are reported as ppm.

General Procedure for addition of 4-(4-methylphenylsulfonamido)but-2-enoic acid ethyl ester to unsaturated aldehydes: To a solution of *trans*-4-methoxycinnamaldehyde 1a (32 mg, 0.2 mmol) in the presence of catalyst (10 mol %) and NaOAc (8.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL) was added (*E*)-ethyl 4-(4-methylphenylsulfonamido)but-2-enoate 2d (28 mg, 0.1 mmol) and the resulting solution was stirred for 4 d at rt. The reaction mixture was directly purified by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc/Hexane = 4:1) and fractions were collected and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a colorless oil (92% yield), >30:1 dr (determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis), (HPLC Daicel CHIRALCEL OD-H column, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 80:20 at 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 235$  nm); t<sub>major</sub> = 41.61 min, ee = >99%.

*Table S1:* Solvent effect on I-catalyzed cascade aza-Michael-Michael reactions.

MeO	1a	CHO + TsHN	OEt O 2d	Ph Ph OTMS E H 20 mol% 0.5 eq. NaOAc solvent, rt	tO O N Ts 3a	СНО	OMe
	Entry	Solvent	t	Yield (%)	ee (%)	dr	1
-	1	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	3 d	83	93	15:1	
	2	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	3 d	91	>99	>30:1	
	3	ClCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Cl	3 d	78	93	25:1	
	4	toluene	16 h	90	92	16:1	
	5	EtOH	1 d	72	93	20:1	

*Table S2:* Effect of additives and catalyst loading on I-catalyzed cascade aza-Michael-Michael reactions.

MeO 1a	CH	HO + TsHN	OEt N I OTMS additive CHCl <sub>3</sub> , rt		CHO N Ts 3a	OMe	
	Entry	Catalyst loading	Additive	t	Yield (%)	ee (%)	dr
	1	20 mol%	0.5 eq. NaOAc	3 d	91	>99	>30:1
	2	20 mol%	0.5 eq. LiOAc	3 d	86	94	20:1
	3	20 mol%	0.5 eq. K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	3 d	75	>99	>30:1
	4	20 mol%	0.5 eq. Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	3 d	<10	nd	nd
	5	20 mol%	0.5 eq. Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	2 d	86	>99	>30:1
	6	20 mol%	none	3 d	85	94	20:1
	7	20 mol%	0.2 eq. PhCO <sub>2</sub> H	1 d	82	94	8:1
	8	10 mol%	0.5 eq. NaOAc	4 d	85	>99	15:1
	9	10 mol%	1.0 eq. NaOAc	4 d	92	>99	>30:1
	10	5 mol%	0.5 eq. NaOAc	7 d	82	>99	12:1



**Ethyl 2-(4-formyl-5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate** (**3a**): Yield: 92%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.28 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.21 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.83 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 4.89 (d, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 4.10 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.97 (dd, 1H,  $J_I = 7.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.34 (t, 1H, J = 9.0 Hz), 2.78 (t, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.41-2.48 (m, 6H), 1.23 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.2, 170.9, 159.2, 143.8, 134.7, 132.5, 129.7, 127.55, 127.50, 114.1, 65.8, 63.1, 60.9, 55.3, 54.0, 36.1, 35.9, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>S 446.1637, found 446.1634;  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -111.5$  (c = 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); Converted to enone with PPh<sub>3</sub>=CHCOPh for HPLC analysis (Daicel CHIRALPAK AD, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 70:30, flow rate 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 254$  nm): t<sub>major</sub> = 20.10 min, ee = >99%.



