Iodine-Mediated Intramolecular Amination of Ketones: the Synthesis of 2-Acylindoles and 2-Acylindolines by Tuning *N*-Protecting Groups

(Supplementary Information)

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General Information

The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz or 300 MHz and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured at 100 MHz or 75 MHz using Bruker AV400 instrument with CDCl₃ or DMSO- d_6 as the solvent. The chemical shifts (δ) were measured in ppm and with the solvents as references (For CDCl₃, ¹H: δ = 7.26 ppm, ¹³C: δ = 77.00 ppm; for DMSO- d_6 , ¹H: δ = 2.50 ppm, ¹³C: δ = 39.43 ppm). The multiplicities of the signals are described using the following abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, br = broad. The known compounds were identified by the comparison of their NMR spectra with reported data in the literatures. The new compounds were characterized by NMR, IR, HRMS and melting point for solid samples. IR spectra were recorded on a FT-IR Bruker EQUINOX55 spectrometer and only major peaks are reported in cm⁻¹. High resolution mass spectral analyses (HR-MS) were performed on a high resolution ESI-FTICR mass spectrometer (Varian 7.0 T). Melting points were recorded on a RY-1 type apparatus. All solvents were obtained from commercial sources and were purified according to standard procedures. Petroleum ether (PE), where used, has the boiling point range 60-90 °C.

Optimization of the Reaction Conditions

Table S1. Condition optimization for 2-benzoylindole.^a

		O Ph NHTs 1a	Oxidant Base Solvent 60 °C	N Za	O Ph	N Ts 6	O Pr
Entry Oxidant		Oxidant	Base (equiv) S	Solvent	<i>t</i> (h)	Yield (%) ^b	
		(1.1 equiv)			()	2a	6
	1	l ₂	K ₂ CO ₃ (2)	CH₃OH	12	20	52
	2	l ₂	none	CH₃OH	12	0	5
	3	l ₂	K ₂ CO ₃ (2.5)	CH₃OH	12	67	13
	4	l ₂	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	CH₃OH	2	91	0
	5 ^c	l ₂	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	CH₃OH	8	82	16
	6	I 2	KHCO ₃ (3)	CH₃OH	12	20	75
	7	l ₂	Na ₂ CO ₃ (3)	CH₃OH	12	54	21
	8	l ₂	DBU (3)	CH₃OH	12	60	13
	9	l ₂	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	EtOH	12	61	10
	10	l ₂	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	EtOAc	12	23	26
	11	I ₂	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	Toluene	11	0	79
	12	PIDA	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	CH₃OH	2	29	0
	13	NBS	K ₂ CO ₃ (3)	CH₃OH	2	39	0

^{*a*} All the reactions were run with 0.2 mmol of **1a** in 3 mL of solvent. ^{*b*} Isolated yield. ^{*c*} The reaction was run at room temperature.

Table S2. Screening of *N*-protecting groups^{*a*}

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^{*a*} All the reactions were run with 0.2 mmol of substrate in 3 mL of solvent. ^{*b*} Isolated yield. ^{*c*} The use of tosyl group is preferable on the basis of cost consideration. ^{*d*} *N*-Acetyl-2-benzoylindoline was isolated in 75% yield. ^{*e*} With 2 equiv of I₂.

Table S3. Condition optimization for *N*-Boc-2-benzoylindoline.^{*a*}

	Ph Condition	Ph pc a	
Entry	Condition	Yield(%) ^b	
1	I ₂ (1.1 equiv), K ₂ CO ₃ (3 equiv), 60 oC, 24 h, CH ₃ OH 90		
2	I_2 (1.5 equiv), K ₂ CO ₃ (3 equiv), 60 oC, 1 h, CH ₃ OH	91	
3	$\rm I_2$ (1.5 equv), $\rm K_2CO_3$ (2.5 equiv), 60 oC, 1 h, $\rm CH_3OH$	91	
4	I_2 (1.5 equiv), K_2CO_3 (2.5 equiv), rt, 1.5 h, CH_3OH	91	
5	I_2 (1.5 equiv), K_2CO_3 (2.2 equiv), rt, 1.5 h, CH_3OH	91	
6 ^c	I_2 (1.1 equiv), K_2CO_3 (2.2 equiv), rt, 4 h, CH_3OH	72	
7 ^d	$\rm I_2$ (1.5 equiv), $\rm K_2CO_3$ (2.2 equiv), rt, 12 h, THF	18	
8 ^e	$\rm I_2$ (1.5 equiv), $\rm K_2CO_3$ (2.2 equiv), rt, 12 h, $\rm CH_3CN$	25	

^{*a*} The reactions were run with 0.3 mmol of substrate. ^{*b*} Isolated yield. ^{*c*} Conversion: 80%. ^{*d*} Conversion: 25%. ^{*e*} Conversion: 32%.

Gram-scale Reaction and A Control Experiment



Figure 1 a) Gram-scale reaction for indole synthesis; b) the convertion from 6 to 2a.

Representative Procedure for 2a and 4a

2-Benzoylindole (2a):^{S1} Iodine (56 mg, 0.22 mmol) was added to a mixture of **1a** (76 mg, 0.2 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (83 mg, 0.6 mmol) in methanol (3 mL) at room temperature, and then the resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C. After the reaction was complete by TLC analysis, methanol was evaporated in *vacuo* followed by adding saturated aq. solution of Na₂S₂O₃. The mixture was extracted by EtOAc and dried over Na₂SO₄. After removal of solvent, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) to give the 2-benzoylindole (**2a**). Yield: 91%; white solid; m.p. 139-141 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.44$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.59 (br s, 1H), 8.01 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.73 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.64 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.56 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.51 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.39 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.20-7.16 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 187.24, 137.98, 137.56, 134.30, 132.34, 129.21, 128.45, 127.69, 126.50, 123.20, 121.01, 112.86, 112.21; IR (neat) *v*: 3415, 3313, 1624, 1516, 1342, 1257, 745 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₂NO [M+H]⁺: 222.0913, found: 222.0917.

N-Boc-2-benzoylindoline (4a): Iodine (114 mg, 0.45 mmol) was added to a mixture of **3a** (97 mg, 0.3 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (91 mg, 0.66 mmol) in methanol (3 mL), and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. Methanol was evaporated in *vacuo* followed by adding saturated aq. solution of Na₂S₂O₃ and extracting with EtOAc. After removal of solvent, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) to give the *N*-Boc-2-benzoylindoline (**4a**). Yield: 91%; white solid; m.p. 76-79 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.35$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1): δ 8.01-7.95 (m, 2.64H), 7.61-7.58 (m, 1.35H), 7.49 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.24-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 6.95 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 5.87-5.67 (m, 1H), 3.65-3.57 (m, 1H), 3.10-3.00 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 196.11, 151.53, 143.01, 134.14, 133.41, 128.79, 128.29, 127.98, 124.43, 122.41, 114.62, 81.13, 63.04, 32.54, 28.32, 27.95; IR (neat) *v*: 3383, 2974, 2930, 1701, 1488, 1399, 1152, 758 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₂₂NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 324.1594, found: 324.1596.

Synthesis of Starting Materials

Substrates (1a-1e, 1g-1k) were synthesized from the commercial available 2-aminobenzyl alcohol by the general procedure 1. Substrates (3a-3j, 1f) were prepared from 2-aminobenzylalcohol by the general procedure 2. Non-commercial aminobenzyl alcohols for 1l, 1m, 3k and 3l were prepared from the commercially available aminobenzoic acids by the reported method,^{S2} and transformed to the corresponding substrates according to general procedure 2.

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General Procedure 1: To a solution of 2-aminobenzylalcohol (**S1**) (1.2 g, 10 mmol) and pyridine (1.6 mL, 20 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) was added TsCl (2.7g, 12 mmol) at 0 °C, and then the mixture was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. The reaction was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and washed with 1N HCl and brine. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After evaporation in *vacuo*, the residual solid product was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and to the solution was added PBr₃ (1.3 mL, 10 mmol) dropwise at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h then quenched with water (20 mL). The organic layer was separated and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. Evaporation in *vacuo* gave a white solid residue. Recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂/*n*-hexane afforded **S2**.⁸³ Yield: 85%; white solid; m.p. 134-137 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.77$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.67 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.33-7.23 (m, 5H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 1H), 6.87 (br s, 1H), 4.23 (s, 2H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 144.01, 136.28, 134.93, 131.07, 131.51, 129.88, 129.68, 170.02, 126.33, 125.17, 30.10, 21.54.

