## Tunable stereoselective alkene synthesis by treatment of activated imines with

# nonstabilized phosphonium ylides

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## **General information**

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC-300 FT spectrometer at 300 MHz and 75 MHz, respectively, using tetramethylsilane as an internal reference. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC-400 FT spectrometer (162 MHz) using 85% phosphoric acid as an external reference. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) and coupling constants (*J*) were expressed in ppm and Hz, respectively. Low resolution mass spectra (LRMS) were recorded on a Finnigan LCQ Advantage Max spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a LC-TOF spectrometer (Micromass). Elemental analyses were carried out on a Vario EL III elemental analyzer. Melting points are uncorrected.

All reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. Tetrahydrofuran was distilled from sodium/benzophenone prior to use. Phosphonium salts were prepared from triphenylphosphine and alkyl halides according to the literature procedures.<sup>1</sup> Chemicals and solvents were purchased from the Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Meryer, Acros, Alfa Aesar, and AstaTech Pharmaceutical Co., and used as received.

## **Preparation of** *N***-sulfonyl imines**

The *N*-sulfonyl imines were prepared according to the literature procedures.<sup>2</sup> Shown below are the analytic data for the new *N*-sulfonyl imines listed in Table 2.



**1ea**, white solid. m.p. 122-124 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.20 (s, 1H), 8.73-8.71 (m, 1H), 8.53-8.47 (m, 1H), 8.27-8.21 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.75 (m, 1H), 3.12 (s, 3H).



**1eg**, white solid. m.p. 133-134 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.51 (s, 1H), 8.73-8.70 (m, 1H), 8.52-8.47 (m, 2H), 8.25-8.21 (m, 1H), 8.03-8.00 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.74 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H).



**1fa**, white solid. m.p. 104-105 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.81-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.39-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.67 (s, 3H).



1ig

**1ig**, white solid. m.p. 123-124 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.20 (s, 1H), 8.82-8.79 (m, 2H), 8.00-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.92-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.56-7.52 (m, 2H), 2.70 (s, 3H).



**1ka**, white solid. m.p. 91-92 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.71 (s, 1H), 7.80-7.75 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.20 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H).



**1kg**, white solid. m.p. 105-106 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 9.01 (s, 1H), 8.02-7.99 (m, 1H), 7.80-7.76 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 2H), 2.69 (s, 3H).



**1ma**, white solid. m.p. 77-78 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.82 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.93-6.82

(m, 1H), 6.18-6.10 (m, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.05-2.03 (m, 3H).



**1mg**, white solid. m.p. 92-93 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.02 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 8.02-8.00 (m, 1H), 7.47-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.34-7.27 (m, 1H), 6.91-6.82 (m, 1H), 6.18-6.10 (m, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 2.04-2.03 (m, 3H).

# General procedure for the olefination reaction of *N*-sulfonyl imines with nonstabilized phosphonium ylides (Table 2)

To a stirred suspension of phosphonium salt **2** (0.60 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (1.0 mL) under nitrogen at -78 °C was added a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.50 M, 0.26 mL, 0.65 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h, and were added *N*-sulfonyl imine **1** (0.50 mmol) and tetrahydrofuran (1.0 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 3 h, warmed naturally to room temperature (in ca. 5 h), and stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Saturated brine (2.0 mL) was added to the mixture, and the organic phase was extracted with petroleum ether (2 x 20 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel or by preparative thin layer chromatography (TLC), eluting or developing with petroleum ether [For entries 19–23 of Table 2, petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (10:1)] to give alkene **3** (**Z3** or **E3**).

The *Z/E* ratios of alkene products were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis within four days owing to the isomerization of (*Z*)-alkenes under the influence of light and air at room temperature.

## Analytical data for the products shown in Table 2



**Z3a**,<sup>3</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.34-7.24 (m, 5H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (dt, *J* = 12.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.36-2.26 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.24 (m, 6H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  133.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 126.8, 126.5, 31.7, 29.8, 28.7, 22.6, 14.1.



**Z3b**,<sup>3</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.28-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.88-6.80 (m, 2H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.56 (dt, *J* = 12.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.35-2.25 (m, 2H), 1.36-1.24 (m, 6H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  158.2, 131.8, 130.6, 129.9, 128.1, 113.6, 55.2, 31.7, 29.8, 28.7, 22.6, 14.1.