**Ethyl 2-(4-formyl-5-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate** (**3b**): Yield: 91%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.48 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.28 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.22 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.87 (d, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.79 (d, 1H, J = 8.5 Hz), 4.96 (d, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 4.09 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.99 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 6.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 8.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 2.78 (t, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.38-2.47 (m, 6H), 1.22 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.1, 170.9, 159.9, 143.9, 142.4, 134.7, 129.9, 129.7, 129.6, 127.5, 118.4, 113.1, 111.9, 65.7, 63.2, 60.9, 55.2, 54.1, 36.12, 36.09, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>S 446.1637, found 446.1633;  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -111.5$  (c = 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>);  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -138.6$  (c = 1.8, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); Converted to enone with PPh<sub>3</sub>=CHCOPh for HPLC analysis (Daicel CHIRALPAK AD, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 70:30, flow rate 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 254$  nm): t<sub>major</sub> = 16.13 min, ee =>99%.



[4-formyl-5-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-pyrrolidin-3-yl]-acetic acid ethyl ester (3c). The title compound was prepared according to the general procedure, as described above in 90% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 9.44 (d, 1H; J = 1.0 Hz), 6.83-7.69 (m, 8H; Ar), 5.25 (d, 1H; J = 6.5 Hz), 4.08 (m, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.27 (m, 1H), 2.54 (m, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.25 (m, 2H), 1.24 (t, 3H; J = 4.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  198.3, 170.9, 155.5, 143.8, 135.0, 129.8, 129.5, 128.5, 127.6, 127.5, 126.7, 120.9, 110.3, 64.0, 60.8, 60.0, 54.8, 54.1, 36.3, 35.7, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>S 446.1637, found 446.1629;  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -111.5$  (c = 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); Reduced to the alcohol for HPLC analysis: Chiralpak OJ-H, *i*PrOH/hexanes = 30/70, flow rate = 0.7 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 254$  nm): t<sub>major</sub> = 21.875 min, t<sub>minor</sub> = 16.342 min, ee = 96%.



**Ethyl 2-(4-formyl-5-phenyl-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate** (**3d**): Yield: 94%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.47 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.26-7.30 (m, 7H), 4.98 (d, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 4.09 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.98 (dd, 1H,  $J_I = 6.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 3.35 (dd, 1H,  $J_I = 8.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 2.79 (t, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.38-2.47 (m, 6H), 1.22 (t, 3H, J = 8.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.1, 170.9, 143.9, 140.7, 134.6, 129.7, 128.7, 127.8, 127.5, 126.2, 65.8, 63.3, 60.9, 54.1, 36.1, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S 416.1531, found 416.1533; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = - 111.5 (c = 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = - 180.8 (c = 0.4, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALCEL OD-H), Hexane/*i*PrOH = 85:15, flow rate 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 254$  nm); t<sub>major</sub> = 26.73 min, t<sub>minor</sub> = 31.99 min, ee = >99%.



**Ethyl 2-(4-formyl-5-(4-acetoxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate** (**3e**): Yield: 88%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.49 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.29 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.95 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.84 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 5.03 (d, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 4.10 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 4.02 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 6.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.32 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 9.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 10.5$  Hz), 2.80 (t, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.39-2.49 (m, 6H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.23 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 198.1, 170.9, 168.9, 151.2, 144.0, 139.6, 139.2, 134.8, 129.8, 127.5, 122.9, 118.2, 110.2, 65.5, 62.8, 61.0, 55.8, 54.0, 36.3, 36.0, 21.5, 20.6, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>S 504.1692, found 504.1678; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = - 84.2 (c = 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); Converted to enone with PPh<sub>3</sub>=CHCOPh for HPLC analysis (Daicel CHIRALPAK AD, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 70:30, flow rate 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 254$  nm): t<sub>major</sub> = 13.32 min, t<sub>minor</sub> = 28.53 min, ee = 96%.



**Ethyl 2-(4-formyl-1-tosyl-5-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)pyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (3f)**: Yield: 92%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.49 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.56 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.43 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.29 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 5.05 (d, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 4.09 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.96 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 5.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 12.0$  Hz), 3.38 (t, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.78 (t, 1H), 2.35-2.48 (m, 6H), 1.22 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 197.5, 170.8, 144.9, 144.3, 134.2, 129.8, 127.6, 126.6, 125.8, 65.6, 62.6, 61.0, 54.1, 36.2, 36.0, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S 484.1405, found 484.1421;  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -95.1$  (c = 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALCEL OD-H, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 85:15, flow rate 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 235$  nm); t<sub>maior</sub> = 36.82 min, ee = >99%.