S2 (1.0 g, 3.0 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (5 mL) and added to a solution of NaH (60% in mineral oil, 180 mg, 4.5 mmol) and ethyl benzoylacetate (0.7 g, 3.6 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL), and the resulted mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. After the reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc, the organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to give a viscous material. To this material was added 2N NaOH (4 mL) and ethanol (4 mL), and then the reaction mixture was heated at reflux overnight. The solution was cooled to room temperature, poured into 10% aq. HCl (10 mL), and extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed with petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1) to give **1a**. Yield: 73%; white solid; m.p. 120-122 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.22$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.66 (s, 1H), 7.89 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.65 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.54 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.41 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 7.19-7.10 (m, 5H), 3.24 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 2.34 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 200.26, 143.22, 137.24, 135.95, 135.09, 134.68, 133.59, 130.11, 129.44, 128.56, 128.12, 127.22, 127.01, 126.19, 125.55, 40.15, 23.45, 21.43. IR (neat) *v*: 3442, 3144, 1665, 1493, 1335, 1163, 1091, 748 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₂H₂₂NO₃S [M+H]⁺: 380.1315, found: 380.1319.

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General Procedure 2:^{S4} A THF solution (12 mL) of 2-aminobenzyl alcohol (500 mg, 4.0 mmol) and di*tert*-butyl carbonate (960 mg, 4.4 mmol) was stirred at 40 °C for 24 h. The solvent was evaporated in *vacuo* to produce residual viscous crude. The crude was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL), mixed with PCC (1.3 g, 6.0 mmol) and silica gel (1.5 g), and then stirred for 6 h at room temperature. After the reaction was complete by TLC analysis, the solvent was evaporated in *vacuo*, and residual powder was purified by chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) to give **S3**.^{S5} Yield: 95%; white solid; m.p. 57-58 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.31$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 10.39 (s, 1H), 9.89 (s, 1H), 8.45 (d, 1H, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.63 (dd, 1H, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz), 7.56 (td, 1H, J = 8.0, 1.6 Hz), 7.13 (td, 1H, J = 7.6, 0.9 Hz), 1.53 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 195.01, 152.85, 141.77, 136.05, 135.92, 121.46, 121.17, 118.19, 80.92, 28.24.

A CH₃CN solution of **S3** (812 mg, 2.5 mmol) and (benzoylmethylene)triphenylphosphorane (1.4 g, 3.7 mmol) was stirred at 60 °C until the reaction was complete by TLC analysis. After evaporation of CH₃CN in *vacuo*, the crude was purified by chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1) to give (E)-2'-*tert*-butyloxycarbonylamino-chalcone. Yield: 90%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 98-101 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.29$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.01 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.99 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.81 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.63 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.56 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.51-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.37 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.13 (t, 1H, J = 7.8 Hz), 6.81 (br s, 1H), 1.51 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 189.72, 152.91, 139.19, 137.79, 137.15, 132.88, 130.93, 128.53, 128.39, 127.08, 124.21, 123.64, 80.82, 77.31, 76.99, 76.68, 28.14.

After two vacuum/H₂ cycles to replace air in the reaction flask, the mixture of (E)-2'*-tert*butyloxycarbonylamino-chalcone (323 mg, 1.0 mmol), Pd/C (10% wt of the substrate), and diphenylsulfide (1.7 µL, 10.0 µmol) in MeOH (4 mL) was vigorously stirred at room temperature and detected by TLC analysis. The reaction mixture was filtered with Celite, and the filtrate was concentrated and purified by chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) to provide **3a**. Yield: 91%; white solid; m.p. 82-85 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.25$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.96 (d, 2H, J =7.6 Hz), 7.72 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.60 (s, 1H), 7.56 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.45 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.21-7.17 (m, 2H), 7.04 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.38 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.02 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.55 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.85, 153.82, 136.45, 136.06, 133.35, 131.97, 129.44, 128.59, 128.07, 126.93, 124.21, 123.26, 80.07, 39.56, 28.37, 24.42; IR (neat) *v*: 3314, 2971, 1689, 1528, 1246, 1160 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd. for $C_{20}H_{24}NO_3$ [M+H]⁺: 326.1751, found: 326.1752.

Synthesis of 1n:^{S6}



NaBH₄ (454 mg, 12.0 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of **S4** (540 mg, 4.0 mmol) in MeOH (20 mL) at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3h. After evaporation of MeOH, the solution was extracted with EtOAc, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in *vacuo* to give yellow oil. Then the crude oil was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL), and mixed with TsCl (980 mg, 4.8 mmol) and pyridine (0.6 mL, 8 mmol) at 0 °C, and then stirred for 3 h at room temperature. The reaction was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ and washed with 1N HCl and brine. The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated in *vacuo* and purified by chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (2:1) to give **S5**. Yield: 90%; yellow syrup; TLC, $R_f = 0.18$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.51 (s, 1H), 7.67 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.41 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.21 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.16 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.09-7.01 (m, 2H), 4.84 (q, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.34 (d, 3H, J = 6.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 143.70, 136.79, 135.59, 134.09, 129.57, 128.40, 127.10, 126.98, 124.61, 121.75, 69.64, 22.80, 21.48. IR (neat) *v*: 3480, 3243, 2976, 2926, 1494, 1328, 1157, 1091, 932, 757 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₆NO₃S [M–H]⁻: 290.0856, found: 290.0851.

Anhydrous FeCl₃ (16 mg, 0.10 mmol) was added to a solution of **S5** (290 mg, 1.0 mmol) and ethyl benzoylacetate (288 mg, 1.5 mmol) in CH₃NO₂ (4 mL), the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 3 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with water followed by extraction with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to afford a crude material. To this residual material was added 2N aq. NaOH (5 mL), and the reaction was heated at reflux overnight. The solution was cooled to room temperature, poured into 10% aq. HCl and extracted with EtOAc. After concentration in *vacuo*, the residue was chromatographed by petroleum ether/EtOAc (10:1) to give **1n**. Yield: 89%; white solid; TLC, $R_f = 0.22$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); m.p. 165-167 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.66 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.64 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.53-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.19 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.14-7.13 (m, 3H), 3.30-3.18 (m, 2H), 3.09-3.05 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 0.79 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.93, 143.13, 140.70, 137.26, 135.90, 133.66, 133.51, 129.38, 128.49, 128.03, 127.07, 126.86, 126.78, 126.22, 48.22, 27.19, 21.44, 21.31; IR (neat) *v*: 3307, 2977, 2889, 1681, 1489,

1317, 1152, 1091, 922, 750 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₂₃H₂₄NO₃S [M+H]⁺: 394.1471, found: 394.1481.



Synthesis of 3-(2-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-1-phenylpropan-1-one (S10):

CH₃CN 2.5 А solution of 2-nitrobenzaldehyde (552)mg, mmol) and (benzoylmethylene)triphenylphosphorane (1.4 g, 3.7 mmol) was stirred at 60 °C until the reaction was complete as indicated by TLC. After evaporation of CH₃CN in *vacuo*, the crude was purified by chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1) to give S6.^{S7} Yield: 86%; white solid; m.p. 124-126 ^oC; TLC, $R_f = 0.32$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.13 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz), 8.07 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.02 (d, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 7.74 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.69 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.65-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.32 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 190.48, 148.55, 140.16, 137.41, 133.53, 133.12, 131.34, 130.32, 129.23, 128.78, 128.71, 127.38, 124.98.

NaBH₄ (152 mg, 4.0 mmol) was added in portions to a solution of **S6** (510 mg, 2.0 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. After evaporation of MeOH, water was added and the solution was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the allylic alcohol **S7** which was used directly without purification. After two vacuum/H₂ cycles to replace air inside the reaction flask, the solution of **S7** (253 mg, 1.0 mmol) in CH₃OH (10 mL) was treated with Pd/C (10% wt of the substrate) and vigorously stirred at room temperature under 1 atm of hydrogen for 12 h. The resulting mixture was filtered through Celite, and the filtrate was concentrated to provide a viscous material which could be purified by chromatography to give **S8**. Yield: 78%; white solid; m.p. 77-81 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.11$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.32 (d, 4H, J = 4.4 Hz), 7.29-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.03 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.74 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.66 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 4.64 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8, 4.4 Hz), 3.34 (br s, 2H), 2.62 (t, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 2.09-1.95 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 144.54, 144.10, 129.59, 128.43, 127.50, 127.03, 126.36, 125.75, 119.03, 115.91, 73.28, 38.54, 27.01. IR (neat) *v*: 3373, 3215, 3024, 2921, 1498, 1453, 1061, 759 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₅H₁₆NO [M–H]⁻: 226.1237, found: 226.1238.