**Z3c**, yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.30-7.16 (m, 4H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.32-2.23 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.25 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  132.1, 130.1, 128.3, 127.6, 127.2, 31.6, 29.8, 29.0, 22.6, 14.1; HRMS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>Cl (M): 208.1019. Found: 208.1018.



**Z3d**,<sup>4</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.20-8.13 (m, 2H), 7.47-7.38 (m, 2H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 5.87 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.37-2.28 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.25 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  144.4, 137.3, 129.4, 127.1, 123.6, 31.6, 29.8, 29.4, 22.6, 14.1.



Z3e

**Z3e**, yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.20-8.01 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.40 (m, 2H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (dt, *J* = 12.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.36-2.27 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.22 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  144.7, 134.8, 131.9, 129.4, 127.7, 126.7, 123.5, 31.5, 29.8, 29.4, 22.6, 14.1; HRMS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (M): 219.1259. Found: 219.1262.



Z3f

**Z3f**,<sup>5</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.34-7.25 (m, 4H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 2.36-2.27 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.24 (m, 6H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  131.4, 129.8, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 126.8, 126.0, 31.9, 29.5, 29.1, 22.7, 20.0, 14.2.





**Z3g**, yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.38-7.09 (m, 4H), 6.49 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H),

5.79 (dt, J = 12.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.26-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.20 (m, 6H), 0.95-0.82 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  137.9, 133.4, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 126.8, 126.5, 126.0, 31.7, 29.8, 28.7, 22.6, 14.1; HRMS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>Cl (M): 208.1019. Found: 208.1024.



**Z3h**,<sup>3</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.00-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.87-7.78 (m, 2H), 7.65-7.48 (m, 4H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.24-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.25 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 136.1, 133.4, 132.0, 130.5, 129.9, 129.5, 128.6, 127.1, 126.2, 124.6, 123.4, 123.2, 31.8, 29.3, 28.9, 22.7, 14.1.



Z3i

**Z3i**,<sup>6</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.60-8.58 (m, 1H), 7.65-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.11-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (dt, *J* = 12.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.60-2.52 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.25 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  149.2, 137.4, 135.9, 129.8, 128.5, 123.7, 121.0, 31.5, 29.7, 28.7, 22.6, 14.0.



**Z3j**, yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.22 (s, 1H), 6.32-6.24 (m, 1H), 6.17-6.10 (m, 2H), 5.48 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.13-2.05 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.17 (m, 6H), 0.85 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  150.1, 141.2, 130.4, 117.3, 111.1, 108.7, 32.1, 31.7, 29.3, 22.6, 14.1; HRMS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O (M): 164.1201. Found: 164.1133.



**Z3k**,<sup>3</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.22 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.51 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 5.57 (dt, J = 11.7, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.45-2.35 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.24 (m, 6H), 0.92 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  141.0, 131.4, 127.2, 127.1, 124.9, 121.7, 31.7, 29.4, 29.2, 22.6, 14.1.



**Z3I**,<sup>7</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.47-7.34 (m, 5H), 7.16-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.56 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.29-6.22 (m, 1H), 5.60-5.54 (m, 1H), 2.37-2.30 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.30 (m, 6H), 0.90 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  136.1, 133.4, 132.0, 130.5, 129.9, 129.6, 128.6, 127.1, 124.6, 29.0, 28.9, 28.1, 22.7, 14.1.



Z3m

**Z3m**,<sup>8</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.33-6.28 (m, 1H), 6.01-5.95 (m, 1H), 5.70-5.62 (m, 1H), 5.31-5.26 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.11 (m, 2H), 1.79-1.75 (m, 3H), 1.40-1.23 (m, 6H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  131.8, 130.0, 128.5, 126.7, 32.6, 31.6, 29.5, 22.6, 18.3, 14.1.



**Z3n**,<sup>9</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 5.15-5.01 (m, 2H), 2.04-1.96 (m, 4H), 1.65-1.28 (m, 14H), 0.97-0.85 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 130.4, 129.9, 34.0, 32.7, 32.6, 31.5, 31.4, 28.2, 25.0, 22.7, 19.2, 14.1, 14.0.