**Ethyl 2-(4-formyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate** (**3g**): Yield: 85%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.50 (s, 1H), 8.17 (d, 2H, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.67 (d, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.52 (d, 2H, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.34 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 5.09 (d, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 4.10 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.92 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 7.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.5$  Hz), 3.40 (dd, 1H,  $J_1 = 8.5$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 2.79 (t, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 2.41-2.45 (m, 6H), 1.22 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 197.2, 170.7, 148.4, 147.4, 144.5, 133.8, 130.0, 129.8, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 124.0, 123.9, 65.3, 62.3, 61.1, 54.1, 36.3, 36.0, 29.7, 21.6, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>S 461.1382, found 461.1376; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = - 139.2 (c = 0.6, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALCEL OD-H, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 85:15, flow rate 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 254$  nm); t<sub>major</sub> = 66.56 min, ee = >99%.



**Ethyl 2-(4-formyl-5-(3-nitrophenyl)-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate** (**3h**): Yield: 80%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.53 (s, 1H), 8.12 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.5 Hz), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.70 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.64 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.52 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.31 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 5.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 4.11 (q, 2H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 3.99 (m, 1H), 3.42 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 11.0 Hz), 2.81 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.42-2.49 (m, 6H), 1.23 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.2, 170.7, 148.5, 144.5, 143.1, 134.1, 132.7, 130.0, 129.8, 127.6, 122.9, 121.3, 65.5, 62.3, 61.1, 60.8, 54.1, 36.4, 36.0, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>S 461.1382, found 461.1389; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = - 199.6 (*c* = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALCEL OD-H, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 85:15, flow rate 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda$  = 254 nm); t<sub>major</sub> = 52.15 min, ee = >99%.



**Ethyl 2-(5-(4-cyanophenyl)-4-formyl-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate** (**3i**): Yield: 89%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.48 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.61 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.45 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.33 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 5.04 (d, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 4.09 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.91 (dd, 1H,  $J_I = 6.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 3.37 (dd, 1H,  $J_I = 8.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 2.76 (t, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.41-2.45 (m, 6H), 1.22 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 197.3, 170.7, 146.4, 144.4, 133.7, 132.5, 129.9, 127.5, 127.0, 118.4, 111.5, 65.2, 62.5, 61.0, 54.0, 36.3, 35.9, 21.5, 14.0; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S 441.1484, found 441.1468; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = - 64.7 (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAC AD, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 60:40, flow rate 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 254$  nm); t<sub>maior</sub> = 15.94 min, ee = >99%.



**Ethyl 2-(5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-formyl-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate (3j)**: Yield: 85%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.47 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.30 (d, 2H, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.27 (m, 2H), 6.99 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 4.94 (d, 1H, J = 7.0 Hz), 4.09 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.96 (dd, 1H,  $J_I$  = 6.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 11.5 Hz), 3.35 (dd, 1H,  $J_I$  = 8.0 Hz,  $J_2$  = 11.0 Hz), 2.77 (t, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.40-2.48 (m, 6H), 1.22 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.9, 170.8, 163.2, 161.2, 144.1, 136.5, 134.4, 129.8, 128.02, 127.96, 127.5, 115.7, 115.5, 65.8, 62.7, 61.0, 54.0, 36.07, 36.03, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>FNO<sub>5</sub>S 434.1437, found 434.1442; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = - 114.0 (c = 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); Converted to enone with

PPh<sub>3</sub>=CHCOPh for HPLC analysis (Daicel CHIRALPAK AD, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 70:30, flow rate 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 254$  nm): t<sub>maior</sub> = 14.66 min, ee = >99%.