S9 was prepared by the reported procedure.^{S8} To a stirred solution of **S8** (341 mg, 1.5 mmol) and 37% aqueous formaldehyde (1.5 mL) in acetonitrile (6 mL) was added NaBH₃CN (340 mg, 5.4 mmol). Glacial acetic acid (0.3 mL) was added over 10 min, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The reaction mixture was poured into CH₂Cl₂, basified with 1N aq. NaOH, and washed with brine. The organic layers were dried and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography to afford **S9**. Yield: 84%; colorless oil; TLC, $R_f = 0.38$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.28 (d, 4H, J = 4.0 Hz), 7.25-7.19 (m, 4H), 7.13 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 5.99 (s, 1H), 4.25 (dd, 1H, J = 11.2, 6.4 Hz), 3.19 (td, 1H, J = 12.8, 4.8 Hz), 2.75 (s, 6H), 2.72-2.66 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.96 (m, 1H), 1.90-1.82 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 152.01, 144.70, 136.42, 130.82, 128.12, 127.23, 126.77, 125.51, 125.17, 119.35, 70.57, 45.73, 41.91, 26.72. IR (neat) *v*: 3273, 2934, 2866, 1492, 1452, 1087, 1060, 1037, 763 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₂₂NO [M+H]⁺: 256.1696, found: 256.1695.

To a solution of **S9** (127 mg, 0.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was added Dess-Martin reagent (318 mg, 0.75 mmol) in portions at room temperature. After being stirred for 30 min, a saturated solution of Na₂S₂O₃ was added. The mixture was extracted with EtOAc, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in *vacuo*. The crude residue was purified by chromatography to give **S10**. Yield: 90%; yellow oil; TLC, $R_f = 0.23$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.01 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.56 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.46 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.22 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.15 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.04 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 3.33 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 3.14 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.68 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.93, 152.96, 136.98, 136.26, 132.86, 129.92, 128.51, 128.10, 127.08, 123.67, 119.89, 45.13, 39.67, 26.56; IR (neat) *v*: 3059, 2937, 2825, 1683, 1597, 1493, 1449, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₁₉NONa [M+Na]⁺: 276.1359, found: 276.1357.

Synthesis of Bis(1*H*-2-indolyl)methanone (5):



2N aq. NaOH (2.5 mL, 5 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution of aldehyde **9** (550 mg, 2.0 mmol) and acetone (58 mg, 1 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. After the removal of solvent, the residue was treated with 1N HCl until pH < 7 and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was separated, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to give a crude product, after purification by column chromatograph with petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1), the

corresponding dienone could be isolated as pale yellow solid. Then Pd/C (10% wt of the substrate) was added to the solution of dienone (570 mg, 1.0 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL). After two vacuum/H₂ cycles to replace air inside the reaction flask, the reaction was stirred at room temperature overnight, followed by filtration with Celite. The filtrate was concentrated and purified by colum chromatography with dichloromethane/acetone (95:5) to give **S12**. Yield: 54%; white solid; m.p. 59-62 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.64$ (CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH = 20:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.69 (s, 2H), 7.64 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.23-7.19 (m, 6H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 4H), 6.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 2.56 (dd, 8H, *J* = 14.8, 5.6 Hz), 2.38 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 211.58, 143.53, 137.07, 135.30, 134.32, 129.99, 129.59, 127.27, 127.15, 126.56, 125.62, 43.57, 23.98, 21.52; IR (neat) *v*: 3446, 3265, 1700, 1493, 1331, 1160, 1091, 922 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₃₁H₃₂N₂O₅S₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 599.1645, found: 599.1645.

Iodine (112 mg, 0.44 mmol) was added to a mixture of **S12** (115 mg, 0.2 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (166 mg, 1.2 mmol) in methanol (6.0 mL) at room temperature, and then the resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C. After the reaction was complete by TLC analysis, methanol was evaporated in *vacuo* followed by adding saturated aq. solution of Na₂S₂O₃. The mixture was extracted by EtOAc and dried over Na₂SO₄. After removal of solvent, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (3:1) to give **5**.^{S9} Yield: 86%; yellow solid; m.p. 270-272 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.52$ (PE:EtOAc = 2:1); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz): δ 11.99 (s, 2H), 7.76 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.62 (s, 2H), 7.51 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.31 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.12 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 100 MHz): δ 176.68, 137.65, 134.47, 127.21, 125.27, 122.67, 120.29, 112.59, 109.52.

Synthesis of Quindolinone (12):



L-proline (0.6 mmol) was stirred in 8 mL of methanol for 10 min, 2-aminoacetophenone (300 mg, 2 mmol) and **9** (550 mg, 2 mmol) were then added. The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux for 2 h, then two further portions of L-proline (0.6 mmol each time) was added, once every 2 h. The reaction detected by TLC analysis until the substrates were disappeared. The reaction solution was evaporated in *vacuo*, quenched with saturated ammonium chloride solution and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated, and purified by column chromatography with petroleum ether/EtOAc (7:1) to give **10**. Yield: 75%; pale yellow solid; m.p.:185-188 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.11$ (PE:EtOAc = 7:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.59 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz),

7.40-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.24-7.19 (m, 5H), 6.84 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 6.71 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 4.87 (dd, 1H, J = 12.0, 2.8 Hz), 4.56 (s, 1H), 2.72-2.63 (m, 1H), 2.45-2.43 (m, 1H), 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 193.20, 151.24, 144.17, 136.30, 135.42, 134.55, 133.71, 129.75, 129.11, 128.61, 127.56, 127.18, 126.64, 125.12, 119.47, 116.78, 55.43, 43.90, 21.56; IR (neat) *v*: 3274, 3150, 1655, 1606, 1498, 1481, 1332, 1308, 1160, 1088, 932, 789 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₂₂H₂₀N₂O₃SNa [M+Na]⁺: 415.1087, found: 415.1083.

Iodine (112 mg, 0.44 mmol) was added to a mixture of **10** (79 mg, 0.2 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (83 mg, 0.6 mmol) in methanol (4.0 mL) at 0 °C. After the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 4 h, 2N aq NaOH (2.5 mL, 5 mmol) was added to the mixture and refluxed for overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and methanol was evaporated in *vacuo*. Aq. Na₂S₂O₃ was added to the residue and extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄), concentrated, and purified by column chromatography with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (95:1) to give **12**.^{S10} Yield: 78%; yellow solid; m.p. > 300 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.23$ (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH = 9:1); ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 400 MHz): δ 12.46 (s, 1H), 11.71 (s, 1H), 8.36 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.19 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.70-7.65 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.47 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.29 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.20 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 100 MHz): δ 167.34, 138.98, 138.55, 130.62, 128.85, 127.36, 125.13, 123.01, 122.79, 120.76, 120.43, 118.84, 117.70, 115.80, 112.56.

General Procedure for the phosphorane ylides:^{S11}



To a solution of the ketone in a mixture of CHCl₃ and EtOH (v:v =1:1, 0.5 M), CuBr₂ (2 equiv) was added under N₂ at room temperature, then the mixture was heated to reflux. After the reaction was complete by GC analysis, and then the dark-green suspension was filtered while it was hot, the residue was washed with EtOAc. The filtrate was then concentrated under reduced pressure to give the crude α -bromide ketone.

Then Et_3N (0.1 equiv) was added to a stirred solution of the resulting α -bromo carbonyl compound (1.0 equiv) in toluene (0.30 M), followed by addition of a solution of PPh₃ (1.0 equiv) in toluene. The mixture was stirred at room temperature until the α -bromo carbonyl compound was consumed as indicated by TLC. The reaction mixture was then filtrated and the precipitate was washed with Et_2O and collected for the next step.

The resulting crude phosphorane salt was added to a mixture of H₂O and MeOH (v:v = 1:1, 0.25 M), then the reaction solution was stirred at RT for 1 h, followed by adding 2N NaOH aq. to the mixture until the pH = 7-8 and vigorously stirring for another 2-3 h. The resulting suspension was extracted with EtOAc (30 mL \times 3). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated to give the phosphorane ylides without purification.



 Br_2 (2.7 mL, 52 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 2-acetylpyridine (4.84g, 40 mmol) in 48% aq. HBr (7.0 mL) and AcOH (36 mL) at 0 °C, and then the mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 2 h. The resulting precipitated white solid was collected by filtration, washed with Et_2O for 3 times, and dried by suction at room temperature.

The bromide salt (2.8 g, 10mmol) was dissolved into toluene, and Et₃N (1.6 mL, 11.0 mmol) was added dropwise. After the color of solution was changed, PPh₃ (2.6 g, 10 mmol) was added in one portion, and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The pale yellow precipitation was filtered and washed with petroleum ether for 3 times.

Characterization Data for Substrates and products

N-(2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide

Yield: 75%; white solid; m.p. 123-126 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.22$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.77 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.55 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.49 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.44-7.38 (m, 5H), 7.16-7.09 (m, 3H), 3.25 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.55 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 200.36, 140.17, 135.93, 135.20, 134.61, 133.67, 132.49, 130.13, 128.87, 128.59, 128.16, 127.30, 126.97, 126.34, 125.78, 40.22, 23.35; IR (neat) *v*: 3435, 3149, 1667, 1448, 1167, 1156, 1091, 752 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₂₁H₁₉NO₃SNa [M+Na]⁺: 388.0978, found: 388.0984.