**Z30**,<sup>10</sup> yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.30-7.13 (m, 5H), 5.34-5.21 (m, 2H), 2.80-2.70 (m, 2H), 2.56-2.42 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.20 (m, 6H), 0.97-0.87 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 141.3, 130.9, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.3, 36.1, 32.6, 31.6, 29.4, 29.3, 22.7, 14.2.



**Z3p**,<sup>11</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 5.28-5.17 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.22 (m, 1H), 2.06-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.39-1.13 (m, 16H), 0.93-0.87 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 136.1, 128.2, 33.5, 32.7, 31.6, 29.8, 29.6, 26.2, 26.1, 22.7, 14.1.



Z3q

**Z3q**,<sup>12</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.78-7.69 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.34 (m, 3H), 6.56 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (dq, J = 12.0, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.97-1.94 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  131.3, 130.0, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 126.2, 126.1, 126.0, 125.7, 125.5, 125.2, 123.6, 14.8.



**Z3r**,<sup>13</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.43-7.16 (m, 5H), 7.11-7.04 (m, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1H), 6.22-6.13 (m, 1H), 5.62-5.56 (m, 1H), 1.87-1.84 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  129.4, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 127.1, 126.6, 126.4, 125.3, 13.4.



**Z3s**,<sup>14</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.82-7.67 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.38 (m, 3H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 5.60-5.50 (m, 1H), 3.04-2.94 (m, 1H), 1.08 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  141.0, 133.5, 131.0, 130.9, 128.0, 127.6, 127.3, 127.2, 126.5, 126.1, 126.0, 125.7, 27.3, 23.3.



**Z3t**,<sup>15</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.37-7.24 (m, 5H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (dt, *J* = 12.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  132.6, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.2, 126.8, 126.2, 126.1, 67.0, 46.0.



**Z3u**,<sup>16</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.43-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 6.22-6.14 (m, 1H), 5.62-5.55 (m, 1H), 3.40 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.50 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  131.2, 128.8, 128.5, 128.2, 127.2, 126.8, 126.2, 125.8, 124.4, 68.2, 47.2.



**Z3v**,<sup>17</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.39-7.20 (m, 5H), 6.60 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.99-5.86 (m, 1H), 4.47 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (s, br., 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  132.0, 130.5, 129.9, 129.5, 128.6, 127.1, 126.3, 124.6, 60.1.



**Z3w**,<sup>18</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.43-7.20 (m, 5H), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 11.7, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 6.21-6.14 (m, 1H), 5.62-5.58 (m, 1H), 4.46 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.58 (s, br., 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  130.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 127.1, 126.6, 126.4, 61.2.



**Z3x**,<sup>19</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.64-5.52 (m, 1H), 5.49-5.31 (m, 1H), 4.24 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.87 (s, br., 1H), 2.30-2.14 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.55 (m, 5H), 1.39-1.25 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  132.0, 127.5, 62.5, 27.1, 26.6, 26.1, 26.0, 25.8, 25.4.



E3a

**E3a**,<sup>3</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.34-7.14 (m, 5H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.24-2.15 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.38 (m, 6H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  137.9, 131.3, 129.8, 128.8, 128.2, 126.5, 126.0, 33.1, 31.7, 28.7, 22.6, 14.1.



**E3b**,<sup>3</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.29-7.19 (m, 2H), 6.88-6.81 (m, 2H), 6.32 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.21-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.39 (m, 6H), 0.95-0.85 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  159.0, 130.0, 129.2, 128.1, 127.0, 114.0, 55.3, 33.1, 31.5, 29.3, 22.6, 14.1.



**E3c**,<sup>20</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.30-7.16 (m, 4H), 6.34 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.23-2.15 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.38 (m, 6H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  134.0, 130.1, 128.6, 128.3, 127.6, 33.1, 29.6, 28.6, 22.6, 14.1.



**E3d**,<sup>4</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.19 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.47-6.42 (m, 2H), 2.29-2.22 (m, 2H), 1.59-1.40 (m, 6H), 0.89 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR

(75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 147.9, 144.9, 136.3, 129.4, 126.4, 124.1, 33.3, 31.6, 28.9, 22.6, 14.1.