**Ethyl 2-(5-(4-bromophenyl)-4-formyl-1-tosylpyrrolidin-3-yl)acetate** (**3k**): Yield: 90%; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.47 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.42 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.30 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.18 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 4.92 (d, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz), 4.09 (q, 2H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.94 (dd, 1H,  $J_I = 6.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.5$  Hz), 3.34 (dd, 1H,  $J_I = 8.0$  Hz,  $J_2 = 11.0$  Hz), 2.75 (t, 1H, J = 6.5 Hz), 2.40-2.47 (m, 6H), 1.22 (t, 3H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  197.7, 170.8, 144.1, 139.9, 134.3, 131.8, 129.8, 128.0, 127.5, 121.7, 65.6, 62.7, 61.0, 54.0, 36.1, 21.5, 14.1; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BrNO<sub>5</sub>S 494.0637, found 494.0621; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = - 169.1 (c = 1.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); HPLC (Daicel CHIRALPAC AD, Hexane/*i*PrOH = 75:25, flow rate 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 235$  nm); t<sub>major</sub> = 25.48 min, ee = >99%.

#### Synthesis of compound 4 for X-ray analysis:



[5-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-1-(toluene-4-sulfonyl)-4-(toluene-4-sulfonyloxym ethyl)-pyrrolidin- 3-yl]-acetic acid ethyl ester (4). Aldehyde 3c (35 mg) in 0.5 mL methanol, cooled to 0 °C, was added NaBH<sub>4</sub> (2 eq.). The resulting mixture was stirred from 0°C to rt for 10 min. Methanol was removed in vacuo, and the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, washed with water, dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the residue was redissolved in 0.5 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, cooled to 0 °C, then TsCl (1.1 eq.), TEA (1.1 eq.) and DMAP (0.1 eq.) were added. The mixture was stirred from 0°C to RT for over night. The reaction mixture was loaded on to silica gel column directly, and the designed product was isolated with 60% yield (2 steps). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 7.65 (d, 2H; *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.53 (d, 2H; *J* = 4.0 Hz), 7.31 (d, 2H; *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.19-7.26 (m, 4H), 6.90 (t, 1H; *J* = 7.0 Hz), 6.71 (d, 1H; *J* = 8.0 Hz), 4.63 (d, 1H; *J* = 6.5 Hz), 4.01 (m, 2H), 3.93 (m, 2H), 3.73 (m, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.31 (m, 1H), 2.16 (m, 3H), 1.24 (t, 3H; *J* = 7.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  171.2, 156.3, 144.9, 143.3, 135.0, 132.7, 129.9, 129.5, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 127.8, 127.3, 120.8, 110.6, 68.4, 61.5, 60.7, 55.0, 53.8, 51.4, 36.7, 36.4, 29.7, 21.6, 21.5, 14.2; HRMS: calcd for [M+H<sup>+</sup>] C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>35</sub>NO<sub>8</sub>S<sub>2</sub> 602.1882, found 602.1853.

### **Crystallography Report**

#### Experimental for compound 4

Several colorless plates were examined and cut into suitable pieces. The nicest piece was approximately 0.092 x 0.346 x 0.506 mm in size. It was mounted on a standard Bruker X8 Apex2 CCD-based X-ray

diffractometer equipped with an Oxford Cryostream 700 low temperature device and normal focus Motarget X-ray tube ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) operated at 1500 W power (50 kV, 30 mA). The X-ray intensities were measured at 228(2) K; the detector was placed at a distance 5.00 cm from the crystal. A full sphere of data consisting of 4662 frames was collected with a scan width of 0.5° in  $\omega$  and phi with an exposure time of 10 s/frame. The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package with a narrow frame algorithm. The integration of the data yielded a total of 137938 reflections to a maximum 20 value of 63.22° Of these 20125 were independent. The final cell constants follow; these were based on the xyz centroids of 9758 reflections above 10 $\sigma$ (I).

CELL 8.4976 12.1259 29.9079 98.9097 98.1925 90.2571 3012.357

CELLSD 0.0006 0.0009 0.0022 0.0040 0.0038 0.0039 0.417

Analysis of the data showed negligible decay during data collection; the data were processed with SADABS and corrected for absorption. The structure was solved and refined with the Bruker SHELXTL (version 6.12) software package, using the chiral triclinic space group P1 with four independent molecules. There were refinement problems with one of the 4 unique molecules. The R-factors seemed higher than expected. A closer look at the data showed that an A lattice could be chosen instead of a P lattice with relatively small loss of data. This gave the cell as listed in Table 1. Refinement proceeds smoothly in this cell with two independent molecules in the unit cell. There are signs indicating unaccounted for twinning or missing atoms due to solvent disorder. These are seen in unusual U(eq) range, but mostly in the the large residual electron densities in final difference Fourier: the top 5 peaks are 2.50 e/Å<sup>3</sup> [1.97Å from H39], 2.45 [1.28 from H9], 2.06 [0.68 from C57],1.66 [0.63 from C27] and 0.95 [0.45 from H3]. Attempts to include twinning did not improve the R-factors. In fact the twin models gave higher R-factors. No reasonable solvent model could be found. The untreated data and model are presented here.

All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The carbon hydrogen atoms were included in ideal positions. Their isotropic U's were fixed, U=1.5Uequiv of parent atom for hydrogens on terminal groups and U=1.2Uequiv of parent atoms for others. The final model represents the absolute geometry of the molecule as determined by anomalous dispersion effects of S. The geometries of C1,C2,C3 of molecule 1 and C31,C32,C33 of molecule 2 are all S. The two independent molecules have the same basic geometric arrangement [see superpositioning of molecule 1 and 2]. There are close approaches of the type C-H—O,N. See possible hydrogen bonding table. There are also close approaches between O5—C28(x-1,y,z) at 2.991(4) Å and O13—C58(x-1,y,z) at 2.998(4) Å. The S-O(5,13)—C(28,58) angle averages to 119°, while the O(5,13)—C(28,58)-C(27,57) angle averages to 84.5° and the O(5,13)—C(28,58)-O(7,8/15,16) angles are almost 90°. Oxygen atoms O5 and O13 are sitting almost directly over the central C of the C-C(O)-O group of the molecules in the next cell along the a-axis. This may be an interaction as 3.0Å is less than the van der Waals radii of O and C [=3.22Å].

Electronic Supplementary Material for Chemical Communications This journal is (c) The Royal Society of Chemistry 2008 Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement f

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for compound 4.						
Empirical formula	$C_{30}H_{35}NO_8S_2$					
Formula weight	601.71					
Temperature	228(2) K					
Wavelength	0.71073 Å					
Crystal system	Triclinic					
Space group	P1					
Unit cell dimensions	a = 8.4976(6) Å	α= 75.768(3)°.				
	b = 12.1259(9) Å	β= 81.860(4)°.				
	c = 15.2413(12)  Å	$\gamma = 89.743(4)^{\circ}$ .				
Volume	1506.19(19) Å <sup>3</sup>					
Z	2					
Density (calculated)	1.327 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>					
Absorption coefficient	0.227 mm <sup>-1</sup>					
F(000)	636					
Crystal size	0.51 x 0.35 x 0.09 mm <sup>3</sup>					
Theta range for data collection	2.79 to 30.51°.					
Index ranges	-11<=h<=12, -17<=k<=17, -21<=l<=21					
Reflections collected	66367					
Independent reflections	18076 [R(int) = 0.0331]					
Completeness to theta = $30.51^{\circ}$	99.9 %					
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents					
Max. and min. transmission	0.9794 and 0.8937					
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>					
Data / restraints / parameters	18076 / 3 / 747					
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.081					
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0666, wR2 = 0.1679					
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0723, $wR2 = 0.1742$					
Absolute structure parameter	0.01(5)					
Largest diff. peak and hole	2.497 and -0.430 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>					







































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