N-(2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)-4-nitrobenzenesulfonamide



Yield: 63%; white solid; m.p. 162-164 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.45$ (PE:EtOAc = 2:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.32 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.97 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.92 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.57 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.46-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.22-7.10 (m, 3H), 3.32 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.53 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 200.84, 149.87, 146.10, 135.70, 135.05, 134.02, 133.77, 130.43, 128.72, 128.27, 128.23, 127.68, 126.92, 125.74, 124.14, 40.43, 23.40; IR (neat) *v*: 3446, 3167, 3100, 1670, 1529, 1348, 1169, 738 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₁₇N₂O₅S [M–H]⁻: 409.0864, found: 409.0862.

N-(2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)methanesulfonamide



Yield: 40%; white solid; m.p. 118-121 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.15$ (PE:EtOAc = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.57 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.56 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.49 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.43 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.26-7.13 (m, 3H), 3.45 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 3.08 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.06 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 200.32, 136.00, 135.06, 134.27, 133.68, 130.44, 128.63, 128.17, 127.56, 126.09, 124.06, 40.26, 40.00, 24.12; IR (neat) *v*: 3325, 3264, 1674, 1326, 1150, 977, 750 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₇NO₃SNa [M+Na]⁺: 326.0821, found: 326.0823.

N-(2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)acetamide



Yield: 84%; white solid; m.p. 63-66 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.35$ (PE:EtOAc = 2:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.23 (s, 1H), 7.95 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.82 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.57 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.45 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.20 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.07 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 3.45 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 3.03 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.33 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 200.98, 168.96, 136.19, 135.70, 133.67, 132.67, 129.85, 128.65, 128.12, 126.97, 125.03, 124.31, 40.35, 24.34, 23.96; IR (neat) *v*: 3431, 3259, 1676, 1632, 1534, 1287, 758 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₁₈NO₂ [M+H]⁺: 268.1332, found: 268.1330.

N-(2-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1b)



Yield: 71%; white solid; m.p. 121-123 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.22$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.90 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.65 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.42 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.19-7.08 (m, 5H), 6.88 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.19 (t, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz), 2.56 (t, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz), 2.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 198.74, 163.86, 143.14, 137.38, 135.15, 134.83, 130.50, 130.15, 129.43, 129.06, 127.20, 127.02, 126.04, 125.42, 113.71, 55.47, 39.83, 23.53, 21.46; IR (neat) *v*: 3433, 3150, 1650, 1600, 1572, 1336, 1247, 1168, 1093, 1029, 773 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₃H₂₄NO₄S [M+H]⁺: 410.1421, found: 410.1426.

N-(2-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxopropyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1c)



Yield: 62%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 97-100 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.20$ (PE:EtOAc = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.53 (s, 1H), 7.94 (dd, 2H, J = 8.4, 5.6 Hz), 7.65 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.40 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.19 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.16-7.09 (m, 5H), 3.22 (t, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz), 2.60 (t, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 198.64, 165.97 (d, J = 254.2 Hz), 143.27, 137.26, 135.08, 134.69, 132.46, 130.87 (d, J = 9.3 Hz), 130.12, 129.47, 127.31, 127.05, 126.28, 125.65, 115.73 (d, J = 21.7 Hz), 40.09, 23.54, 21.46; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ -103.97; IR (neat) *v*: 3450, 3153, 3081, 1558, 1596,

1493, 1330, 1234, 1160, 1091, 756 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₂₂H₂₁FNO₃S [M+H]⁺: 398.1221, found: 398.1227.

N-(2-(3-(furan-2-yl)-3-oxopropyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1d)



Yield: 72%; white solid; m.p. 99-102 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.26$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.41 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.19-7.17 (m, 3H), 7.14- 7.08 (m, 3H), 6.49 (dd, 1H, J = 7.2, 6.5 Hz), 3.08 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.58 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.34 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 189.24, 152.09, 146.71, 143.26, 137.17, 134.94, 134.53, 130.07, 129.42, 127.24, 126.97, 126.23, 125.57, 117.81, 112.43, 39.67, 23.29, 21.40; IR (neat) *v*: 3434, 3210, 3126, 1666, 1473, 1401, 1325, 1153, 1091, 980, 767 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₁₉NO₄SNa [M+Na]⁺: 392.0927, found: 392.0923.

N-(2-(3-oxo-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1e)



Yield: 70%; white solid; m.p. 104-106 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.18$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.49 (s, 1H), 7.67-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.38 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.19 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.15-7.07 (m, 4H), 3.19 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.60 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.35 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 193.03, 143.24, 143.03, 137.29, 134.87, 134.69, 134.34, 132.58, 130.11, 129.46, 128.18, 127.33, 127.05, 126.20, 125.55, 40.64, 23.56, 21.46; IR (neat) *v*: 3447, 3241, 1658, 1494, 1658, 1415, 1336, 1162, 1092, 740 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₁₉NO₃S₂NO₂ [M+Na]⁺: 408.0699, found: 408.0691.

N-(2-(3-oxo-3-(pyridin-4-yl)propyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1f)



Yield: 54%; white solid; m.p. 42-45 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.31$ (CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH = 99:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.77 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz), 8.05 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 7.66 (d, 3H, J = 6.4 Hz), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.20 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.16-7.11 (m, 3H), 3.23 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.69 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.36 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.69, 151.00, 143.45, 141.87, 137.19, 135.08, 134.53, 130.07, 129.55, 127.48, 127.13, 126.64, 126.02, 120.95, 40.39, 23.53, 21.47; IR (neat) *v*: 3250,

3061, 2921, 2819, 1696, 1493, 1408, 1332, 1159, 1092, 815, 770 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) m/z calcd. for $C_{21}H_{21}N_2O_3S$ [M+H]⁺: 381.1267, found: 381.1272.

N-(2-(3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-oxopropyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1g)



Yield: 75%; white solid; m.p. 138-140 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.33$ (PE:EtOAc = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ 8.68 (s, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.91 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.84 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.68 (d, 2H, J = 9.0 Hz), 7.62-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 1H), 7.20-7.10 (m, 5H), 3.38 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.67 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.33 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ 200.17, 143.23, 137.41, 135.73, 135.15, 134.81, 133.40, 132.34, 130.17, 130.06, 129.56, 129.46, 128.70, 128.45, 127.73, 127.28, 127.09, 126.86, 126.20, 125.54, 123.63, 40.24, 23.75, 21.42; IR (neat) *v*: 3461, 3284, 3059, 1677, 1490, 1360, 1317, 1150, 1123, 1091, 768 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₂₆H₂₃NO₃SNa [M+Na]⁺: 452.1291, found: 452.1288.

N-(2-(3-oxobutyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1h)



Yield: 57%; white solid; m.p. 125-126 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.23$ (PE:EtOAc = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.38 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.36 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.20 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.14 (td, 1H, J = 7.2, 1.6 Hz), 7.08 (td, 1H, J = 7.6, 1.2 Hz), 7.01 (dd, 1H, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz), 2.72 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.40 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 209.71, 143.22, 137.34, 134.89, 134.66, 130.02, 129.45, 127.25, 127.01, 126.15, 125.41, 45.02, 29.66, 23.39, 21.47; IR (neat) *v*: 3382, 3096, 2983, 2811, 1703, 1328, 1156, 1091, 931, 825, 762 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₂₀NO₃S [M+H]⁺: 318.1158, found: 318.1162.

N-(2-(3-oxopentyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1i)



Yield: 60%; white solid; m.p. 108-110 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.31$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.38 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.20 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.14 (t,

1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.08 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.01 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.69 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.40 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.33 (q, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 0.99 (t, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 212.41, 143.19, 137.37, 134.95, 134.70, 130.02, 129.44, 127.26, 127.05, 126.11, 125.42, 43.73, 35.71, 23.35, 21.49, 7.60; IR (neat) *v*: 3396, 3191, 3095, 2977, 1709, 1446, 1325, 1155, 1091, 928, 826 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₂₂NO₃S [M+H]⁺: 332.1315, found: 332.1321.

N-(2-(4-methyl-3-oxopentyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1j)



Yield: 66%; white solid; m.p. 44-47 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.24$ (PE:EtOAc = 6:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.44 (s, 1H), 7.63 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.38 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.20 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.14 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.08 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.01 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.73 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.52-2.45 (m, 1H), 2.40 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.37 (s, 3H), 0.98 (d, 6H, J = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 215.84, 143.18, 137.35, 134.92, 134.65, 129.95, 129.43, 127.23, 127.06, 126.06, 125.31, 41.86, 40.68, 23.43, 21.49, 18.05; IR (neat) *v*: 3173, 2972, 2933, 2875, 1689, 1492, 1323, 1150, 1091, 935, 774 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₉H₂₄NO₃S [M+H]⁺: 346.1471, found: 346.1478.