**E3e**,<sup>21</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.20-8.05 (m, 2H), 7.59-7.41 (m, 2H), 6.46-6.38 (m, 2H), 2.31-2.21 (m, 2H), 1.61-1.43 (m, 6H), 0.94-0.84 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  148.2, 136.2, 131.9, 129.1, 127.7, 121.4, 120.5, 33.0, 31.5, 29.8, 22.6, 14.1.



**E3f**,<sup>5</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.34-7.14 (m, 4H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 2.24-2.15 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.38 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  137.9, 131.3, 129.8, 128.8, 128.2, 126.5, 126.0, 33.1, 31.7, 28.7, 22.6, 20.1, 14.1.



**E3g**,<sup>22</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.51-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.25-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.23-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.20 (m, 6H), 0.94-0.84 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  137.9, 133.3, 131.3, 128.8, 128.1, 126.8, 126.4, 126.0, 33.1, 31.5, 29.7, 22.6, 14.1.



**E3h**,<sup>3</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.14-8.13 (m, 1H), 7.72-7.59 (m, 3H), 7.42-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.37-2.27 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.25 (m, 6H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  131.3, 130.0, 128.1, 128.0, 127.9, 126.2, 126.1, 126.0, 125.7, 125.5, 125.2, 123.6, 32.1, 29.6, 28.6, 21.7, 14.1.



**E3i**,<sup>23</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.52-8.50 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.79-6.71 (m, 1H), 6.51-6.43 (m, 1H), 2.29-2.25 (m, 2H), 1.55-1.26 (m, 6H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  149.9, 136.4, 136.2, 135.9, 128.5, 123.7, 121.5, 32.8, 29.4, 28.7, 22.6, 14.0.



**E3j**, yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.31-7.26 (m, 1H), 6.32-6.28 (m, 1H), 6.17-6.08 (m, 3H), 2.40-2.31 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.17 (m, 6H), 0.89-0.81 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 153.5, 141.2, 131.6, 118.6, 111.1, 105.9, 32.8, 31.7, 29.8, 22.6, 14.1; HRMS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O (M): 164.1201. Found: 164.1156.



E3k

**E3k**,<sup>3</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.11 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 7.06-7.00 (m, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (dt, J = 15.9, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.25-2.16 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.33 (m, 6H), 0.90 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  131.4, 127.2, 127.1, 124.1, 123.0, 121.7, 32.9, 31.5, 29.0, 22.6, 14.1.



**E3I**,<sup>21</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.42-7.16 (m, 5H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.24-6.11 (m, 1H), 5.88-5.76 (m, 1H), 2.18-2.10 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.24 (m, 6H), 0.95-0.85 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  136.1, 133.4, 132.0, 130.5, 129.9, 129.6, 128.6, 127.1, 126.4, 124.6, 32.9, 31.8, 29.4, 22.7, 14.1.



**E3m**,<sup>8</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.03-5.95 (m, 2H), 5.33-5.26 (m, 2H), 2.06-2.01 (m, 2H), 1.74-1.70 (m, 3H), 1.43-1.30 (m, 6H), 0.92-0.87 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 132.3, 130.3, 129.0, 127.2, 32.8, 29.2, 27.7, 22.6, 18.1, 14.1.



E3n

**E3n**,<sup>24</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 5.40-5.33 (m, 2H), 2.03-1.97 (m, 4H), 1.30-1.20 (m, 14H), 0.94-0.86 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 130.4, 130.1, 34.8, 32.2, 32.1, 31.9, 31.8, 29.8, 28.2, 25.8, 23.9, 19.2, 14.1.



**E30**,<sup>10</sup> yellow oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.32-7.22 (m, 5H), 5.42-5.36 (m, 2H), 2.98-2.92 (m, 2H), 2.73-2.57 (m, 4H), 1.64-1.52 (m, 6H), 0.94-0.87 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 141.3, 129.7, 128.8, 128.5, 128.1, 126.7, 38.9, 33.1, 31.8, 29.4, 28.9, 22.6, 14.1.



**E3p**,<sup>25</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 5.40-5.36 (m, 2H), 2.33-2.20 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.24 (m, 16H), 0.92-0.85 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 136.1, 128.2, 36.4, 31.6, 29.8, 29.6, 27.3, 26.2, 22.7, 14.1.



**E3q**,<sup>12</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.81-7.76 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.39 (m, 3H), 6.53 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.38-6.27 (m, 1H), 1.95-1.94 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  131.2, 130.0, 128.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.5, 127.3, 126.2, 125.7, 125.2, 123.6, 18.6.