N-(2-(4,4-dimethyl-3-oxopentyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1k)



Yield: 53%; white solid; m.p. 109-111 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.61$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.39 (s, 1H), 7.64 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.38 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.20 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.14 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.07 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.01 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.75 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.40 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.38 (s, 3H), 1.01 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 217.29, 143.18, 137.28, 134.93, 134.61, 129.89, 129.41, 127.15, 127.04, 126.03, 125.24, 43.91, 38.39, 26.21, 23.61, 21.47; IR (neat) *v*: 3433, 3362, 3129, 2971, 2869, 1692, 1493, 1328, 1159, 1092, 943, 756 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₂₆NO₃S [M+H]⁺: 360.1628, found: 360.1637.

N-(4,5-dimethoxy-2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (11)



Yield: 40%; white solid; m.p. 175-176 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.28$ (PE:EtOAc = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.34 (s, 1H), 7.88 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.60 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.54 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.41 (t, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.18 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.53 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.16 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.43 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.34 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 200.18, 147.63, 147.56, 143.19, 136.98, 136.06, 133.54, 129.38, 128.56, 128.24, 128.11, 127.14, 127.04, 111.91, 110.54, 55.89, 55.84, 40.13, 23.27, 21.44; IR (neat) *v*: 3401, 3211, 2933, 1676, 1517, 1450, 1338, 1205, 1163, 1106, 1092, 995, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₂₄H₂₅NO₅SNa [M+Na]⁺: 462.1346, found: 462.1345.

N-(2-methyl-6-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (1m)



Yield: 66%; white solid; m.p. 127-129 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.37$ (PE:EtOAc = 6:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.64 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.53 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.41 (t, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.22 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.10-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.96 (dd, 1H, J = 6.8, 2.4 Hz), 3.18 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.49 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 200.12, 143.24, 139.83, 138.94, 137.84, 136.21, 133.44, 133.07, 129.49, 128.55, 128.10, 127.60, 127.39, 127.25, 40.64, 24.06, 21.49, 19.58; IR (neat) *v*: 3447, 3229, 1681, 1597, 1446, 1333, 1208, 1160, 1092, 912, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₃H₂₃NO₃SNa [M+Na]⁺: 364.1319, found: 364.1318.

phenyl(1-tosylindolin-2-yl)methanone (6)



White solid; m.p. 172-174 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.25$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.02 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.74 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.61 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.55 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.49 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.25 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.21 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.05-6.96 (m, 2H), 5.62 (dd, 1H, J = 11.2, 5.2 Hz), 3.35 (dd, 1H, J = 16.0, 11.2 Hz), 3.08 (dd, 1H, J = 16.0, 5.2 Hz) 2.39 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 195.10, 144.32, 141.75, 134.87, 134.08, 133.57, 129.72, 129.45, 128.90, 128.78, 128.17,

127.49, 125.01, 124.20, 115.43, 65.32, 33.08, 21.55; IR (neat) *v*: 3396, 3067, 1706, 1354, 1167, 764 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for $C_{22}H_{20}NO_3S [M+H]^+$: 378.1158, found: 378.1155.

1-(2-benzoylindolin-1-yl)ethanone



Yield: 75%; white solid; m.p.: 119-121 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.19$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ration 1:1): δ 8.34 (d, 0.45H, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.00 (s, 2H), 7.66 (t, 0.46H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.60 (t, 0.54H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.56-7.48 (m, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1.65H), 7.17-7.00 (m, 2 H), 6.09 (dd, 0.49H, J = 11.2, 2.8 Hz), 5.79 (d, 0.45H, J = 11.2 Hz), 3.82 (t, 0.46H, J = 11.2), 3.60 (dd, 0.53H, J = 15.6, 9.0 Hz), 3.18 (d, 0.47H, J = 16.4 Hz), 3.02 (d, 0.54H, J = 16.4 Hz), 2.52 (s, 1.48H), 2.04 (s, 1.62H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 195.20, 194.98, 168.94, 168.14, 143.35, 141.84, 134.14, 133.48, 129.12, 128.75, 128.66, 128.15, 127.93, 125.80, 124.26, 123.78, 123.23, 117.29, 113.70, 64.36, 62.64, 33.77, 31.42, 24.53, 23.83. IR (neat) *v*: 3424, 1689, 1655, 1483, 1400, 1218, 749 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₁₅NNaO₂ [M+Na]⁺: 288.0995, found: 288.0993.

(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (S11)^{S13}



Yield: 70%; yellow oil; TLC, $R_f = 0.33$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.93 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.61 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.51 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.47-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.03 (s, 1H), 4.14 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 188.61, 140.28, 139.36, 134.93, 132.14, 129.68, 128.16, 125.91, 125.80, 122.97, 120.73, 114.83, 110.32, 31.94; IR (neat) *v*: 3058, 2944, 1636, 1512, 1464, 1391, 1259, 1233, 946, 738 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄NO [M+H]⁺: 236.1070, found: 236.1067.

(1*H*-indol-2-yl)(4-methoxyphenyl)methanone (2b)^{S1}



Yield: 93%; white solid; m.p. 183-185 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.61$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.64 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.50 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.37 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.17 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.04 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 3.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 185.84, 163.17, 137.31, 134.48, 131.53, 130.62, 127.73, 126.13, 123.02, 120.87, 113.75, 112.15, 111.83, 55.48; IR (neat) *v*: 3411, 3293, 1620, 1593, 1507, 1255, 1168, 771 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 274.0838, found: 274.0835.

(4-fluorophenyl)(1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanone (2c)^{S1}



Yield: 92%; white solid; m.p. 178-181 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.24$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.63 (s, 1H), 8.08 (dd, 2H, J = 8.8, 5.6 Hz), 7.76 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.53 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.42 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.29 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 7.25-7.18 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 185.69, 165.37 (d, J = 252 Hz), 137.58, 134.05, 131.70 (d, J = 9.0 Hz), 127.65, 126.62, 123.19, 121.11, 115.63 (d, J = 21.7 Hz), 112.44 (d, J = 45.4 Hz); ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ -106.18; IR (neat) v: 3310, 1626, 1598, 1503, 1342, 1230, 1154, 770 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁FNO [M+H]⁺: 240.0819, found: 240.0822.

furan-2-yl(1*H*-indol-2-yl)methanone (2d)^{S1}



Yield: 79%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 169-171 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.47$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.48 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.72 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz), 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.37 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.17 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.64 (t, 1H, J = 1.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 172.57, 152.74, 146.46, 137.25, 133.45, 128.00, 126.46, 123.33, 120.98, 118.52, 112.44, 112.09, 111.44; IR (neat) v: 3421, 3301, 1606, 1563, 1464, 1344, 1278, 1130, 743 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₃H₉NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 234.0525, found: 234.0525.

(1*H*-indol-2-yl)(thiophen-2-yl)methanone (2e)^{S1}



Yield: 88%; yellow solid; m.p. 152-155 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.45$ (PE:EtOAc = 5:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.59 (s, 1H), 8.06 (d, 1H, J = 3.6 Hz), 7.78-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.38 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.24 (t, 1H, J = 4.4 Hz), 7.18 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 177.86, 142.47, 137.38, 134.07, 133.22, 132.97, 128.07, 127.76, 126.40, 123.13, 121.07, 112.20, 110.66; IR (neat) *v*: 3433, 3314, 1584, 1520, 1414, 1259, 744 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₃H₉NOSNa [M+Na]⁺: 250.0297, found: 250.0293.

(1*H*-indol-2-yl)(pyridin-4-yl)methanone (2f)^{S12}



Yield: 82%; white solid; m.p. 162-164 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.22$ (CH₂Cl₂:CH₃OH = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.68 (s, 1H), 8.87 (d, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz), 7.78 (d, 2H, J = 5.2 Hz), 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.50 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.42 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.22-7.17 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 185.58, 150.41, 144.58, 138.09, 133.50, 127.57, 127.36, 123.47, 122.45, 121.43, 113.86, 112.30.

(1*H*-indol-2-yl)(naphthalen-2-yl)methanone (2g)



Yield: 90%; white solid; m.p. 166-169 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.48$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.44 (s, 1H), 8.55 (s, 1H), 8.06-7.97 (m, 3H), 7.93 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.74 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.63-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.51 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.39 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.25 (s, 1H), 7.18 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 187.06, 137.54, 135.28, 134.55, 132.45, 130.56, 129.38, 128.44, 128.19, 127.86, 127.80, 126.85, 126.53, 125.26, 123.24, 121.09, 112.76, 112.17; IR (neat) *v*: 3396, 3309, 1616, 1521, 1344, 1276, 1181, 1131, 773 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₉H₁₃NONa [M+Na]⁺: 294.0889, found: 294.0887.