**E3r**,<sup>13</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.42-7.25 (m, 5H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 10.5 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.20-6.14 (m, 1H), 5.87-5.77 (m, 1H), 1.31-1.28 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  136.1, 133.4, 132.0, 130.5, 129.9, 129.5, 128.6, 127.1, 126.2, 124.6, 19.1.



E3s

**E3s**,<sup>14</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.80-7.34 (m, 7H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 16.9 Hz, 1H), 6.35-6.26 (m, 1H), 2.56-2.45 (m, 1H), 1.12 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  135.5, 133.5, 132.6, 132.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.0, 127.6, 127.3, 126.5, 126.1, 125.7, 29.0, 23.8.



**E3t**,<sup>26</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.37-7.16 (m, 5H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (dt, *J* = 15.9, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  131.2, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.2, 127.2, 126.8, 124.4, 67.0, 49.2.



**E3u**,<sup>27</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.47-7.20 (m, 5H), 6.80 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 6.56 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.30-6.16 (m, 1H), 5.83-5.73 (m, 1H), 3.20 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  136.1, 133.4, 132.0, 130.5, 129.9, 129.5, 128.6, 127.1, 126.2, 124.6, 67.7, 51.0.



**E3v**,<sup>28</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.39-7.20 (m, 5H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.39-6.28 (m, 1H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 1.97 (s, br., 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  136.7, 131.1, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 126.5, 63.6.



**E3w**,<sup>29</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.42-7.14 (m, 5H), 6.75 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 6.39-6.28 (m, 1H), 5.87-5.77 (m, 1H), 4.09 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2H), 1.84 (s, br., 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  133.8, 131.8, 131.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.3, 126.3, 63.4.



**E3x**,<sup>30</sup> yellowish oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  5.70-5.55 (m, 2H), 4.06 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.24 (s, br., 1H), 2.06-1.96 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.55 (m, 5H), 1.38-1.15 (m, 5H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  130.3, 126.6, 66.2, 28.9, 26.6, 26.1, 26.0, 25.2, 25.1.

## Gram-scale synthesis of alkene Z3a

To a stirred suspension of phosphonium salt 2a (5.13 g, 12.0 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (20.0 mL) under nitrogen at -78 °C was added a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.50 M, 5.2 mL, 13.0 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h, and were added *N*-sulfonyl imine **1aa** (1.83 g, 10.0 mmol) and tetrahydrofuran (3.0 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 3 h, warmed naturally to room temperature (in 5 h), and stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Saturated brine (10.0 mL) was added to the mixture, and the organic phase was extracted with petroleum ether (2 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (100:1), to afford

alkene **Z3a** (1.34 g, 77%, >99:1 Z/E) as a yellowish oil.

## General procedure for the synthesis of phosphonium salt 4a (Table 3)

To a stirred suspension of phosphonium salt 2a (0.60 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (1.0 mL) under nitrogen at -78 °C was added a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.50 M, 0.26 mL, 0.65 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h, and were added *N*-sulfonyl imine **1a** (0.50 mmol) and tetrahydrofuran (1.0 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h, added 40% aqueous HBr (0.14 mL, 1.0 mmol), and stirred at -78 °C for 2 h. The mixture was concentrated and purified by preparative TLC, developing with dichloromethane/methanol (20:1), to give phosphonium salt **4a**.

The relative configuration for phosphonium salt 4a was tentatively assigned based on its conversion to alkene 3a (*vide infra*).

## Analytical data for the phosphonium salts shown in Table 3



**Table 3, entry 1:** Phosphonium salt **4aa** was obtained in 63% yield as a single *anti* isomer (>99:1 *anti/syn*). White solid; m.p. 144-145 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.86-7.70 (m, 20H), 3.70-3.60 (m, 1H), 3.22-3.15 (m, 1H), 2.05-1.99 (m, 7H), 1.68-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.18 (m, 2H), 0.84-0.79 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  136.0, 133.5, 131.9, 130.5, 129.8 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz), 127.3, 127.1, 126.2, 124.6, 123.3, 123.1, 59.4, 46.2, 35.1, 31.8, 29.1 (d, *J* = 30.3 Hz), 22.7, 14.2; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 162 MHz)  $\delta$  25.0; Anal. calcd. for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>37</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>PS (%): C, 62.95; H, 6.11; N, 2.29. Found: C, 62.72; H, 6.12; N, 2.30.