1-(1*H*-indol-2-yl)ethanone (2h)^{S14}



Yield: 75%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 145-148 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.52$ (PE:EtOAc = 14:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.09 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, 1H, J = 10.8 Hz), 7.43 (d, 1H, J = 11.2 Hz), 7.35 (t, 1H, J = 10.0 Hz), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.16 (t, 1H, J = 10.0 Hz), 2.60 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 190.65, 137.44,

135.32, 127.49, 126.31, 122.98, 120.86, 112.25, 109.93, 25.82; IR (neat) *v*: 3248, 3302, 1645, 618, 1523, 1338, 1247, 1183, 799 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₀H₁₀NO [M+H]⁺: 160.0757, found: 160.0756.

1-(1*H*-indol-2-yl)propan-1-one (2i)^{S15}



Yield: 71%; yellow solid; m.p. 140-142 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): TLC, $R_f = 0.49$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); δ 9.31 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.45 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.35 (t, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.16 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 3.01 (q, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.29 (t, 3H, J = 7.6 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 194.01, 137.17, 134.90, 127.55, 126.14, 122.95, 120.85, 112.17, 108.85, 31.47, 8.75; IR (neat) *v*: 3321, 2969, 1652, 1522, 1409, 1169, 801, 738 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₁H₁₂NO [M+H]⁺: 174.0913, found: 174.0911.

1-(1*H*-indol-2-yl)-2-methylpropan-1-one (2j)



Yield: 84%; white solid; m.p. 92-94 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.53$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.22 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.44 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.35 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.23 (s, 1H), 7.16 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.53-3.46 (m, 1H), 1.29 (d, 6H, J = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 197.70, 137.35, 134.19, 127.54, 126.15, 122.96, 120.84, 112.20, 108.89, 36.15, 19.63; IR (neat) v: 3302, 2970, 1641, 1518, 1230, 1135, 749 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₁₂H₁₄NO [M+H]⁺: 188.1070, found: 188.1071.

1-(1*H*-indol-2-yl)-2,2-dimethylpropan-1-one (2k)^{S1}



Yield: 63%; white solid; m.p. 119-121 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.55$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.36 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.44 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.33 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.26 (s, 1H), 7.14 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.47 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.07, 135.93, 132.18, 127.73, 125.89, 122.93, 120.75, 111.94, 109.02, 43.39, 28.50; IR (neat) *v*: 3330, 2968, 1640, 1513, 1403, 1340, 1158, 1137, 750 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₃H₁₆NO [M+H]⁺: 202.1226, found: 202.1227.

(5,6-dimethoxy-1*H*-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2l)^{S1}



Yield: 89%; white solid; m.p. 178-180 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.35$ (PE:EtOAc = 3:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.51 (s, 1H), 7.97 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.60 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.52 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.05 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.91 (s, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 186.11, 151.12, 146.41, 138.36, 133.40, 131.97, 129.08, 128.35, 120.81, 113.18, 102.61, 93.66, 56.10, 56.04; IR (neat) *v*: 3304, 1602, 1520, 1498, 1288, 1255, 1216, 1127 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₁₅NO₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 304.0944, found: 304.0941.

(7-methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2m)^{S1}



Yield: 83%; white solid; m.p. 165-168 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.42$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 9.25 (s, 1H), 8.99 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.63 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.58-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.18 (s, 2H), 7.09 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 2.57 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 187.26, 138.04, 137.38, 134.08, 132.30, 129.18, 128.44, 127.33, 126.68, 121.51, 121.32, 120.82, 113.39, 16.73; IR (neat) *v*: 3426, 3281, 1621, 1527, 1334, 1255, 731 cm⁻¹; HRMS (MALDI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄NO [M+H]⁺: 381.1267, found: 381.1272.

(3-methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)(phenyl)methanone (2n)^{S1}



Yield: 78%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 139-142 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.52$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.89 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.68 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.60 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.52 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.42-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.17 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 2.28 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 189.28, 139.40, 136.54, 131.97, 131.59, 129.02, 128.80, 128.47, 126.51, 121.26, 120.46, 120.21, 111.82, 11.20; IR (neat) *v*: 3411, 3313, 1607, 1523, 1338, 1270, 951, 739 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄NO [M+H]⁺: 236.1070, found: 236.1074.

tert-butyl 2-(3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropyl)phenylcarbamate (3b)



Yield: 82%; white solid; m.p. 90-92 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.21$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.94 (d, 2H, J = 9.2 Hz), 7.72 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.18 (t, 2H, J = 9.2 Hz), 7.03 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 6.91 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.33 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.00 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.54 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 198.39, 163.67, 153.87, 136.12, 132.08, 130.39, 129.56, 129.46, 126.87, 124.12, 123.17, 113.71, 80.03, 55.46, 39.23, 28.39, 24.52; IR (neat) *v*: 3381, 2980, 1701, 1671, 1523, 1454, 1239, 1161, 1025, 790 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₂₆NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 356.1856, found: 356.1860.

tert-butyl 2-(3-oxo-3-p-tolylpropyl)phenylcarbamate (3c)



Yield: 96%; white solid; m.p. 88-89 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.25$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.87 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.25 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.18 (t, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.04 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 3.36 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.01 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.50, 153.84, 144.22, 136.10, 134.02, 132.03, 129.44, 129.27, 128.20, 126.90, 124.16, 123.20, 80.05, 39.45, 28.40, 24.48, 21.63; IR (neat) *v*: 3373, 2983, 1700, 1686, 1521, 1454, 1240, 1163, 781 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₂₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 340.1907, found: 340.1911.

tert-butyl 2-(3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-oxopropyl)phenylcarbamate (3d)



Yield: 89%; white solid; m.p. 89-92 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.28$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.00-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.21-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.11 (t, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.04 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 3.34 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.01 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.54 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 198.25, 165.88 (d, J = 253.5 Hz), 153.84, 136.05, 132.92, 131.98, 130.75 (d, J = 9.3 Hz), 129.44, 127.01, 124.31, 123.40, 115.72 (d, J = 21.8 Hz), 80.13, 39.49, 28.38, 24.46; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ -104.58; IR (neat) *v*: 3373, 3314, 2979, 1690, 1597, 1525, 1244, 1157 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₂₃FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 344.1656, found: 344.1659.

tert-butyl 2-(3-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-oxopropyl)phenylcarbamate (3e)



Yield: 95%; white solid; m.p. 85-87 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.25$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.90 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.70 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.42 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.22-7.15 (m, 2H), 7.04 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.34 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.01 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.53 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 198.66, 153.83, 139.85, 136.02, 134.77, 131.93, 129.50, 129.44, 128.93, 127.04, 124.35, 123.44, 80.16, 39.56, 28.38, 24.40; IR (neat) *v*: 3383, 2979, 1696, 1522, 1454, 1243, 1165 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₂₃CINO₃ [M+H]⁺: 360.1361, found: 360.1362.

tert-butyl 2-(3-(furan-2-yl)-3-oxopropyl)phenylcarbamate (3f)



Yield: 87%; white solid; m.p. 78-82 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.26$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.70 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.50 (br s, 1H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 3H), 7.03 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 6.52-6.51 (m, 1H), 3.23 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.98 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.54 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 188.92, 153.80, 152.36, 146.54, 136.00, 131.67, 129.43, 126.99, 124.22, 123.32, 117.47, 112.32, 80.08, 39.28, 28.38, 24.22; IR (neat) v: 3415, 3391, 1980, 1707, 1664, 1468, 1236, 1159, 1020, 774 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₁₈H₂₂NO₄ [M+H]⁺: 316.1543, found: 316.1545.

tert-butyl 2-(3-oxo-3-(thiophen-2-yl)propyl)phenylcarbamate (3g)



Yield: 90%; white solid; m.p. 92-94 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.25$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.70 (t, 2H, J = 4.0 Hz), 7.62 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 7.48 (br s, 1H), 7.21-7.16 (m, 2H), 7.10 (t, 1H, J = 4.0Hz), 7.04 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.31 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 3.00 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.54 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 192.64, 153.80, 143.55, 135.99, 133.89, 132.20, 129.40, 128.12, 126.98, 124.27, 123.42, 80.06, 40.08, 28.35, 24.56; IR (neat) v: 3335, 2977, 1704, 1647, 1521, 1455, 1414, 1242, 1158, 1052, 739 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₂₂NO₃S [M+H]⁺: 332.1315, found: 332.1313.

tert-butyl 2-(3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-3-oxopropyl)phenylcarbamate (3h)



Yield: 91%; white solid; m.p. 105-108 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.16$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.47 (s, 1H), 8.03 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.94 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.89-7.85 (m, 2H), 7.74 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.63-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.21 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.06 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 3.52 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 3.08 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.55 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.79, 153.87, 136.09, 135.65, 133.77, 132.41, 132.06, 129.89, 129.55, 129.49, 128.60, 128.45, 127.75, 126.97, 126.83, 124.27, 123.70, 123.33, 80.12, 39.67, 28.39, 24.57; IR (neat) v: 3411, 2980, 2931, 1727, 1675, 1507, 1439, 1231, 1149 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₄H₂₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 376.1907, found: 376.1905.