**Table 3, entry 2:** Phosphonium salt **4aa** was obtained in 73% yield as a 90:10 mixture of *anti/syn* isomers. White solid; Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for the *syn* isomer:  $\delta$  3.85-3.79 (m, 1H); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 162 MHz) for the *syn* isomer:  $\delta$  24.4.



**Table 3, entry 3:** Phosphonium salt **4ac** was obtained in 66% yield as an 84:16 mixture of *anti/syn* isomers. White solid; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for the *anti* isomer: δ 7.88-7.65 (m, 24H), 3.50-3.45 (m, 1H), 3.16-3.08 (m, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.06-1.99 (m, 4H), 1.70-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.17 (m, 2H), 0.86-0.80 (m, 3H); Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for the *syn* isomer: 3.90-3.84 (m,

1H); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 162 MHz) for the *anti* isomer: δ 24.0; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 162 MHz) for the *syn* isomer: 24.6; Anal. calcd. for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>41</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>PS (%): C, 66.47; H, 6.02; N, 2.04. Found: C, 66.23; H, 6.04; N, 2.05.



**Table 3, entry 4:** Phosphonium salt **4ag** was obtained in 69% yield as a single *syn* isomer (<1:99 *anti/syn*). White solid; m.p. 150-151 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.85-7.68 (m, 24H), 3.63-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.20-3.14 (m, 1H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.05-1.99 (m, 4H), 1.69-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.19 (m, 2H), 0.85-0.79 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  136.2, 135.0, 133.9, 133.7, 131.4, 130.6, 130.4, 129.8 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz), 129.2, 128.2, 126.6, 51.1, 34.4, 30.1 (d, *J* = 23.2 Hz), 22.7, 22.3, 21.7, 14.0; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 162 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm): 25.1; Anal. calcd. for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>41</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>PS (%): C, 66.47; H, 6.02; N, 2.04. Found: C, 66.60; H, 6.03; N, 2.05.

**Table 3, entry 5:** Phosphonium salt **4ag** was obtained in 64% yield as a 41:59 mixture of *anti/syn* isomers. White solid; Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) for the *anti* isomer:  $\delta$  4.01-3.96 (m, 1H); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 162 MHz):  $\delta$  24.1.

## General procedure for the conversion of phosphonium salt 4a to alkene 3a (Table 3)

To a stirred suspension of phosphonium salt **4a** (0.25 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (1.0 mL) under nitrogen at -78 °C was added a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.50 M, 0.12 mL, 0.30 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 3 h, warmed naturally to room temperature (in ca. 5 h), and stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Saturated brine (2.0 mL) was added to the mixture, and the organic phase was extracted with petroleum ether (2 x 20 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated. The residue was purified by preparative TLC, developing with petroleum ether, to give alkene **3a**. The yields are 73% (entry 1), 51% (entry 2), 86% (entry 3), 89% (entry 4), and 55% (entry 5).

Work-up with H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O (Note 10)



To a stirred suspension of phosphonium salt **2a** (256 mg, 0.60 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (1.0 mL) under nitrogen at -78 °C was added a solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.50 M, 0.26 mL, 0.65 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h, and were added *N*-sulfonyl imine **1ag** (130 mg, 0.50 mmol) and tetrahydrofuran (1.0 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 3 h, warmed naturally to room temperature (in 5 h), and stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Heavy oxygen water (98%, 91  $\mu$ L, 5.0 mmol) was added to the mixture and stirred at room temperature for 4 h. Saturated brine (2.0 mL) was added to the mixture, and the organic phase was extracted with petroleum ether (2 x 20 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated. The residue was purified directly by preparative TLC, developing with petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (3:1) to give PPh<sub>3</sub><sup>18</sup>O (115 mg, 82%) and *o*-toluenesulfonamide (62.0 mg, 72%). MS (ESI) found for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub><sup>18</sup>OP (MH): 281.3; MS (ESI) found for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S (M-H): 170.3.

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![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_57_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Figure_1.jpeg)

0.001

Ph

**E3r** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)

![](_page_58_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_66_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_67_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Figure_1.jpeg)