tert-butyl 2-(4-methyl-3-oxopentyl)phenylcarbamate (3i)



Yield: 89%; white solid; m.p. 89-90 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.20$ (PE:EtOAc = 15:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7,68 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.40 (br s, 1H), 7.18 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.10 (d, 1H, J = 6.4 Hz), 7.02 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.85-2.80 (m, 4H), 2.59-2.52 (m, 1H) 1.53 (s, 9H), 1.04 (d, 6H, J = 6.8Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 214.96, 153.80, 135.93, 131.99, 129.31, 126.87, 124.17, 123.27, 80.03, 41.05, 40.94, 28.39, 24.27, 18.10; IR (neat) *v*: 3344, 2973, 2931, 2895, 2878, 1716, 1697, 1587, 1515, 1242, 1161 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₂₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 292.1907, found: 292.1912.

tert-butyl 2-(4,4-dimethyl-3-oxopentyl)phenylcarbamate (3j)



Yield: 70%; white solid; m.p. 63-66 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.16$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.69 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.33 (br s, 1H), 7.18 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.10 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.02 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.87-2.80 (m, 4H), 1.53 (s, 9H), 1.07 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 216.25, 153.78, 135.91, 132.00, 129.30, 126.85, 124.13, 123.18, 80.04, 44.02, 37.52, 28.39, 26.26, 24.62; IR (neat) *v*: 3379, 3354, 2973, 2934, 2870, 1720, 1689, 1589, 1519, 1449, 1366, 1302, 1237, 1155, 1047, 763 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₂₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 306.2064, found: 306.2066. Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2013

tert-butyl 4,5-dimethoxy-2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenylcarbamate (3k)



Yield: 85%; white solid; m.p. 109-111 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.29$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.95 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.55 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.44 (t, 3H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.26 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 3.34 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.96 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.53 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.98, 154.13, 147.53, 145.95, 136.54, 133.33, 129.01, 128.58, 128.06, 124.59, 112.33, 107.92, 79.91, 56.14, 55.93, 39.78, 28.41, 24.40; IR (neat) *v*: 3355, 2995, 2934, 1723, 1671, 1525, 1448, 1167, 1120, 863, 759 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₂₂H₂₈NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 386.1962, found: 386.1959.

tert-butyl 5-fluoro-2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenylcarbamate (31)^{S16}



Yield: 83%; white solid; m.p. 82-83 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.28$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.96 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.85 (br s, 1H), 7.63 (d, 1H, J = 10.8 Hz), 7.57 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.45 (t, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.09 (dd, 1H, J = 8.4, 6.4 Hz), 6.71 (td, 1H, J = 8.4, 6.8 Hz), 3.36 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.97 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.55 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 199.89, 161.50 (d, J = 241.7 Hz), 153.33, 137.59 (d, J = 11.0 Hz), 136.30, 133.50, 130.37 (d, J = 9.2 Hz), 128.62, 128.07, 126.39, 110.43 (d, J = 21.3 Hz), 109.21 (d, J = 25.7 Hz), 80.48, 39.56, 28.32, 23.69; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ -114.76; IR (neat) *v*: 3397, 2979, 1700, 1528, 1472, 1242, 1166, 978 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₂₃FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 344.1656, found: 344.1656.

tert-butyl 2-(4-methoxybenzoyl)indoline-1-carboxylate (4b)



Yield: 81%; white solid; m.p. 110-112 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.29$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1): δ 7.99-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.97-6.87 (m, 3H), 5.83-5.59 (m, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.60 (dd, 1H, J = 16.4, 12.0 Hz), 3.09-2.98 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 194.78, 163.72, 153.95, 151.67, 143.13, 138.86,

135.85, 131.21, 130.62, 127.99, 127.09, 124.43, 122.39, 114.70, 114.03, 81.10, 80.20, 62.94, 55.47, 32.79, 28.41, 28.04; IR (neat) *v*: 3350, 2976, 1681, 1599, 1484, 1377, 1235, 1166 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for $C_{21}H_{27}N_2O_4$ [M+NH₄]⁺: 371.1965, found: 371.1971.

tert-butyl 2-(4-methylbenzoyl)indoline-1-carboxylate (4c)



Yield: 84%; white solid; m.p. 141-143 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.48$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1): δ 7.98 (d, 0.67H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.86 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.57 (d, 0.35H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.30-7.20 (m, 3H), 7.06 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 6.93 (t, 1H, J = 6.0 Hz), 5.84-5.64 (m, 1H), 3.63-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.07-2.97 (m, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 195.77, 151.64, 144.33, 143.11, 131.67, 129.52, 128.47, 128.01, 124.43, 122.40, 114.69, 82.11, 81.12, 63.04, 62.38, 32.69, 29.66, 28.03, 21.66; IR (neat) *v*: 3373, 2974, 1701, 1488, 1399, 1161, 1051, 756 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₁H₂₄NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 338.1751, found: 338.1754.

tert-butyl 2-(4-fluorobenzoyl)indoline-1-carboxylate (4d)



Yield: 85%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 68-70 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.42$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1): δ 7.99 (t, 2.58H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.56 (d, 0.36H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.23 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.17 (t, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.09 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.96 (t, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 5.82-5.61 (m, 1H), 3.66-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.10-2.98 (m, 1H), 1.59 (s, 3.25H), 1.32 (s, 5.75H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 194.74, 165.90 (d, J = 254.2 Hz), 151.49, 142.97, 131.00 (d, J = 9.6 Hz), 128.16, 124.51, 122.58, 116.08 (d, J = 21.4 Hz), 114.75, 81.32, 63.15, 32.59, 28.36, 28.02; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ -104.06, -104.35; IR (neat) *v*: 3363, 2979, 1713, 1689, 1600, 1487, 1397, 1226, 1157, 749 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 342.1500, found: 342.1505.

tert-butyl 2-(4-chlorobenzoyl)indoline-1-carboxylate (4e)



Yield: 85%; white solid; m.p. 114-117 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.41$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1): δ 7.98 (d, 0.58H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.89 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.56 (d, 0.40H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.47 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.25-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.95 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 5.79-5.60 (m, 1H), 3.64-3.57 (m, 1H), 3.08-2.97 (m, 1H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 195.08, 151.43, 142.94, 139.98, 132.53, 129.97, 129.72, 129.21, 128.15, 127.34, 124.50, 122.58, 114.71, 82.33, 81.34, 63.15, 62.44, 32.50, 28.33, 28.02; IR (neat) *v*: 3389, 2977, 1702, 1488, 1396, 1160, 1090, 757 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁CINO₃ [M+H]⁺: 358.1204, found: 358.1204.

tert-butyl 2-(furan-2-carbonyl)indoline-1-carboxylate (4f)



Yield: 86%; white solid; m.p. 113-116 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.28$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1): δ 7.95 (d, 0.65H, J = 6.4 Hz), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.55 (s, 0.3H), 7.21 (s, 2H), 7.08 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.94 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.55-6.54 (m, 1H), 5.57-5.27 (m, 1H), 3.62-3.54 (m, 1H), 3.10-3.04 (m, 1H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.34 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 185.99, 151.45, 150.20, 146.88, 142.89, 127.93, 124.44, 122.53, 118.02, 114.58, 112.39, 81.33, 63.30, 32.56, 28.34, 27.91; IR (neat) *v*: 3345, 3130, 2981, 1704, 1678, 1484, 1391, 1279, 1166, 1054, 759 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₂₃N₂O₄ [M+NH₄]⁺: 331.1652, found: 331.1651.

tert-butyl 2-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)indoline-1-carboxylate (4g)



Yield: 82%; white solid; m.p. 100-103 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.51$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1): δ 7.97 (d, 0.61H, J = 6.0 Hz), 7.71-7.67 (m, 2.3H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.13-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.92 (m, 1H), 5.62-5.39 (m, 1H), 3.64-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.17-3.12 (m, 1H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 190.05, 151.49, 142.79, 140.30, 134.11, 131.96, 128.30, 128.01, 127.69, 124.53, 122.65, 114.64, 81.57, 64.61, 32.93, 28.29, 27.88; IR (neat) *v*: 3398, 2977, 1704, 1672, 1484, 1392, 1160, 762 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₈H₂₃N₂O₃S [M+NH₄]⁺: 347.1424, found: 347.1425.

tert-butyl 2-(2-naphthoyl)indoline-1-carboxylate (4h)



Yield: 82%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 141-143 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.38$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2.7:1): δ 8.82 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.10-8.03 (m, 3H), 7.83 (d, 0.74H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.72 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.67 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 H), 7.51 (d, 0.3H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.22 (t, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.16 (d, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 6.95 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.18-6.13 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.74 (m, 1H), 3.08-2.98 (m, 1H), 1.54 (s, 2.7H), 1.24 (s, 6.3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 100 MHz): δ 196.32, 150.98, 142.89, 135.23, 132.13, 131.05, 130.41, 129.58, 128.98, 128.67, 128.48, 127.71, 127.44, 127.11, 124.82, 123.68, 122.21, 113.53, 80.20, 62.13, 32.14, 27.56; IR (neat) *v*: 3431, 2976, 2926, 1689, 1485, 1392, 1367, 1160, 761 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₄H₂₄NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 374.1751, found: 374.1754.

tert-butyl 2-isobutyrylindoline-1-carboxylate (4i)



Yield: 75%; white solid; m.p. 74-77 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.30$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1) : δ 7.92 (d, 0.6H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.48 (d, 0.4H, J = 2.8 Hz), 7.22-7.15 (m, 1H), 7.08 (d, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.93 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 5.10-4.94 (m, 1H), 3.56-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.96-2.84 (m, 2H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 6H), 1.14 (d, 6H, J = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 210.65, 151.78, 142.99, 127.94, 127.62, 124.77, 124.35, 122.52, 114.82, 81.38, 65.10, 64.38, 37.31, 36.52, 31.96, 31.10, 28.30, 19.12, 18.10; IR (neat) *v*: 3381, 2973, 2934, 2874, 1729, 1701, 1602, 1484, 1465, 1393, 1322, 1147, 1062, 1009, 775 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₁₇H₂₄NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 290.1751, found: 290.1749.

tert-butyl 2-pivaloylindoline-1-carboxylate (4j)



Yield: 88%; white solid; m.p. 100-103 °C;TLC, $R_f = 0.35$ (PE:EtOAc = 19:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 5:4) : δ 7.95 (s, 0.42H), 7.50 (s, 0.5H), 7.17 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 6.90 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 5.38-5.24 (m, 1H), 3.52-3.38 (m, 1H), 2.94-2.75 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 4.9H), 1.49 (s, 4.1H), 1.28 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 211.03, 209.72, 152.17, 151.65, 143.38, 142.41, 128.46, 127.74, 127.22, 124.63, 124.16, 122.23, 122.06, 114.88, 114.50, 81.74, 81.25, 62.00, 60.85, 43.05, 42.56, 32.28, 31.81, 28.38, 27.60, 26.92; IR (neat) *v*: 3333, 2980, 2969, 2932, 2871, 1694, 1600, 1485,

1395, 1367, 1322, 1266, 1145, 1070, 1022, 746 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C₁₈H₂₆NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 304.1907, found: 304.1909.

tert-butyl 2-benzoyl-5,6-dimethoxyindoline-1-carboxylate (4k)



Yield: 79%; white solid; m.p. 121-124 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.31$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2.5:1): δ 8.00-7.93 (m, 2H), 7.71 (s, 0.68H), 7.60 (q, 1H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.50 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.32 (s, 0.28H), 6.65-6.63 (m, 1H), 5.87-5.65 (m, 1H), 3.94 (s, 2.17H), 3.89 (s, 0.8H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.61-3.53 (m, 1H), 3.05-2.92 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.32 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 196.18, 151.57, 148.78, 144.66, 136.77, 134.12, 133.41, 128.78, 128.65, 128.58, 128.27, 117.95, 108.62, 108.32, 100.10, 99.65, 80.99, 63.65, 56.33, 55.98, 32.37, 28.30, 27.99; IR (neat) *v*: 3379, 2991, 2934, 1697, 1508, 1407, 1304, 1218, 1155, 1122, 857 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m*/*z* calcd. for C₂₂H₂₆NO₅ [M+H]⁺: 384.1805, found: 384.1811.

tert-butyl 2-(2-iodo-3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)-4,5-dimethoxyphenylcarbamate (7)



Yield: 18%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 188-190 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.30$ (PE:EtOAc = 4:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 7.93 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.55 (t, 1H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.43 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.11 (brs, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 5.63 (dd, 1H, J = 10.0, 3.6 Hz) 3.82 (s, 6H), 3.72 (t, 1H, J = 12.4 Hz), 3.29 (dd, 1H, J = 14.4 Hz, 3.6 Hz), 1.57 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 195.23, 154.23, 148.22, 146.26, 133.84, 133.75, 128.96, 128.73, 128.71, 123.78, 112.58, 108.68, 80.18, 56.21, 55.88, 36.27, 28.45, 23.60; IR (neat) *v*: 3346, 2975, 2934, 1716, 1678, 1597, 1521, 1448, 1366, 1159, 9993 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₂H₂₆NO₅ [M+Na]⁺: 534.0748, found: 534.0742.

tert-butyl 2-benzoyl-6-fluoroindoline-1-carboxylate (4l)



Yield: 92%; pale yellow solid; m.p. 94-96 °C; TLC, $R_f = 0.35$ (PE:EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, two isomers ratio 2:1): δ 7.95 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.74 (d, 0.69H, J = 6.4 Hz), 7.61 (t, 1H, J = 6.8

Hz), 7.51 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.29 (d, 0.33H, J = 6.4 Hz), 6.69 (t, 1H, J = 6.8 Hz), 6.61 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz) 5.90-5.72 (m, 1H), 3.60-3.52 (m, 1H), 3.02-2.94 (m, 1H), 1.60 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 195.74, 162.97 (d, J = 240.9 Hz), 151.37, 144.54 (d, J = 12.1 Hz), 134.01, 133.60, 128.89, 128.31, 125.28, 125.20, 124.83 (d, J = 10.0 Hz), 122.86, 108.75 (d, J = 22.8 Hz), 103.01 (d, J = 29.3 Hz), 81.60, 63.74, 31.90, 27.93; ¹⁹F NMR (CDCl₃, 376 MHz): δ -113.83, -113.93; IR (neat) *v*: 3408, 3004, 2978, 1703, 1492, 1396, 1155, 859 cm⁻¹; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd. for C₂₀H₂₁FNO₃ [M+H]⁺: 364.1319, found: 364.1318.

Figure 1. Crystallographic Data of the Product 4f



The X-ray diffraction data were collected on Bruker SMART-1000 CCD diffractometer. Crystal data for **4f** C₁₈ H₁₉NO₄: Mr = 313.34, colorless, T = 113(2) K, size = 0.14 x 0.12 x 0.06 mm³, Monoclinic, space group P2(I)/c, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å, a = 14.325(5) Å, b = 7.607(2) Å, c = 16.273(6) Å, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$, $\beta = 106.477(7)^{\circ}$, $\gamma = 90^{\circ}$, V = 1700.4(10) Å³, Z = 4, $\rho_{calcd} = 1.224$ Mg/m³, $\mu = 0.087$ mm⁻¹, reflections collected/unique = 17109/4041, R(int) = 0.0436, $R_I = 0.0497$, $wR_2 = 0.1036$ ($I > 2\sigma I$), GOF = 1.039. CCDC 901326 contains the supplementary crystallographic data. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via <u>www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif</u>.

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NMR Spectra of the Substrates and Products

Compound 1a:



N-(2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)benzenesulfonamide:



 $\it N-(2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl) phenyl)-4-nitrobenzenesulfonamide:$



N-(2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)methanesulfonamide:


N-(2-(3-oxo-3-phenylpropyl)phenyl)acetamide:



Compound **3a**:



Compound S10:



Compound 1b:





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Compound 1d:





Compound 1e:





Compound 1f:



ppm (t1)



Compound 1g:





Compound 1h:





Compound 1i:





Compound **1j**:





Compound 1k:



ppm (t1)

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Compound 11:



ppm (t1)



Compound **1m**:



S52



Compound 1n:





Compound 6:





1-(2-benzoylindolin-1-yl)ethanone:





Compound S11:





Compound 2a:





Compound 2b:





Compound 2c:







Compound 2d:





Compound 2e:

200 ppm (t1)



100

Τ

150

0

50

Compound 2f:



Compound 2g:

200

ppm (t1)





Compound 2h:



Compound 2i:



Compound **2j**:



Compound 2k:



Compound 21:



Compound 2m:



Compound 2n:



Compound **3b**:


Compound 3c:



Compound 3d:



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Compound 3e:





Compound **3f**:





Compound **3g**:





Compound **3h**:





Compound 3i:



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Compound **3j**:



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Compound 3k:



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Compound 31:







Compound 4a:





Compound 4b:





Compound 4c:





Compound 4d:



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Compound 4e:



ppm (t1)



Compound 4f:





Compound **4g**:





Compound 4h:





Compound 4i:





Compound **4j**:



ppm (t1)



Compound 4k:





Compound 7:



S95



Compound 41:







Compound S12:



Compound 5:



Compound 10:



Compound 12:

