Supporting Information for

"A Hydrogen Borrowing Annulation Strategy for the Stereocontrolled

Synthesis of Saturated Aza-Heterocycles"

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Contents

1.		General Information	S2
2.		Extended Optimization Table for Enantiospecific Annulation	S4
3.		General Procedures	S 5
4.		Experimental Procedures	S6
	4.1.	Synthesis of Starting Materials	S6
	4.2.	Hydrogen Borrowing Annulation	S12
	4.3	Resubjection Experiment	S48
5.		References	S49
6.		NMR spectra	S50

1. General Information

All reactions were performed in flame-dried reaction vessels under an argon atmosphere, unless otherwise stated. Anhydrous solvents were obtained from MBRAUN SP-5 solvent purification system and were dried by passage through double filtration columns under nitrogen. Anhydrous benzylamine (≥99.5%, purified by redistillation) was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. All other reagents were acquired from Sigma Aldrich, Fluorochem, Acros Organics, Alfa Aesar or TCI and used without further purification. Brine refers to a saturated aqueous solution of NaCI.

Reactions were monitored by TLC using Merck Silicagel 60 F_{254} aluminium-backed silica plates (particle size 0.20 mm) and visualised by exposure to UV light (λ = 254 nm) and/or staining and heating with phosphomolybdic acid, vanillin or potassium permanganate as appropriate. Flash column chromatography was performed using Merck Geduran[®] Silicagel 60 (40–63 µm) according to the method of Still and co-workers.¹ The required solvent system is specified in parentheses and where mixtures of solvents are described, the ratios are given as volume:volume. *N*-Benzyl piperidine and pyrrolidine products were purified on pre-basified silica (as noted in **General Procedure A** and **B**) which was prepared as follows; silica (400 g), pentane (250 mL), Et₂O (250 mL) and triethylamine (5 mL) were combined in a 1 L beaker and stirred for 15 minutes. The solvent was allowed to evaporate overnight, and the resulting silica could be stored in a sealed bottle for a few weeks.

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on 400 or 500 MHz spectrometers at ambient temperature, unless otherwise stated. ¹H and ¹³C spectra were referenced to residual solvent peaks. Chemical shifts (δ) are recorded in parts per million (ppm) to the nearest 0.01 ppm for ¹H NMR or 0.1 ppm for ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR, except where additional precision was required to distinguish two close peaks. Coupling constants (*J*) are measured in hertz (Hz) and quoted to the nearest 0.1 Hz. Peaks are assigned as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), pentet (p), heptet (hept), multiplet (m), broad (br.) or a combination such as doublet of doublets (dd), doublet of triplets (dt) etc. Multiplicities are based on appearance rather than interpretation. For cyclic compounds, the abbreviation 'ax' denotes the axial proton and 'eq' the equatorial proton. For diastereotopic CH₂ groups in acyclic molecules or in cases where it was not possible to definitively assign axial *vs* equatorial environments, the CH₂ protons are labelled 'a' and 'b'. ¹H NMR yields were calculated by integration with respect to an internal standard (1,1,2,2-tetracholoroethane) run with an extended relaxation delay of 25 seconds.

Chiral phase HPLC was performed on an Agilent 1260 Series HPLC unit equipped with UV-vis diodearray detector, fitted with the appropriate Daicel Chiralpak column (dimensions: 0.46 cm ø x 25 cm) along with the corresponding guard column (0.4 cm ϕ x 1 cm). Wavelengths (λ) are reported in nm, retention times (t_R) are reported in minutes and solvent flow rates are reported in mL min⁻¹. The Cbzprotected saturated heterocycles are extremely non-polar and we observed significant variation in their retention times from day to day. It was therefore essential to run enantiopure samples back to back with the corresponding authentic racemic sample.

Fourier-transformed infrared (FT-IR) spectra were recorded as a thin film or solid on a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer equipped with a Pike Miracle Attenuated Total Reflectance sampling accessory. Absorption maxima are quoted in wavenumbers (cm⁻¹). The abbreviation br. denotes a broad peak.

Electrospray ionisation (ESI) HRMS were recorded on a Thermo Exactive orbitrap spectrometer equipped with a Waters Equity LC system, with a flow rate of 0.2 mL/min using water:methanol:formic acid (10:89.9:0.1) as eluent. The system uses a heated electrospray ionisation (HESI-II) probe for ESI⁺ and has a resolution of 50,000 FWHM under conditions for maximum sensitivity, with an accuracy of better than 5 ppm for 24 h following external calibration on the day of analysis. The mass reported is that containing the most abundant isotopes, with each value rounded to 4 decimal places and within 5 ppm of the calculated mass.

Melting point analysis was carried out using a Lecia VMTG heated-stage microscope equipped with a Testo 720 thermometer.

Optical rotations were recorded on a Schmidt Haensch Unipol L2000 polarimeter in a cell with a path length of 1 dm (using the sodium D line, 589 nm). Concentrations are reported in g/100 mL. Temperatures are reported in °C.

P	h ^{NH} 2 HO	ОН	1 mol% [lrCp [،] 2 mol% ba	FII	N Me
1	1 .5 equiv.	Йе (–)- 2i >99:1 er	solvent (2 T, 16 hrs		(+)- 3 i
Entry	Base	Solvent	T/°C	Yield / % ^b	erc
1	-	Toluene	110	(54)	57:43
2	NaHCO ₃	Toluene	110	92(80)	71:29
3	KHCO₃	Toluene	110	85	73:27
4	CsHCO ₃	Toluene	110	98	74:26
5	NaOAc	Toluene	110	90(86)	62:38
6	KOAc	Toluene	110	95	62:38
7	Na ₂ CO ₃	Toluene	110	94	67:33
8	K ₂ CO ₃	Toluene	110	61	54:46
9	Cs ₂ CO ₃	Toluene	110	21	78:22
10	NaOH	Toluene	110	94	76:24
11	КОН	Toluene	110	92	71:29
12	CsOH.xH ₂ O	Toluene	110	n.r.	-
13	^t BuOK	Toluene	110	88	69:31
14	^t BuOK (5 mol%)	Toluene	110	n.r.	-
15	^t BuOK (10 mol%)	Toluene	110	n.r.	-
16	CsHCO ₃	Heptane	110	82	76:24
17	CsHCO ₃	^t BuOH	110	84	76:24
18	CsHCO ₃	TFE	110	69	56:44
19	CsHCO ₃	1,4-dioxane	110	85	79:21
20	CsHCO ₃	CPME	110	81	80:20
21	CsHCO ₃	-	110	93	82:18
22	CsHCO ₃	Water	110	79	84:16
23	-	Water	110	79	83:17
24	-	Brine	110	81	65:35
25	CsHCO ₃	1:1 Water:CPME	110	95	81:19
26	-	Water	65	11	80:20
27	-	Water	70	41	85:15
28	-	Water	75	61	88:12
29	-	Water	80	69(72)	90:10
30	-	Water	90	78	86:14
31	-	Water	100	82	85:15

2. Extended Optimization Table for Enantiospecific Annulation^a

(a) Reaction conditions: diol (–)-**2i** (1 equiv), benzylamine (1.5 equiv), [Cp*IrCl₂]₂ (1 mol%), base (2 mol%), solvent (2 M), 65-110 °C, 16 h. (b) Yields determined by ¹H NMR analysis with 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane as an internal standard. Yields in parentheses refer to isolated material after column chromatography. (c) Enantiomeric purity determined after conversion to the corresponding Cbz-protected amine by HPLC using a chiral stationary phase (see Experimental Procedures for details).

3. General Procedures

3.1 General procedure A: Hydrogen borrowing alkylation of amines with diols in toluene

To a 2-5 mL Biotage[®] microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added the appropriate alcohol substrate (1.0 equiv.), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (1.0 mol%) and NaHCO₃ (2.0 mol%). The vial was sealed with a microwave vial crimp cap (containing a Reseal[®] septum), evacuated under vacuum and refilled with argon three times. Anhydrous toluene (2 M) was added *via* syringe, followed by the appropriate amine (1.5 equiv.). The vial was sealed with Parafilm[®], placed in a preheated oil bath and stirred at 110 °C for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under a flow of nitrogen. Purification by column chromatography (SiO₂ was basified with Et₃N prior to use, see General Information for details) afforded the piperidine product.

3.2 General procedure B: Hydrogen borrowing alkylation of amines with diols in water

To a 2-5 mL Biotage[®] microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added the appropriate alcohol substrate (1.0 equiv.) and $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (1.0 mol%). The vial was sealed with a microwave vial crimp cap (containing a Reseal[®] septum), evacuated under vacuum and refilled with argon three times. Deionised water (2 M) was added *via* syringe, followed by the appropriate amine (1.5 equiv.). The vial was sealed with Parafilm[®], placed in a preheated oil bath and stirred at the appropriate temperature for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 × 10 mL). The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (SiO₂ was basified with Et₃N prior to use, see General Information for details) afforded the title compound.

3.3 General procedure C: Carboxybenzyl (Cbz) protection for HPLC analysis

To a 2-5 mL Biotage[®] microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added the appropriate *N*-benzyl substrate (1.0 equiv.). Benzyl chloroformate (3 M in toluene, 6.0 equiv.) was added slowly *via* syringe. The vial was sealed with a microwave vial crimp cap (containing a Reseal[®] septum) and equipped with a balloon (caution: gas evolution!). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and transferred directly onto a silica column. Purification by column chromatography (SiO₂) afforded the title compound.

4. Experimental Procedures

4.1 Synthesis of Starting Materials

2-Benzylpentane-1,5-diol, rac-2k



LiAlH₄ (1.20 g, 38.0 mmol) was suspended in anhydrous THF (150mL) at 0 °C and a solution of 3-benzyltetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-2-one² (2.00 g, 10.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (25 mL) added dropwise. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, diluted with a further portion of THF (100 mL) and quenched with dropwise addition of water (1.2 mL) followed by 15% aq. NaOH (1.2 mL) and water (3.6 mL). The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 10 minutes after which MgSO₄ was added, and the mixture was stirred for a further 30 minutes at room temperature. The mixture was filtered through Celite[®] eluting with Et₂O and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5) afforded diol *rac*-**2k** as a viscous, colourless oil (1.74 g, 85%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.30-7.26 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.21-7.17 (3H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.66-3.55 (3H, m, C<u>H₂-1_a</u> and C<u>H₂-5</u>), 3.50 (1H, dt, *J* = 10.7, 5.3 Hz, C<u>H₂-1_b</u>), 2.67-2.59 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-6</u>), 2.03-2.01 (1H, m, O<u>H</u>), 2.00-1.98 (1H, m, O<u>H</u>), 1.86-1.79 (1H, m, C<u>H-2</u>), 1.67-1.54 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-4</u>), 1.52-1.45 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-3_a</u>), 1.41-1.34 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-3_b</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 140.8, 129.2, 128.4, 126.0, 64.5, 63.0, 42.3, 37.9, 29.8, 26.9. The data are consistent with the literature.³

(S)-2-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol, (+)-2j



Racemic: LiAlH₄ (1.45 g, 38.3 mmol) was suspended in anhydrous THF (50 mL) at 0 °C and 2-phenylglutaric anhydride (2.43 g, 12.8 mmol) was added portionwise. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and then heated at reflux, with stirring, for 4 hours. The reaction was cooled to 0 °C, diluted with a further portion of THF (50 mL) and quenched with dropwise addition of water (1.5 mL) followed by 15% aq. NaOH (1.5 mL), and water (4.5 mL). The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 10 minutes after which MgSO₄ was added and the mixture stirred for a further 30 minutes. The mixture was filtered through Celite[®] (eluting with Et₂O) and

concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5) afforded the title compound *rac*-**2j** (1.70 g, 74%) as a viscous, colourless oil.

Enantioenriched: (+)-**2j** (>99:1 e.r.) was prepared by preparative SFC separation of racemic diol *rac*-**2j** using a Chiralpak[®] ID column, 80:20 CO₂:MeOH, 10 mL min⁻¹, 260 nm, 35°C, 20 μ L injections of 100 mg/mL diol *rac*-**2j** in MeOH; t_r (*S*) = 4.3 min, t_r (*R*) = 5.0 min. Absolute configuration was determined to be (*S*) by comparison of the optical rotation value with literature data.⁴

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.19 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.80-3.71 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-1</u>), 3.63-3.56 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-5</u>), 2.84-2.76 (1H, m, C<u>H-2</u>), 1.87-1.79 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-3_a</u>), 1.70-1.19 (5H, m, C<u>H₂-3_b</u>, C<u>H₂-4</u>, 2 × O<u>H</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 142.3, 128.8, 128.2, 126.9, 67.6, 62.8, 48.5, 30.5, 28.3.

These spectral data are consistent with the literature.⁵

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ = +22.5 (c = 1.0, EtOH). Literature value $[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ = +18.3 (c = 1.0, EtOH, 80% ee);⁴

Enantiomeric excess was determined by SFC; Chiralpak[®] ID column (5-50% MeOH:CO₂ gradient over 3.5 min, 2 mL min⁻¹, DAD 210-400 nm, 40 °C):



(S)-2-IsobutyIbutane-1,4-diol, (–)-2al



Racemic: LiAlH₄ (661 mg, 17.4 mmol) was suspended in anhydrous THF (40 mL) at 0 °C and a solution of isobutylsuccinic acid (1.01 g, 5.80 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and then heated to 70 °C for 16 hours. The reaction was then cooled to 0 °C, diluted with Et₂O (50 mL) and quenched by dropwise addition of water (0.66 mL) followed by 15% aq. NaOH (0.66 mL) and water (2.0 mL). The mixture was warmed

to room temperature and stirred for 10 minutes after which MgSO₄ was added, and the mixture was stirred for a further 30 minutes at room temperature. The mixture was filtered through Celite[®] eluting with Et₂O and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5) afforded diol *rac*-**2al** as a viscous, colourless oil (671 mg, 79%).

Enantioenriched: LiAlH₄ (678 mg, 17.9 mmol) was suspended in anhydrous THF (40 mL) at 0 °C and a solution of (*S*)-(–)-2-isobutylsuccinic acid 1-methyl ester (1.12 g, 5.95 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and then heated to 70 °C for 16 hours. The reaction was then cooled to 0 °C, diluted with Et₂O (50 mL) and quenched by dropwise addition of water (0.68 mL) followed by 15% aq. NaOH (0.68 mL) and water (2.1 mL). The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 10 minutes after which MgSO₄ was added, and the mixture was stirred for a further 30 minutes at room temperature. The mixture was filtered through Celite[®] eluting with Et₂O and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5) afforded diol (–)-**2al** as a viscous, colourless oil (691 mg, 79%).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.75 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.7, 6.4, 4.4 Hz, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>), 3.66 – 3.58 (4H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>, C<u>H₂-1_a</u> and 2 x O<u>H</u>), 3.41 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.5, 7.3 Hz, C<u>H₂-1_b</u>), 1.76 – 1.47 (4H, m, C<u>H-2</u>, C<u>H-6</u>, C<u>H₂-3</u>), 1.15 (1H, dt, *J* = 13.9, 7.0 Hz, C<u>H₂-5_a</u>), 1.06 (1H, dt, *J* = 13.9, 7.1 Hz, C<u>H₂-5_b</u>), 0.88 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H₃-7a</u>), 0.86 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H₃-7b</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 66.6, 61.2, 41.3, 37.2, 36.2, 25.4, 23.0, 22.8.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 147.1380, $C_8H_{19}O_2$ requires 147.1380, Δ = 0.20 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 3286 (br), 2954, 1466, 1367, 1036 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -12.6$ (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

(R)-2-Isopropylbutane-1,4-diol, (–)-2am

LiAlH₄ (1.64 g, 43.1 mmol) was suspended in anhydrous THF (100 mL) at 0 °C and a solution of (*R*)-2isopropylsuccinic acid-1-methyl ester (2.50 g, 14.4 mmol) in anhydrous THF (30 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and then heated to 70 °C for 16 hours. The reaction was then cooled to 0 °C, diluted with Et₂O (100 mL) and quenched by dropwise addition of water (1.6 mL) followed by 15% aq. NaOH (1.6 mL) and water (4.9 mL). The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 10 minutes after which MgSO₄ was added, and the mixture was stirred for a further 30 minutes at room temperature. The mixture was filtered through Celite[®] eluting with Et₂O and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5) afforded diol (–)-**2am** as a viscous, colourless oil (1.53 g, 81%). The corresponding racemic diol *rac*-**2am** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from racemic 2-isobutylsuccinic acid 1-methyl ester.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.77 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.7, 6.3, 4.3 Hz, C<u>H₂-4</u>_a), 3.71 – 3.63 (3H, m, C<u>H₂-1</u>_a) and 2 x O<u>H</u>), 3.60 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.4, 8.1, 4.1 Hz, C<u>H₂-4</u>_b), 3.51 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.2, 7.8 Hz, C<u>H₂-1</u>_b), 1.79 – 1.65 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-3</u>_a and CH-<u>5</u>), 1.55 (1H, dtd, *J* = 14.3, 8.3, 4.1 Hz, C<u>H₂-3</u>_b), 1.45 (1H, dddd, *J* = 11.7, 8.3, 4.8, 3.2 Hz, C<u>H-2</u>), 0.89 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, C<u>H₃-6a</u>), 0.87 (3H, d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, C<u>H₃-6b</u>). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 65.1, 62.0, 45.7, 33.1, 29.8, 20.0, 19.5. HRMS: ESI+ found [M+H]⁺ = 133.1223, C₇H₁₇O₂ requires 133.1223, Δ = -0.17 ppm. FTIR (film): v_{max} = 3296 (br), 2957, 1465, 1387, 1369, 1023 cm⁻¹. [α]²⁵_D = -20.1 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

(2R,5R)-2-methylhexane-1,5-diol, (+)-20



Racemic: We have previously reported the synthesis of diol rac-20 (12:88 d.r.).⁶

Enantioenriched: According to a modified literature procedure,⁷ to a pre-cooled vial at 0 °C was added (*S*)-(–)- α , α -diphenyl-2-pyrrolidinemethanol trimethylsilyl ether (1.00 g, 3.10 mmol), methyl-3,4-dihydroxybenzoate (1.90 g, 12.3 mmol), propanal (4.43 mL, 61.4 mmol) and methyl vinyl ketone (7.48 mL, 92.2 mmol). The vial was sealed and stirred at 0 °C for 24 hours. The reaction solution was transferred into pre-cooled ethanol (500 mL) at 0 °C *via* syringe and sodium borohydride (11.6 g, 0.31 mol) was added portionwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for a further 16 hours. The mixture was poured onto ice and allowed to warm to room temperature. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove the majority of the EtOH and then extracted with Et₂O (3 × 400 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂:MeOH 95:5) afforded diol (+)-**20** (1.23 g, 15%, ~53:47 dr,^{*} 94:6 er) as a colourless oil and an inseparable mixture of diastereomers. The enantiomeric purity of (+)-**20** was determined by chiral HPLC analysis after conversion to the corresponding dibenzoyl ester (see below).

^{*} It was not possible to calculate dr of the crude reaction mixture or purified compound due to overlapping peaks in the ¹H NMR spectrum, but a dr of ~53:47 was estimated by HPLC for the benzoyl ester derivative **S1.** N.B. the major diastereoisomer of racemic and enantioenriched diols were opposite.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.81-3.77 (1H, m, C<u>H-5</u>), 3.49-3.43 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-1</u>), 2.29-1.39 (6H, m, 2 × O<u>H</u>, C<u>H-2</u>, C<u>H₂-3</u>, and C<u>H₂-4</u>_a), 1.29-1.11 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4</u>_b), 1.19 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, C<u>H₃-6</u>), 0.94-0.90 (3H, m, C<u>H₃-7</u>). N.B. no separate signals were observed for the minor diastereoisomer. ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 68.6, 68.1, 36.6, 35.9, 29.2, 23.7, 16.8. N.B. the minor diastereoisomer displays signals at δ = 68.3, 68.2, 36.3, 35.6, 29.0, 23.8, 16.7. HRMS: ESI+ found [M+Na]⁺ = 155.1040, C₇H₁₆O₂²³Na requires 155.1043, Δ = -1.69 ppm. FTIR (film): v_{max} = 3318, 2927, 2872, 1459, 1374, 1112, 1021, 984, 943 cm⁻¹. [α]²⁵_D = +11.0 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

(2R,5R)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diyl dibenzoate, S1



To a solution of (2*R*)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol (+)-**2o** (26 mg, 0.20 mmol, ~53:47 d.r.) in anhydrous CH_2CI_2 (5 mL) was added pyridine (0.05 mL, 0.60 mmol) and benzoyl chloride (0.06 mL, 0.50 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours before addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with CH_2CI_2 (3 × 10 mL) and the combined organic phases dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by column chromatography (CH_2CI_2) afforded diester **S1** (9.5 mg, 14%, ~53:47 dr,* 94:6 er) as a colourless oil and an inseparable mixture of diastereomers. The corresponding racemic diester *rac*-**S1** (~13:87 d.r.) was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**2o**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.04-8.00 (4H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.57-7.52 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.43-7.38 (4H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.22-5.13 (1H, m, C<u>H-5</u>), 4.22-4.13 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-1</u>), 2.03-1.94 (1H, m, C<u>H-2</u>), 1.90-1.56 (3H, m, C<u>H₂-3</u> and C<u>H₂-4_a</u>), 1.45-1.28 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 1.36 (3H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, C<u>H₃-7</u>), 1.05 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, C<u>H₃-6</u>). N.B. no separate signals were observed for the minor diastereoisomer.

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 166.7, 166.3, 133.0, 132.9, 130.9, 130.5, 129.6 (two overlapping signals), 128.5, 128.4, 71.5, 69.5, 33.6, 33.8, 29.4, 20.3, 17.2. N.B. the minor diastereoisomer displays signals at δ = 166.7, 166.3, 133.0, 132.9, 130.9, 130.5, 129.6 (two overlapping signals), 128.5, 128.4, 71.7, 69.6, 33.4, 33.7, 29.2, 20.3, 17.0.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 341.1749, C₂₁H₂₅O₄ requires 341.1747, Δ = 0.47.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 1714, 1451, 1314, 1272, 1109, 1070, 1026, 710 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +1.6 (*c* = 0.79, CHCl₃).

^{*} It was not possible to calculate dr of the crude reaction mixture or purified compound due to overlapping peaks in the ¹H NMR spectrum, but a dr of ~53:47 was estimated by HPLC.

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IA column (99.7:0.3 hexane:IPA, 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature), ~53:47 dr; major diastereomer t_r (major) = 33.6 min, t_r (minor) = 50.0 min, 94:6 er; minor diastereomer t_r (minor) = 31.0 min, t_r (major) = 42.3 min; 94:6 er. [N.B. racemate with ~13:87 d.r.].





#	Time	Туре	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	31.039	BB	207	5	0.6157	2.747	0.738
2	33.564	BB	3761.4	61.5	0.8959	49.913	0.357
3	42.31	BB	3321.3	39.4	1.1645	44.074	0.337
4	49.95	MM	246.1	3.5	1.1826	3.266	0.672

4.2 Hydrogen Borrowing Annulation

N-Benzyl-4-methylpiperidine, 3a



Commercially available 4-methylpentane-1,5-diol **2a** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 50:50) afforded piperidine **3a** (182 mg, 96%) as a yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.32-7.21 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.48 (2H, s, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.87-2.82 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2_{eq}), 1.93 (2H, td, *J* = 11.5, 2.4 Hz, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2_{ax}), 1.62-1.56 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-3_a), 1.41-1.30 (1H, m, CH-4), 1.29-1.19 (2H, m, 2 × CH₂-3_b), 0.91 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, CH₃).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 138.9, 129.4, 128.2, 127.0, 63.7, 54.1, 34.5, 30.9, 22.1.

The data are consistent with the literature.⁸

N-Benzyl-4-phenylpiperidine, 3b



3-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2b** (180 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 60:40) afforded piperidine **3b** (208 mg, 83%) as a yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.18-7.39 (10H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.58 (2H, s, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 3.06-3.01 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2_a), 2.58-2.46 (1H, m, C<u>H-4</u>), 2.16-2.08 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2_b), 1.86-1.80 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-3). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.7, 138.7, 129.4, 128.5, 128.3, 127.1, 127.0, 126.2, 63.7, 54.4, 42.9,

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.7, 138.7, 129.4, 128.5, 128.3, 127.1, 127.0, 126.2, 63.7, 54.4, 42.9, 33.7.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 252.1742, C₁₈H₂₂N requires 252.1747, Δ = -2.09 ppm. FTIR (film): ν_{max} = 3027, 2934, 2798, 2750, 1493, 1452, 1366, 991, 735, 696 cm⁻¹. N-Benzyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidine, 3c



3-(4-Fluorophenyl)-pentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2c** (198 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 60:40) afforded piperidine **3c** (215 mg, 80%) as a yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.37-7.31 (4H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.29-7.24 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.21-7.15 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.01-6.94 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.55 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂Ph</u>), 3.05-2.98 (2H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-2_{eq}</u>), 2.48 (1H, tt, *J* = 10.3, 5.2 Hz, C<u>H-4_{ax}</u>), 2.08 (2H, td, *J* = 11.2, 3.7 Hz, 2 x C<u>H₂-2_{ax}</u>), 1.83-1.75 (4H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-3</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 161.3 (d, *J* = 243.3 Hz), 142.2 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz), 138.4, 129.3, 128.2, 128.2, 127.0, 115.1 (d, *J* = 20.9 Hz), 63.5, 54.2, 42.0, 33.7.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -117.5.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 270.1651, C₁₈H₂₁FN requires 270.1653, Δ –0.46 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2935, 2800, 1604, 1509, 1453, 1366, 1342, 1223, 1159, 1031, 992, 832, 795, 773, 737, 698, 613 cm⁻¹.

N-Benzyl-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)piperidine, 3d



3-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-pentane-1,5-diol⁶ 2d (198 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 50:50) afforded piperidine 3d (258 mg, 92%) as a colourless solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.80-7.31 (4H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.29-7.24 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.18-7.14 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 6.87-6.83 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.79 (3H, s, OC<u>H₃</u>), 3.56 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 3.04-2.98 (2H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-2_{eq}</u>), 2.46 (1H, tt, *J* = 11.0, 5.5 Hz, C<u>H-4_{ax}</u>), 2.08 (2H, td, *J* = 10.9, 3.8 Hz, 2 x C<u>H₂-2_{ax}</u>), 1.83 – 1.70 (4H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-3</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 157.9, 138.8, 138.5, 129.3, 128.2, 127.7, 127.0, 113.8, 63.6, 55.3, 54.4, 41.8, 33.8.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+ = 282.1851$, C₁₉H₂₄NO requires 282.1852, Δ –0.54 ppm. FTIR (film): $\nu_{max} = 2941$, 2795, 2752, 1608, 1512, 1467, 1365, 1327, 1244, 1176, 1146, 1115, 1033, 989, 833, 808, 766, 739, 696, 613 cm⁻¹. Melting point = 68–71 °C.

N-Benzyl-4-(naphthalen-2-yl)piperidine, 3e



3-(Naphthalene-1-yl)-pentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2e** (230 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 60:40) afforded piperidine **3e** (261 mg, 87%) as a colourless solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.11 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.87 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.6, 2.0 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.72 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.8, 2.6 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.55-7.33 (8H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.31-7.27 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.63 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂Ph</u>), 3.34 (1H, tt, *J* = 10.7, 5.2 Hz, C<u>H-4_{ax}</u>), 3.15-3.07 (2H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-2_{eq}</u>), 2.27 (2H, td, *J* = 11.1, 4.2 Hz, 2 x C<u>H₂-2_{ax}</u>), 2.03-1.92 (4H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-3</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 142.2, 138.5, 133.9, 131.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.2, 127.0, 126.5, 125.7, 125.7, 125.3, 123.0, 122.5, 63.6, 54.6, 37.6, 33.2.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 302.1902, C₂₂H₂₄N requires 302.1903, Δ –0.44 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 3048, 2936, 2799, 1597, 1494, 1453, 1396, 1366, 1343, 1144, 988, 778, 737, 699 cm⁻¹.

Melting point = 76–78 °C.

N-Benzyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)piperidine, 3f



4-(Trifluoromethyl)-pentane-1,5-diol⁹ **2f** (172 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine **3f** (192 mg, 79%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.36-7.24 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.51 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 2.97 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-2_{eq}</u>), 2.05-1.91 (3H, m, C<u>H-4</u> and 2 × C<u>H₂-2_{ax}</u>), 1.85-1.78 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-3_{eq}</u>), 1.64 (2H, qd, *J* = 12.7, 3.9 Hz, 2 × C<u>H₂-3_{ax}</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 138.3, 129.2, 128.4, 127.7 (q, *J* = 278.4 Hz), 127.2, 63.2, 52.5, 40.5 (q, *J* = 27.1 Hz), 24.8.

 ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -73.7

The data are consistent with the literature.¹⁰

N-Benzylmorpholine, 3g



Commercially available diethylene glycol **2g** (106 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 110 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 80:20) afforded piperazine **3g** as a colourless oil (74 mg, 35%) as an inseparable mixture with dibenzylamine (14 mol%, *the spectral data for dibenzylamine are consistent with the literature*¹²).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.36-7.24 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.72-3.70 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-2</u>), 3.50 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂Ph</u>), 2.46-2.43 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-1</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 137.9, 129.3, 128.4, 127.3, 67.2, 63.6, 53.8.

The data are consistent with the literature.¹¹

N, N'-Dibenzylpiperazine, 3h



Commercially available *N*-benzyldiethanolamine **2h** (195 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 110 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 80:20) afforded piperazine **3h** (48 mg, 16%) as a pale yellow solid as an inseparable mixture with dibenzylamine (15 mol%, *the spectral data for dibenzylamine are consistent with the literature*¹²). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.22 (10<u>H</u>, m, ArH), 3.51 (4H, s, 2 × NC<u>H₂Ph), 2.48 (8H, br. s, 4 × 100 NHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.22 (10<u>H</u>, m, ArH), 3.51 (4H, s, 2 × NC<u>H₂Ph), 2.48 (8H, br. s, 4 × 100 NHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.22 (10<u>H</u>, m, ArH), 3.51 (4H, s, 2 × NC<u>H₂Ph), 2.48 (8H, br. s, 4 × 100 NHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.22 (10<u>H</u>, m, ArH), 3.51 (4H, s, 2 × NC<u>H₂Ph), 2.48 (8H, br. s, 4 × 100 NHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.22 (10<u>H</u>, m, ArH), 3.51 (4H, s, 2 × NC<u>H₂Ph), 2.48 (8H, br. s, 4 × 100 NHz) subjects the subject of the s</u></u></u></u></u>

C<u>H₂-2</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 138.3, 129.4, 128.3, 127.1, 63.2, 53.2. The data are consistent with the literature.¹³



2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ *rac*-**2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine **3i** (122 mg, 64%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.33-7.22 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.48 (2H, s, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.79 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_a and C<u>H</u>₂-6_{eq}), 1.85 (1H, td, *J* = 11.1, 3.7 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_{ax}), 1.72-1.51 (5H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_b, C<u>H</u>-3, C<u>H</u>₂-4_a and C<u>H</u>₂-5), 0.90-0.86 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-4_b), 0.83 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 138.8, 129.3, 128.2, 126.9, 63.8, 62.1, 54.1, 33.2, 31.3, 25.7, 19.9.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 190.1590, C₁₃H₂₀N requires 190.1590, Δ = -0.04 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2927, 2794, 2756, 1454, 1346, 1120, 1073, 1028, 976, 737, 698 cm⁻¹.

N-Benzyl-3-phenylpiperidine, 3j



2-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ *rac*-**2j** (180 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine **3j** (162 mg, 64%) as a colourless solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.39-7.22 (10H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.55 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 3.01 (1H, ddt, *J* = 11.0, 3.6, 1.7 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_{eq}</u>), 2.96-2.91 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-6_a</u>), 2.85 (1H, tt, *J* = 11.6, 3.7 Hz, C<u>H-3_{ax}</u>), 2.05 (1H, t, *J* = 11.1 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_{ax}</u>), 2.03-1.90 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-6_b</u> and C<u>H₂-4_a</u>), 1.81-1.67 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-5</u>), 1.51-1.41 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 145.0, 138.5, 129.3, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 127.0, 126.4, 63.7, 61.2, 53.9, 43.1, 31.8, 25.9.

Melting point = 45–47 °C.

1,3-Dibenzylpiperidine, 3k



2-Benzylpentane-1,5-diol *rac*-**2k** (194 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine **3k** (208 mg, 78%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.34-7.13 (10H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.57-3.40 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-7</u>), 2.81 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.9, 3.0 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_{eq}</u>), 2.76 (1H, d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_a</u>), 2.61-2.43 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-8</u>), 1.96-1.86 (2H, m, C<u>H-3</u> and C<u>H₂-6_b</u>), 1.79 (1H, t, *J* = 10.4 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_{ax}</u>), 1.71-1.61 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-4_a</u> and C<u>H₂-5_a</u>), 1.56-1.45 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 1.00-0.92 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-5_b</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 140.8, 138.8, 129.3, 129.2, 128.3, 128.2, 127.0, 125.9, 63.7, 60.4, 54.1,
41.1, 38.2, 30.7, 25.3.

The data are consistent with the literature.¹⁴

N-Benzyl-3-methylpyrrolidine, 31



2-Methylpentane-1,4-diol¹⁵ *rac*-**2l** (104 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded pyrrolidine **3l** (74 mg, 42%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.21 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.63-3.56 (2H, m, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.82 (1H, dd, J = 9.0, 7.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-2_a), 2.70 (1H, ddd, J = 9.2, 8.0, 5.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-5_a), 2.45 (1H, td, J = 8.8, 6.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-5_b), 2.32-2.19 (1H, m, C<u>H-3</u>), 2.07-1.96 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_b and C<u>H</u>₂-4_a), 1.34 (1H, dddd, J = 12.6, 8.5, 6.3, 5.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-4_b), 1.01 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 139.6, 129.0, 128.3, 126.9, 62.4, 61.0, 54.3, 32.8, 32.0, 20.6.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 176.1434, $C_{12}H_{18}N$ requires 176.1434, Δ = -0.03 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2955, 2783, 1453, 1375, 1155, 1136, 1124, 1029, 907, 739, 698 cm⁻¹.



4-methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ rac-2m (132 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture indicated the presence of two diastereomers in 89:11 dr. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine $3m_{maj}$ (132 mg, 65%, >95:5 d.r.) as a colourless oil and piperidine $3m_{min}$ (20 mg, 10%, >95:5 d.r.) as a colourless oil. The relative stereochemistry was determined by *J*coupling constant analysis.

Data for the major diastereoisomer:



¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.37-7.20 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.66-3.50 (2H, m, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.77 (1H, qd, J = 6.7, 4.0 Hz, C<u>H-2</u>), 2.45 (1H, ddd, J = 11.7, 9.9, 3.9 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_{ax}), 2.32 (1H, dt, J = 11.7, 4.1 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_{eq}), 1.89 (1H, dqt, J = 10.9, 7.0, 4.0 Hz, C<u>H-3</u>), 1.61-1.40 (3H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-4 and C<u>H</u>₂-5_{eq}), 1.32-1.21 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-5_{ax}), 0.90 (3H, d, J = 6.7 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃-7), 0.86 (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃-8).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 140.5, 128.7, 128.2, 126.7, 59.3, 57.8, 46.8, 35.1, 28.1, 25.2, 18.1, 6.7. HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 204.1747, C₁₄H₂₂N requires 204.1747, Δ = 0.26 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2926, 2793, 1494, 1452, 1373, 1142, 1122, 1090, 1027, 955, 731, 697 cm⁻¹.

Data for the minor diastereoisomer:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.34-7.21 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.99 (1H, d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}Ph</u>), 3.28 (1H, d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}Ph</u>), 2.75 (1H, dtd, *J* = 11.6, 3.9, 1.5 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 2.07-1.96 (2H, m, C<u>H-2</u> and C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.71-1.64 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>), 1.54-1.48 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-5</u>), 1.44-1.35 (1H, m, C<u>H-3</u>), 1.21 (3H, d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, C<u>H₃-7</u>), 1.09-0.97 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 0.95 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H₃-8</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 139.9, 129.2, 128.2, 126.7, 62.8, 58.1, 52.3, 37.0, 33.1, 24.8, 20.1, 17.0.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 204.1747, C₁₄H₂₂N requires 204.1747, Δ = 0.11 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2928, 2787, 1494, 1454, 1368, 1119, 1028, 733, 698 cm⁻¹.

rac-(2S,4S)-1-Benzyl-2,4-dimethylpiperidine, 3n



3-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ rac-2n (132 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A** at 110 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 75:25) afforded piperidine **3n** (126 mg, 62%, 82:18 d.r.) as a colourless oil as a mixture of diastereoisomers. The relative stereochemistry was determined by *J*-coupling constant analysis. A small quantity of diastereoisomerically pure *cis*-**3n** (34 mg, >95:5 d.r.) was isolated by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 85:15).

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 204.1747, C₁₄H₂₂N requires 204.1747, Δ = 0.26 ppm.

FTIR (film): ν_{max} = 2949, 2916, 1494, 1453, 1373, 1328, 1192, 1135, 1123, 1065, 1029, 730, 697 cm⁻¹. Data for the major diastereoisomer:

BnN H
Me
$$2 \xrightarrow{4} Me$$
 H- 3_{ax} q, J = 12.0 Hz
H H

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.30 – 7.11 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 4.03 (1H, d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}</u>Ph), 3.03 (1H, d, *J* = 13.3 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}</u>Ph), 2.71 (1H, ddd, *J* = 11.6, 3.9, 2.8 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 2.11 (1H, dqd, *J* = 12.0, 6.0, 2.7 Hz, C<u>H-2</u>), 1.81 (1H, ddd, *J* = 12.5, 11.6, 2.6 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.56 – 1.25 (3H, m, C<u>H₂-3_{eq}</u>, C<u>H₂-5_{eq}</u>, C<u>H-4</u>), 1.13 (3H, d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, C<u>H₃-7</u>), 1.04 (1H, qd, *J* = 12.6, 3.8 Hz, C<u>H₂-5_{ax}</u>), 0.97 (1H, q, *J* = 12.0 Hz, C<u>H₂-3_{ax}</u>), 0.81 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H₃-8</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 139.6, 129.3, 128.2, 126.7, 58.3, 57.0, 53.2, 44.1, 34.6, 31.5, 22.2, 21.6.

Data for the minor diastereoisomer:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.30 – 7.11 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.55 (1H, d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}Ph</u>), 3.45 (1H, d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}Ph</u>), 2.93 – 2.85 (1H, m, C<u>H-2</u>), 2.44 – 2.31 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-6</u>), 1.70 – 1.58 (1H, m, C<u>H-4</u>), 1.56 – 1.25 (3H, m, C<u>H₂-3</u> and C<u>H₂-5_a</u>), 1.15 – 1.09 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-5_b</u>), 0.95 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, C<u>H₃-7</u>), 0.84 – 0.81 (3H, m, C<u>H₃-8</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 140.2, 128.9, 128.2, 126.7, 59.2, 52.0, 45.9, 40.7, 34.1, 25.2, 21.8, 11.9.



2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ *rac*-**2o** (132 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A** at 110 °C. ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture indicated the presence of two diastereomers in 71:29 dr. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine **3o** (138 mg, 68%, 72:28 d.r.) as a colourless oil as a mixture of diastereoisomers. An small quantity of each diastereoisomer was obtained by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10). The relative stereochemistry was determined by a combination of *J*-coupling constant and nOe analysis.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 204.1748, C₁₄H₂₂N requires 204.1747, Δ = 0.63 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2925, 1494, 1454, 1370, 1144, 1125, 1064, 732, 697 cm⁻¹.

Data for the major diastereomer:



H-2_{ax} dqd, J = 12.0, 6.1, 2.7 Hz **H-5**_{ax} was not fully resolved but contains large J values indicative of axial geometry. **nOe** correlations shown with solid blue arrows.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.34-7.21 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 4.07 (1H, d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}Ph</u>), 3.14 (1H, d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}Ph</u>), 2.74-2.70 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-6_a</u>), 2.12 (1H, dqd, *J* = 12.0, 6.1, 2.7 Hz, C<u>H-2_{ax}</u>), 1.70-1.33 (5H, m, C<u>H₂-3</u>, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>, C<u>H-5</u>, and C<u>H₂-6_b</u>), 1.21 (3H, d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, C<u>H₃-7</u>), 0.96-0.85 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 0.76 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, C<u>H₃-8</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 139.5, 129.3, 128.2, 126.7, 61.1, 58.3, 56.7, 35.3, 33.7, 31.4, 22.3, 19.9.

Data for the minor diastereomer:



Bn H- 6_{ax} dd, J = 11.6, 9.0 Hz nOe correlations shown with solid blue arrows.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.37-7.21 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.66-3.46 (2H, m, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.81-2.88 (1H, m, C<u>H-2</u>), 2.34 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.6, 4.2 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_{eq}), 2.17 (1H, dd, *J* = 11.6, 9.0 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_{ax}), 1.81-1.61 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-4_a and C<u>H-5</u>), 1.55-1.44 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-3_a and C<u>H</u>₂-4_b), 1.30-1.16 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-3_b), 1.01 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃-7), 0.87 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃-8).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 140.4, 128.7, 128.2, 126.7, 59.2, 54.7, 52.8, 31.4, 30.8, 28.4, 19.4, 11.9.

rac-(2R,6S)-1-Benzyl-2,6-dimethylpiperidine, 3p



Heptane-2,6-diol⁶ *rac*-**2p** (132 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 60:40) afforded piperidine **3p** (135 mg, 66%, 80:20 dr) as an orange oil as an inseparable mixture of diastereoisomers. The major diastereomer was identified as *cis* by comparison with literature data.¹⁶ HRMS: ESI+ found [M+H]⁺ = 207.1747, C₁₄H₂₂N requires 204.1747, Δ = 0.03 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2927, 1494, 1453, 1374, 1340, 1312, 1201, 1121, 1094, 1056, 1028, 943, 753, 723, 696 cm⁻¹.

Data for the major diastereomer:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.42-7.37 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.33-7.25 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.24-7.18 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.82 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂Ph</u>), 2.54-2.45 (2H, m, 2 x C<u>H-2</u>), 1.69-1.51 (3H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-3_a</u> and C<u>H₂-4_a</u>), 1.39-1.26 (3H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-3_b</u> and C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 1.09 (6H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2 × C<u>H₃</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 142.7, 128.7, 128.5, 126.7, 58.0, 54.3, 35.4, 25.0, 22.9.

Data for the minor diastereomer:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.42-7.37 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.33-7.25 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.24-7.18 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.93 (1H, d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}Ph</u>), 3.42 (1H, d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}Ph</u>), 2.92-2.82 (2H, m, C<u>H-2</u> and C<u>H-6</u>), 1.69-1.51 (3H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-3</u>_a and C<u>H₂-4</u>_a), 1.39-1.26 (3H, m, 2 x C<u>H₂-3</u>_b and C<u>H₂-4</u>_b), 1.02 (6, d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2 × C<u>H₃</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 142.7, 129.0, 128.7, 126.9, 54.0, 50.3, 33.5, 20.1, 16.6.

N-Benzyl-4,4-dimethylpiperidine, 3q



3,3-Dimethylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2q** (132 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 80:20) afforded piperidine **3q** (149 mg, 73%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.21 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.51 (2H, s, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.40-2.37 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2), 1.41-1.38 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-3), 0.92 (6H, s, 2 × C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 138.9, 129.4, 128.2, 127.0, 63.7, 50.2, 38.9, 28.6, 28.4 (br).

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 204.1749, C₁₄H₂₂N requires 204.1747, Δ = 0.85 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2948, 2910, 2803, 2760, 1473, 1454, 1385, 1118, 1028, 988, 919, 736 cm⁻¹.

8-Benzyl-8-azaspiro[4.5]decane, 3r



2,2'-(Cyclopentane-1,1-diyl)bis(ethan-1-ol)⁶ **2r** (158 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O:Et₃N 79.5:19.5:1) afforded piperidine **3r** (170 mg, 74%) as a pale yellow oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.33-7.22 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.48 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂Ph</u>), 2.37 (4H, br. s, 2 × C<u>H₂-2</u>), 1.59-1.55 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-6</u>), 1.49-1.46 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-3</u>), 1.41-1.38 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-5</u>). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 138.9, 129.4, 128.2, 127.0, 63.8, 51.6, 40.9, 38.2 (br), 37.8, 24.5. HRMS: ESI+ found [M+H]⁺ = 230.1905, C₁₆H₂₄N requires 230.1903, Δ = 0.65 ppm. FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2940, 2917, 2867, 2801, 2759, 1468, 1366, 1342, 1122, 735, 697 cm⁻¹.

3-Benzyl-3-azaspiro[5.5]undecane, 3s



2,2'-(Cyclohexane-1,1-diyl)bis(ethan-1-ol)⁶ **2s** (172 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 80:20) afforded piperidine **3s** (166 mg, 68%) as a pale yellow solid.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.33-7.22 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.50 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 2.37 (4H, t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2 × C<u>H₂-2</u>), 1.46 (4H, t, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 2 × C<u>H₂-3</u>), 1.42-1.39 (6H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-6</u> and C<u>H₂-7</u>), 1.33-1.31 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-5</u>).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 138.8, 129.4, 128.2, 127.0, 63.8, 49.5, 36.8 (br), 36.4, 30.9, 27.0, 21.7. HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 244.2058, C₁₇H₂₆N requires 244.2060, Δ = -0.72 ppm. FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2919, 2848, 2802, 2763, 1450, 1125, 987, 914, 736, 697 cm⁻¹. Melting point = 44-46 °C.



(15,65)-3-Benzyl-6-isopropyl-2-methyl-3-azabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane, 3t

2-((1*S*,2*S*)-2-(1-Hydroxyethyl)-1-isopropylcyclopropyl)ethan-1-ol⁶ **2t** (172 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine **3t** (174 mg, 71%, 62:38 dr) as an orange oil as an inseparable mixture of diastereoisomers. The relative stereochemistry was assigned by nOe analysis.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 3061, 2955, 2793, 1494, 1452, 1365, 1156, 1028, 734, 698 cm⁻¹.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 244.2060, $C_{17}H_{26}N$ requires 244.2060, Δ = 0.07 ppm.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +19.8 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

Data for the major diastereomer:

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.34-7.19 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.69 (1H, d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}Ph</u>), 3.34 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}Ph</u>), 2.83 (1H, q, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H-2</u>), 2.51-2.39 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-6_a</u>), 1.95 (1H, ddd, *J* = 12.2, 7.1, 5.3 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_b</u>), 1.72-1.59 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-5_a</u>), 1.54 (1H, ddd, *J* = 12.8, 6.9, 5.3 Hz, C<u>H₂-5_b</u>), 1.24-1.18 (3H, m, <u>CH₃-7</u>), 1.04-0.81 (7H, m, C<u>H₃-9</u>, C<u>H-10</u>, C<u>H₃-11</u>), 0.56-0.49 (2H, m, C<u>H-3</u> and C<u>H₂-8_a</u>), 0.36-0.32 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-8_b</u>).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 140.2, 128.5, 128.0, 126.5, 57.6, 54.1, 43.6, 37.5, 25.8, 24.6, 23.6, 19.1, 18.4, 18.1, 16.4.

Data for the major diastereomer:

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.34-7.19 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.99 (1H, d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}</u>Ph), 3.04 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}</u>Ph), 2.62 (1H, qd, *J* = 6.0, 4.1 Hz, C<u>H-2</u>), 2.51-2.39 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 1.77 (1H, td, *J* = 11.7, 4.6 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.72-1.59 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-5_a</u>), 1.47-1.39 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-5_b</u>), 1.24-1.18 (3H, m, C<u>H₃-7</u>), 1.04-0.81 (7H, m, C<u>H₃-9</u>, C<u>H-10</u>, C<u>H₃-11</u>), 0.71 (1H, ddd, *J* = 9.4, 5.5, 4.3 Hz, C<u>H-3</u>), 0.56-0.49 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-8_a</u>), 0.25 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 3.7 Hz, C<u>H₂-8_b</u>).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 140.3, 128.6, 128.0, 126.5, 58.5, 53.8, 50.5, 37.8, 26.7, 25.1, 23.5, 20.0, 18.9, 18.2, 14.4.



((1*R*,3*S*)-Cyclohexane-1,3-diyl)dimethanol¹⁵ **2u** (144 mg, 1.0 mmol), benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 98:2) afforded piperidine **3u** (162 mg, 75%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.36-7.28 (4H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.26-7.20 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.37 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂Ph), 2.88 (2H, d, *J* = 11.3 Hz, 2 x C<u>H₂-2_a</u>), 2.74 (1H, qt, *J* = 12.7, 6.1 Hz, C<u>H₂-5_{ax}</u>), 2.22 (2H, d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 2 x C<u>H₂-2_b</u>), 1.83-1.47 (9H, m, 2 x C<u>H-3</u>, C<u>H₂-4</u>, 2 x C<u>H₂-5, CH₂-5_{eq}</u>).</u>

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 139.9, 128.7, 128.1, 126.5, 64.2, 59.9, 34.4, 31.5, 29.7, 22.6.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 216.1746, C₁₅H₂₂N requires 216.1747, Δ = -0.32 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 3387, 2909, 1644, 1495, 1454, 1391, 1250, 1146, 1073, 1017, 968, 830, 764, 728, 698 cm⁻¹.

(1R,5S)-3-Benzyl-1,8,8-trimethyl-3-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octane, 3v



((1R,3S)-1,2,2-Trimethylcyclopentane-1,3-diyl)dimethanol⁶ **2v** (172 mg, 1.0 mmol), benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine **3v** (163 mg, 67%) as a yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.36-7.20 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.55 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 2.59 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.5, 2.3 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_a</u>), 2.45 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.5, 3.7 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_b</u>), 2.35 (1H, d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_a</u>), 2.17 (1H, d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_b</u>), 1.84-1.65 (3H, m, C<u>H₂-7_a</u> and C<u>H₂-8</u>), 1.61-1.49 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-7_b</u> and C<u>H-5</u>), 0.91 (3H, s, C<u>H₃-11</u>), 0.86 (3H, s, C<u>H₃-10</u>), 0.76 (3H, s, C<u>H₃-9</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 139.9, 128.6, 128.1, 126.6, 61.9, 61.2, 54.6, 46.1, 42.8, 41.7, 35.6, 26.8, 24.4, 18.3, 17.9.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 244.2058, C₁₇H₂₆N requires 244.2060, Δ = -0.87 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2952, 2803, 1653, 1454, 1366, 1343, 1276, 1097, 1028, 799, 746, 727, 698 cm⁻¹. [α]_D²⁵ = +37.5 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃). N-Methyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)piperidine, 3w



3-Methylpentane-1,5-diol **2a** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol), *p*-(trifluoromethyl)benzylamine (0.21 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine **3w** (220 mg, 86%) as a pale yellow oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.57-7.54 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.45-7.42 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.52 (2H, s, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.83-2.78 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2_{eq}), 1.95 (2H, td, *J* = 11.5, 2.5 Hz, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2_{ax}), 1.63-1.57 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-<u>3</u>_a), 1.42-1.31 (1H, m, C<u>H-4</u>), 1.29-1.19 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-3_b), 0.92 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.4, 129.3, 129.2 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 125.2 (q, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 124.5 (q, *J* = 271.7 Hz), 63.1, 54.2, 34.5, 30.9, 22.1.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = –62.3.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 258.1466, C₁₄H₁₉F₃N requires 258.1475, Δ = -3.61 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2924, 2797, 1324, 1161, 1123, 1102, 1066, 847, 812 cm⁻¹.

N-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-4-phenylpiperidine, 3x



3-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2b** (180 mg, 1.0 mmol), *p*-fluorobenzylamine (0.17 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10 \rightarrow 80:20) afforded piperidine **3x** (167 mg, 62%) as a colourless solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.34-7.28 (4H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.25-7.18 (3H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.05-6.99 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.52 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ar), 3.02-2.97 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-2_a</u>), 2.56-2.45 (1H, m, C<u>H-4</u>), 2.12-2.05 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-2_b</u>), 1.85-1.72 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-3</u>).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 163.1 (d, *J* = 244.6 Hz), 146.6, 134.3 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz), 130.8 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz) 128.5, 127.0, 126.2, 115.1 (d, *J* = 21.1 Hz), 62.8, 54.4, 42.8, 33.6.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -116.13.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 270.1651, C₁₈H₂₁FN requires 270.1653, Δ = -0.67 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2936, 2795, 2756, 1603, 1507, 1221, 1154, 1090, 992, 835, 755, 699 cm⁻¹. Melting point = 69–70 °C.

N-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-4-phenylpiperidine, 3y



3-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2b** (180 mg, 1.0 mmol), *para*-methoxybenzylamine (0.20 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 60:40) afforded piperidine **3y** (95 mg, 34%) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.30-7.15 (7H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 6.88-6.84 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.80 (3H, s, O<u>CH₃</u>), 3.48 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 3.02-2.97 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-2_a</u>), 2.51-2.44 (1H, m, C<u>H-4</u>), 2.08-2.02 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-2_b</u>), 1.81-1.76 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H₂-3</u>).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 158.8, 146.7, 130.6, 130.6, 128.5, 127.0, 126.2, 113.7, 63.0, 55.4, 54.3, 42.9, 33.7.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 282.1847, C₁₉H₂₄NO requires 282.1852, Δ = -1.76 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2933, 2796, 2754, 1611, 1510, 1453, 1243, 833, 757, 699 cm⁻¹.

N-(Naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)-4-phenylpiperidine, 3z



3-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2b** (180 mg, 1.0 mmol), 1-naphthylethylamine (0.22 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 95:5) afforded piperidine **3z** (137 mg, 45%) as a colourless solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.38-8.36 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.87 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.79 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.57-7.42 (4H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.32-7.17 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.96 (2H, s, NC<u>H</u>₂Ar), 3.09 (2H, dt, J = 11.0, 3.6 Hz, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2_{eq}), 2.55 (1H, tt, J = 10.8, 5.6 Hz, C<u>H-4</u>), 2.23-2.16 (2H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-2_{ax}), 1.85-1.74 (4H, m, 2 × C<u>H</u>₂-3).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.8, 134.8, 134.0, 132.8, 128.52, 128.48, 127.9, 127.4, 127.0, 126.2, 125.8, 125.7, 125.3, 125.0, 61.6, 54.8, 43.0, 33.8.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 302.1901, C₂₂H₂₄N requires 302.1903, Δ = -0.67 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 1598, 1493, 1452, 1365, 1334, 1167, 1108, 988, 784, 699cm⁻¹.

Melting point = 106–107 °C.

4-Phenyl-N-(1-phenylethyl)piperidine, 3aa



3-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2b** (180 mg, 1.0 mmol), α -methylbenzylamine (0.19 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 60:40) afforded piperidine **3aa** (184 mg, 65%) contaminated with 8% *meso*-bis(1-phenylethyl)amine **S2** as a yellow oil.

Data for 3aa:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.33-7.05 (10H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.40 (1H, q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, NC<u>H(CH₃)Ph</u>), 3.11 (1H, dtd, *J* = 11.1, 3.5, 2.1 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_{eq}</u>), 2.86 (1H, dtd, *J* = 11.3, 3.4, 2.0, C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 2.40-2.32 (1H, m, C<u>H-4</u>), 2.06-1.97 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-2_{ax}</u>), 1.88 (1H, td, *J* = 11.2, 3.4 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.81-1.51 (4H, m, C<u>H₂-3</u> and C<u>H₂-5</u>), 1.34 (3H, d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, C<u>H₃</u>).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.8, 144.0, 128.5, 128.1, 127.8, 126.9, 126.8, 126.0, 65.1, 51.4, 51.3, 43.1, 33.9, 33.8, 19.7.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 266.1904, C₁₉H₂₄N requires 266.1903, Δ = 0.27 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 3026, 2932, 2796, 1493, 1451, 1129, 1022, 756, 699 cm⁻¹.

Data for S2:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 3.69 (2H, q, J = 6.5 Hz, NC<u>H</u>(CH₃)Ph), 1.28 (6H, d, J = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H₃</u>).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.1, 128.6, 127.0, 126.7, 55.0, 23.3.

*The data are consistent with the literature.*¹⁷

4-Phenyl-N-(2-phenylpropan-2-yl)piperidine, 3ab



3-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2b** (180 mg, 1.0 mmol), cumylamine (0.22 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (1.7 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 95:5) afforded piperidine **3ab** (185 mg, 66%) as a colourless solid.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.60-7.57 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.35-7.17 (8H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 2.95-2.93 (2H, m, $2 \times CH_2-2_{eg}$, 2.47 (1H, tt, J = 11.8, 4.3 Hz, CH-4_{ax}), 2.22 (2H, td, J = 11.4, 2.7 Hz, $2 \times CH_2-2_{ax}$), 1.82-1.68 $(4H, m, 2 \times CH_2-3)$, 1.39 (6H, s, $2 \times CH_3$).

 ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 150.0, 147.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.1, 126.2, 126.13, 126.08, 60.1, 47.3, 43.5, 34.6, 24.5.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 280.2060, C₂₀H₂₆N requires 280.2060, Δ = 0.17 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2972, 2930, 1493, 1446, 1271, 1177, 1073, 1024, 959, 759, 698 cm⁻¹. Melting point = 101–102 °C.

(2S,4S)-1-Benzyl-2-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine, (+)-3ac



(3S)-3-Phenylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ (–)-**2ac** (110 mg, 0.56 mmol, 60:40 d.r., >99:1 e.r.), anhydrous benzylamine (0.09 mL, 0.84 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (4.5 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (0.9 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.28 mL, 2 M) were subjected to general procedure A. Purification by column chromatography afforded piperidine (+)-3ac as a colourless oil as an inseparable mixture of diastereoisomers (169 mg, 64%, 80:20 d.r., >99:1 e.r.). The corresponding racemic piperidine rac-3ac was prepared by an identical procedure starting from rac-2ac.⁶ The enantiomeric purity was determined by chiral HPLC analysis after conversion to the corresponding benzyl carbamate (see below).

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 266.1902, C₁₉H₂₄N requires 266.1903, Δ = -0.32 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 3027, 2931, 2790, 1602, 1494, 1451, 1374, 1329, 1137, 1066, 1028, 756, 732, 698 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +45.3 \ (c = 1.00, CH_{2}Cl_{2}).$

Data for the major diastereomer:



¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.38-7.17 (10H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 4.17 (1H, d, J = 13.4 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}Ph</u>), 3.21 (1H, d, J = 13.3 Hz, NCH_{2b}Ph), 2.94 (1H, dt, J = 11.7, 3.4 Hz, CH₂-6_{eq}), 2.58 (1H, tt, J = 12.0, 4.1 Hz, CH-4_{ax}), 2.37 (1H, dqd, J = 12.1, 5.9, 2.6 Hz, CH-2_{ax}), 2.07 (1H, td, J = 11.6, 3.4 Hz, CH₂-6_{ax}), 1.87-1.82 (1H, m, CH_2-3_{eq} , 1.78-1.65 (2H, m, CH_2-5), 1.60 (1H, td, J = 12.8, 10.9 Hz, CH_2-3_{ax}), 1.28 (3H, d, J = 6.1 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.6, 139.3, 129.4, 128.5, 128.3, 126.94, 126.89, 126.2, 58.2, 57.3, 53.4, 43.2, 43.1, 33.5, 21.5.

Data for the minor diastereomer:



N + Bn I = 12.7, 4.8 Hz nOe correlations shown with solid blue arrows.

¹**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.39 (2H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.34-7.17 (8H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.70-3.54 (2H, m, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 3.24-3.19 (1H, m, C<u>H-2_{eq}</u>), 2.88-2.81 (1H, m, C<u>H-4_{ax}</u>), 2.64-2.61 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-6), 2.03 (1H, td, *J* = 12.7, 4.8 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-3_{ax}), 1.78-1.74 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-5), 1.68 (1H, dt, *J* = 12.9, 3.1 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-3_{eq}), 1.12 (3H, d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 146.9, 140.0, 128.8, 128.5, 128.3, 127.1, 126.9, 126.1, 59.3, 52.2, 45.8, 39.5, 36.6, 33.6, 10.0.

Benzyl (2S,4S)-2-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine-1-carboxylate, S3



(2*S*,4*S*)-1-Benzyl-2-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine (+)-**3ac** (30 mg, 0.11 mmol, 80:20 d.r.) and benzyl chloroformate (3 M in toluene, 0.23 mL, 0.68 mmol) were subjected to **general procedure C**. Purification by column chromatography (80:20 pentane:Et₂O) afforded Cbz-piperidine **S3** (34 mg, 97%, 76:24 dr, >99:1 e.r.) as a colourless oil. The corresponding racemic piperidine *rac*-**S3** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**3ac**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.42 – 7.17 (10H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.21 – 5.13 (2H, m, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 4.05 (1H, dp, *J* = 10.2, 6.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>-2), 3.89 (1H, dddd, *J* = 13.9, 7.6, 3.3, 0.7 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_a), 3.34 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.9, 9.8, 6.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_b), 2.77 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.9, 10.4, 7.6, 3.3 Hz, C<u>H</u>-4), 2.18 (1H, ddtd, *J* = 13.5, 9.9, 7.6, 1.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-5_a), 1.94 (1H, dddd, *J* = 13.5, 6.3, 3.3, 1.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-3_a), 1.74 – 1.55 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-3_b and C<u>H</u>₂-5_b), 1.24 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃). The minor diastereoisomer displays diagnostic signals at δ = 4.72 – 4.55 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>-2), 4.30 – 4.10 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-6_a), 3.15 – 3.01 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-6_b), 2.98 – 2.85 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>-4). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 155.8, 145.8, 137.1, 128.5, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 126.8, 126.2, 66.8,

50.5, 38.0, 38.0, 37.0, 31.2, 19.9.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+Na]^+ = 332.1620$, $C_{20}H_{23}O_2NNa$ requires 332.1621, $\Delta = -0.16$ ppm. FTIR (film): $v_{max} = 2970$, 1696, 1454, 1421, 1334, 1281, 1243, 1212, 1140, 1066, 1029, 757, 699 cm⁻¹. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +42.1$ (c = 1.0, CHCl₃). HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IA column (99.5:0.5 hexane:IPA, 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature), major diastereomer t_r (major) = 42.1 min, t_r (minor) = 47.2 min, >99:1 er; minor diastereomer t_r (major) = 44.2 min, t_r (minor) = 52.4 min; >99:1 er.



(S)-1-Benzyl-3-methylpiperidine, (+)-3i



(*S*)-2-Methylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ (–)-**2i** (132 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine (+)-**3i** (136 mg, 72%, 90:10 er) as a colourless oil. The spectral data was identical to that of the corresponding racemate described above.

$$[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$$
 = +8.9 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

The enantiomeric purity was determined by chiral HPLC analysis after conversion to the corresponding benzyl carbamate (see below).

Benzyl (S)-3-methylpiperidine-1-carboxylate, S4



(S)-1-Benzyl-3-methylpiperidine (+)-**3i** (26 mg, 0.14 mmol) and benzyl chloroformate (3 M in toluene, 0.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) were subjected to **general procedure C**. Purification by column chromatography (75:25 pentane: Et_2O) afforded piperidine **S4** (27 mg, 82%, 90:10 er) as a colourless oil. The

corresponding racemic Cbz-piperidine *rac*-**S4** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**3i**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ = 7.36-7.28 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.13 (2H, s, OC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 4.10-4.02 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 3.99-3.92 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-2_a</u>), 2.76 (1H, td, *J* = 12.9, 3.0 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 2.50-2.36 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-2_b</u>), 1.82-1.75 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>), 1.66-1.54 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-5_a</u> and C<u>H-3</u>), 1.49-1.40 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-5_b</u>) 1.11-1.01 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 0.88 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H₃</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ = 155.4, 137.2, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 67.0, 51.5, 44.5, 33.1, 31.1, 25.3 (br), 19.0.

The data are consistent with the literature.¹⁸

¹H NMR (500 MHz, d₈-toluene, 363 K) δ = 5.11-5.06 (2H, m, OCH₂Ph), 3.97-3.92 (2H, m, CH₂-2_{eq} and CH₂-6_{eq}), 2.55 (1H, ddd, *J* = 13.1, 11.2, 3.5 Hz, CH₂-6_{ax}), 2.25 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.0, 10.1 Hz, CH₂-2_{ax}), 1.45-1.41 (1H, m, CH₂-4_a), 1.37-1.16 (3H, m, CH-3, CH₂-5), 0.78-0.70 (1H, m, CH₂-4_b), 0.63 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, CH₃). Signals corresponding to the aromatic protons are obscured by the d₈-toluene solvent signals. The aromatic signals can be clearly observed in the room temperature CDCl₃ data above.

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, d₈-toluene, 363 K) δ = 155.3, 138.3, 128.6, 128.3, 128.0, 67.1, 51.8, 44.8, 33.4, 31.2, 25.4, 18.8.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 234.1491, $C_{14}H_{20}NO_2$ requires 234.1489, Δ = 1.08 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2929, 2852, 1697, 1428, 1257, 1235, 1154, 1097, 972 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{D}^{25}$ = +19.1 (*c* = 1.7, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IC column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 0.7 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(S)-3-Methyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)piperidine, (+)-3ad



(*S*)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ **2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), *para*-(trifluoromethyl)benzylamine (0.21 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine (+)-**3ad** (166 mg, 65%, 91:9 er) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.57-7.55 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.45-7.43 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.51 (2H, s, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.79-2.71 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_a and C<u>H</u>₂-6_{eq}), 1.89 (1H, td, *J* = 11.1, 3.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_{ax}), 1.73-1.51 (5H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_b, C<u>H</u>-3, C<u>H</u>₂-4_a, C<u>H</u>₂-5), 0.92-0.84 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-4_b), 0.84 (3H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 143.4, 129.3, 129.2 (q, *J* = 32.4 Hz), 125.2 (q, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 124.5 (q, *J* = 272.1 Hz), 63.2, 62.2, 54.2, 33.1, 31.3, 25.7, 19.8.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -62.3.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 258.1463, C₁₄H₁₉F₃N requires 258.1464, Δ = -0.31 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2930, 1323, 1162, 1123, 1103, 1066, 1019, 836, 819 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = +6.7 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(4-Fluorobenzyl)-3-methylpiperidine, (+)-3ae



(*S*)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ **2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), 4-fluorobenzylamine (0.17 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine (+)-**3ae** (150 mg, 72%, 90:10 er) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.29-7.21 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.01-6.96 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.43 (2H, s, NC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 2.79-2.71 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_a and C<u>H</u>₂-6_{eq}), 1.84 (1H, td, *J* = 11.2, 3.3 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_{ax}), 1.72-1.49 (5H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_b, C<u>H</u>₋3, C<u>H</u>₂-4_a, C<u>H</u>₂-5), 0.91-0.82 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-4_b), 0.84 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 162.0 (d, *J* = 244.0 Hz), 134.6 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 130.7 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz), 115.0 (d, *J* = 20.8 Hz), 62.9, 62.0, 54.1, 33.2, 31.3, 25.7, 19.9.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -116.40.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 208.1497, C₁₃H₁₉FN requires 208.1496, Δ = 0.48 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2928, 1604, 1508, 1465, 1458, 1356, 1293, 1221, 1154, 1120, 1091, 1078, 1039, 844, 822 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = +8.7 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(3,5-Difluorobenzyl)-3-methylpiperidine, (+)-3af



(*S*)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ **2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), 3,5-difluorobenzylamine (0.18 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 95:5) afforded piperidine (+)-**3af** (152 mg, 67%, 93:7 er) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 6.90-6.84 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 6.66 (1H, tt, *J* = 9.0, 2.4 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.42 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 2.77-2.69 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-2_a</u> and C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 1.89 (1H, td, *J* = 11.1, 3.4 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.72-1.52 (5H, m, C<u>H₂-2_b</u>, C<u>H-3</u>, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>, C<u>H₂-5</u>), 0.92-0.82 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 0.85 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, C<u>H₃</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 162.1 (dd, *J* = 247.8, 12.7 Hz), 142.7 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 110.5-110.3 (m), 101.2 (t, *J* = 25.6 Hz), 61.8 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 61.1, 53.2, 32.0, 30.3, 24.7, 18.8.

 ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = –110.9.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 226.1403, $C_{13}H_{18}F_2N$ requires 226.1402, Δ = 0.61 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2930, 1626, 1597, 1458, 1438, 1346, 1317, 1115, 976, 965, 846 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +11.5 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).



	#	Time	Туре	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
Г	1	29.063	BV	4781.6	133.6	0.5575	50.028	0.848
Г	2	30.67	VB	4776.2	124.1	0.5992	49.972	0.847

#	Time	Туре	Area	Height	Width	Area%	Symmetry
1	29.272	MF	885.4	28.9	0.5101	7.169	0
2	30.595	FM	11463.9	328.9	0.5809	92.831	0.849

(S)-3-Methyl-1-(3,4,5-trifluorobenzyl)piperidine, (+)-3ag



(*S*)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ **2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), 3,4,5-trifluorobenzylnitrile (0.19 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine (+)-**3ag** (137 mg, 56%, 90:10 er) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.00-6.92 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.47 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 2.75-2.66 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-2_a</u> and C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 1.88 (1H, td, *J* = 11.1, 3.2 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.73-1.49 (5H, m, C<u>H₂-2_b</u>, C<u>H-3</u>, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>, C<u>H₂-5</u>), 0.92-0.83 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 0.84 (3H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, C<u>H₃</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 151.2 (ddd, *J* = 249.4, 10.1, 4.0 Hz), 138.6 (dt, *J* = 249.6, 15.4 Hz), 135.9 (td, *J* = 6.8, 4.6 Hz), 112.4 (d, *J* = 20.8 Hz), 62.4, 62.0, 54.1, 33.0, 31.3, 25.6, 19.8.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = –135.3, –163.6.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 244.1308, C₁₃H₁₇F₃N requires 244.1308, Δ = 0.34 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2930, 1621, 1526, 1445, 1372, 1360, 1350, 1231, 1131, 1122, 1039, 980 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +10.4 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).



(S)-1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-3-methylpiperidine, (+)-3ah



(*S*)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ **2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), *p*-methoxybenzylamine (0.20 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 75:25) afforded piperidine (+)-**3ah** (148 mg, 67%, 72:28 er) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.24-7.20 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 6.87-6.83 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.80 (3H, s, OC<u>H₃</u>), 3.42 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 2.82-2.74 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-2_a</u> and C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 1.83 (1H, td, *J* = 11.2, 3.5 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.72-1.49 (5H, m, C<u>H₂-2_b</u>, C<u>H-3</u>, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>, C<u>H₂-5</u>), 0.89-0.80 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 0.83 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H₃</u>). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 158.7, 130.8, 130.5, 113.6, 63.1, 62.0, 55.4, 54.0, 33.3, 31.3, 25.7, 19.9.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 220.1696, C₁₄H₂₂NO requires 220.1696, Δ = 0.12 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2927, 1613, 1511, 1464, 1300, 1243, 1179, 1121, 1038, 830, 815 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +5.2 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC analysis of the corresponding *N*-Cbz compound **S4** (synthesised using **general procedure C**, analytic sample isolated by preparative TLC. For full characterisation data for this compound, see **S4**, page S31). Chiralpak[®] IC column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 0.7 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(S)-1-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl)-3-methylpiperidine, (+)-3ai



(S)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ **2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), piperonylamine (0.19 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B**
at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane: Et_2O 50:50) afforded piperidine (+)-**3ai** (68 mg, 29%, 64:36 er) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 6.85 (1H, t, *J* = 1.0 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 6.74-6.72 (2H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.93 (2H, s, OC<u>H₂O</u>), 3.38 (2H, s, NC<u>H₂Ph</u>), 2.81-2.73 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-2_a</u> and C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 1.83 (1H, td, *J* = 11.2, 3.4 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.72-1.49 (5H, m, C<u>H₂-2_b</u>, C<u>H-3</u>, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>, C<u>H₂-5</u>), 0.89-0.83 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 0.83 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H₃</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 147.6, 146.5, 132.8, 122.3, 109.7, 107.9, 100.9, 63.5, 62.0, 54.0, 33.2, 31.3, 25.7, 19.9.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 234.1488, $C_{14}H_{20}NO_2$ requires 234.1489, Δ = -0.03 ppm.

FTIR (film): $v_{max} = 2927, 2762, 1502, 1488, 1440, 1369, 1339, 1240, 1181, 1159, 1112, 1039, 932 cm⁻¹.$ $<math>[\alpha]_D^{25} = +3.9 (c = 1.0, CHCl_3).$

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC analysis of the corresponding *N*-Cbz compound **S4** (synthesised using **general procedure C**, analytic sample isolated by preparative TLC. For full characterisation data for this compound, see **S4**, page S31). Chiralpak[®] IC column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 0.7 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(S)-3-Methyl-1-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)piperidine, (+)-3aj



(*S*)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ **2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), naphthalene-1-ylmethanamine (0.22 mL, 1.5 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine (+)-**3aj** (82 mg, 34%, 73:27 er) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 8.35-8.32 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.86-7.84 (1H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.77 (1H, dt, *J* = 7.9, 1.1 Hz, Ar<u>H</u>), 7.54-7.39 (4H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.92-3.80 (2H, m, NC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 2.89-2.83 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-2_a</u> and C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>),

1.97 (1H, td, J = 11.1, 3.4 Hz, $C\underline{H_2-6_{ax}}$), 1.73-1.49 (5H, m, $C\underline{H_2-2_b}$, $C\underline{H-3}$, $C\underline{H_2-4_a}$, $C\underline{H_2-5}$), 0.96-0.82 (1H, m, $C\underline{H_2-4_b}$), 0.85 (3H, d, J = 6.1 Hz, $C\underline{H_3}$).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 135.0, 134.0, 132.8, 128.5, 127.7, 127.2, 125.7, 125.6, 125.3, 125.0,
62.5, 61.8, 54.5, 33.3, 31.3, 25.8, 19.9.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 240.1746, C₁₇H₂₂N requires 240.1747, Δ = 0.48 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2926, 2801, 2756, 1509, 1465, 1457, 1370, 1341, 1168, 1126, 1117, 975, 791, 783, 772 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +10.1 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC analysis of the corresponding *N*-Cbz compound **S4** (synthesised using **general procedure C**, analytic sample isolated by preparative TLC. For full characterisation data for this compound, see **S4**, page S31). Chiralpak[®] IC column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 0.7 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(S)-3-Methyl-1-((R)-1-phenylethyl)piperidine, (+)-3ak



(*S*)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol⁶ **2i** (118 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), (*R*)- α -methylbenzylamine (0.19 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and deionised water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Analysis of the crude reaction mixture by ¹H NMR indicated a dr of 83:17. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 80:20) afforded piperidine (+)-**3ak** (161 mg, 79%, 76:24 er, 85:15 dr) as a colourless oil.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35-7.21 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.41 (1H, q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, NC<u>H</u>(CH₃)Ph), 2.98-2.88 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-6_{eq}</u>), 2.76-2.70 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-2_{eq}</u>), 1.85 (1H, td, *J* = 11.1, 3.3 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.70-1.51 (4H, m, C<u>H-3</u>, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>, C<u>H₂-5</u>), 1.45 (1H, t, *J* = 10.6 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_{ax}</u>), 1.37 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, C<u>H₃-8</u>), 0.87-0.74 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 0.78 (3H, d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, C<u>H₃-7</u>). The minor diastereomer displays diagnostic signals at δ = 3.50

(1H, q, J = 6.8 Hz, NC<u>H</u>(CH₃)Ph), 1.76 (1H, td, J = 11.3, 3.0 Hz, C<u>H₂-6_{ax}</u>), 1.27 (3H, d, J = 6.7 Hz, C<u>H₃-8</u>), 0.68 (3H, d, J = 6.3 Hz, C<u>H₃-7</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 144.1, 128.1, 127.9, 126.8, 65.0, 59.0, 51.1, 33.4, 31.5, 26.0, 20.0, 19.5. Not all of the signals for the minor diastereoisomer could be distinguished, but peaks were observed at δ = 65.1, 59.2, 51.1, 33.4, 25.6, 19.5, 20.0.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 204.1748, C₁₄H₂₂N requires 204.1747, Δ = 0.78 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2927, 1492, 1453, 1373, 1125, 1081, 760, 700 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +38.9 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC analysis of the corresponding *N*-Cbz compound **S4** (synthesised using **general procedure C**, analytic sample isolated by preparative TLC. For full characterisation data for this compound, see **S4**, page S31). Chiralpak[®] IC column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 0.7 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(S)-N-Benzyl-3-phenylpiperidine, (-)-3j



(S)-2-Phenylpentane-1,5-diol (+)-**2j** (144 mg, 0.8 mmol, >99:1 er), anhydrous benzylamine (0.13 mL, 1.2 mmol), $[IrCp*Cl_2]_2$ (6.3 mg, 1 mol%) and water (0.4 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 80 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 90:10) afforded piperidine (–)-**3j** (107 mg, 43%, 67:33 er) as a colourless solid. The spectral data was identical to that of the corresponding racemate described above.

$$[\alpha]_D^{25} = -10.6 \ (c = 1.0, \ CHCl_3).$$

The enantiomeric purity was determined by chiral HPLC analysis after conversion to the corresponding benzyl carbamate (see below).

Benzyl (S)-3-phenylpiperidine-1-carboxylate, S5



(*S*)-*N*-Benzyl-3-phenylpiperidine (–)-**3j** (30 mg, 0.12 mmol) and benzyl chloroformate (3M in toluene, 0.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) were subjected to **general procedure C**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 75:25) afforded piperidine **S5** (36 mg, 99%, 67:33 er) as a colourless oil. The corresponding racemic piperidine *rac*-**S5** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**3j**. *The data is consistent with the literature*.¹⁹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.37-7.21 (10H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.16 (2H, s, OC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 4.38-4.20 (2H, br. m, C<u>H₂-2_a</u> and C<u>H₂-6_a</u>), 2.89-2.66 (3H, br. m, C<u>H₂-2_b</u>, C<u>H-3</u> and C<u>H₂-6_b</u>), 2.07-2.02 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4_a</u>), 1.84-1.55 (3H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u> and C<u>H₂-5</u>). *Some of the signals appear broad due to the rotameric nature of the carbamate*.

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 155.4, 143.4, 137.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 127.2, 126.8, 67.2, 50.8, 44.5, 42.8, 31.9, 25.6. Some of the signals appear broad due to the rotameric nature of the carbamate.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = -18.8 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IB-N column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(R)-N-Benzyl-3-methylpyrrolidine, (-)-31



To a 2-5 mL Biotage[®] microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added (*R*)-2-methylpentane-1,4-diol²⁰ (*R*)-**2I** (104 mg, 1.0 mmol, >99:1 er), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and CsHCO₃ (3.9 mg, 2.0 mol%). The vial was sealed with a microwave vial crimp cap (containing a Reseal[®] septum), evacuated under vacuum and refilled with argon three times. Cyclopentyl methyl ether (0.5 mL) was added *via* syringe, followed by anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol). The vial was sealed with Parafilm[®], placed in a preheated oil bath and stirred at 110 °C for 24 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under a flow of nitrogen. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 80:20, SiO₂ was basified with Et₃N prior to use, see General Information for details) afforded pyrrolidine (–)-**3I** (126 mg, 72%, 94:6 er) as a colourless oil. The spectral data was identical to that of the corresponding racemate described above.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25} = -5.2$ (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

The enantiomeric purity was determined by chiral HPLC analysis after conversion to the corresponding benzyl carbamate (see below).

Benzyl (R)-3-methylpyrrolidine-1-carboxylate, S6



(*R*)-*N*-benzyl-3-methylpyrrolidine (–)-**3I** (19 mg, 0.08 mmol) and benzyl chloroformate (3 M in toluene, 0.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) were subjected to **general procedure C**. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 80:20) afforded pyrrolidine **S6** (28 mg, 38%, 94:6 er) as a colourless oil. The corresponding racemic Cbz-pyrrolidine *rac*-**S6** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**3I**. *The data are consistent with the literature*.²¹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.39-7.26 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.13 (2H, s, OC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 3.63-3.50 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_a) and C<u>H</u>₂-5_a), 3.40-3.30 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-5_b), 2.98-2.85 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-2_b), 2.31-2.17 (1H, m, C<u>H-3</u>), 2.02-1.94 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-4_a), 1.55-1.45 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-4_b), 1.05 (3H, m, C<u>H</u>₃).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 155.0, 137.3, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 66.72, 66.69, 53.4, 53.0, 46.2, 45.8, 33.8, 33.7, 33.0, 32.9, 17.8. *N.B. The majority of the signals are doubled due to the rotameric nature of the carbamate.*

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+Na]^+ = 242.1153$, $C_{13}H_{17}NO_2Na$ requires 242.1152, $\Delta = 0.54$ ppm. FTIR (film): $v_{max} = 2959$, 2874, 1702, 1419, 1358, 1216, 1177, 1149, 1133, 1103, 1074 cm⁻¹. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +18.5$ (c = 1.0, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IB-N column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(S)-1-Benzyl-3-isobutylpyrrolidine, (+)-3al



To a 2-5 mL Biotage[®] microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added (*S*)-2-isobutylbutane-1,4diol (–)-**2al** (146 mg, 1.0 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and CsHCO₃ (3.9 mg, 2.0 mol%). The vial was sealed with a microwave vial crimp cap (containing a Reseal[®] septum), evacuated under vacuum and refilled with argon three times. Cyclopentyl methyl ether (0.5 mL) was added *via* syringe, followed by anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol). The vial was sealed with Parafilm[®], placed in a preheated oil bath and stirred at 110 °C for 24 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under a flow of nitrogen. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 75:25, SiO₂ was basified with Et₃N prior to use, see General Information for details) afforded pyrrolidine (+)-**3al** (169 mg, 78%, 89:11 er) as a colourless oil. The corresponding racemic pyrrolidine *rac*-**3al** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**2al**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.35 – 7.21 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.61 (1H, d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}</u>Ph), 3.57 (1H, d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}</u>Ph), 2.84 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 7.4 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_a</u>), 2.72 (1H, ddd, *J* = 9.2, 8.0, 5.2 Hz, C<u>H₂-5_a</u>), 2.39 (1H, td, *J* = 8.9, 6.5 Hz, C<u>H₂-5_b</u>), 2.31 – 2.18 (1H, m, C<u>H-3</u>), 2.04 – 1.94 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-2_b</u> and C<u>H₂-4_a</u>), 1.60 – 1.45 (1H, nonet, *J* = 6.7 Hz, C<u>H-7</u>), 1.36 (1H, dddd, *J* = 12.2, 8.6, 6.7, 5.3 Hz, C<u>H₂-4_b</u>), 1.24 (2H, t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, C<u>H₂-6</u>), 0.87 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H₃-8a</u>), 0.85 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H₃-8b</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 139.6, 129.0, 128.3, 126.9, 61.1, 61.0, 54.1, 45.2, 35.5, 31.1, 26.9, 22.9, 22.9.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 218.1904, C₁₅H₂₄N requires 218.1903, Δ = 0.26 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2954, 2783, 1467, 1454, 1382, 1351, 1155, 1132, 738, 698 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +10.2 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

The enantiomeric purity was determined by chiral HPLC analysis after conversion to the corresponding benzyl carbamate (see below).

Benzyl (S)-3-isobutylpyrrolidine-1-carboxylate, S7



(*S*)-1-Benzyl-3-isobutylpyrrolidine (+)-**3al** (30 mg, 0.14 mmol) and benzyl chloroformate (3 M in toluene, 0.28 mL, 0.83 mmol) were subjected to **general procedure C**. Purification by column chromatography afforded piperidine **S7** (19 mg, 53%, 89:11 e.r.). The corresponding racemic Cbz-pyrrolidine *rac*-**S7** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**3al**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.40 – 7.27 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.13 (2H, s, OC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 3.67 – 3.47 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-<u>2</u>_a and C<u>H</u>₂-<u>5</u>_a), 3.37-3.26 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-<u>5</u>_b), 2.96 – 2.83 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-<u>2</u>_b), 2.29 – 2.12 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>-<u>3</u>), 2.06 – 1.93 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-<u>4</u>_a), 1.64 – 1.39 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>-<u>7</u> and C<u>H</u>₂-<u>4</u>_b), 1.31 – 1.21 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-<u>6</u>), 0.95 – 0.86 (6H, m, 2 x C<u>H</u><u>3</u>-<u>8</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 155.0, 137.3, 128.6, 128.0, 128.0, 128.0, 127.9, 66.7, 66.7, 52.1, 51.7, 46.2, 45.7, 42.6, 42.6, 37.2, 36.3, 32.3, 31.5, 26.9, 26.8, 23.0, 22.9, 22.8, 22.8. *N.B. The majority of the signals are doubled due to the rotameric nature of the carbamate.*

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+Na]^+$ = 284.1621, C₁₆H₂₃O₂NNa requires 284.1621, Δ = -0.08 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2955, 1704, 1418, 1359, 1109, 768, 697 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25} = -21.4$ (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IA column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(R)-1-Benzyl-3-isopropylpyrrolidine, (+)-3am



To a 2-5 mL Biotage[®] microwave vial equipped with a stirrer bar was added (*R*)-2-isopropylbutane-1,4-diol (–)-**2am** (132 mg, 1.0 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and CsHCO₃ (3.9 mg, 2.0 mol%). The vial was sealed with a microwave vial crimp cap (containing a Reseal[®] septum), evacuated under vacuum and refilled with argon three times. Cyclopentyl methyl ether (0.5 mL) was added *via* syringe, followed by anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol). The vial was sealed with Parafilm[®], placed in a preheated oil bath and stirred at 110 °C for 24 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under a flow of nitrogen. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 75:25, SiO₂ was basified with Et₃N prior to use, see General Information for details) afforded pyrrolidine (+)-**3am** (155 mg, 76%, 92:8 er) as a colourless oil. The corresponding racemic pyrrolidine *rac*-**3am** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**2am**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.29 – 7.13 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 3.54 (1H, d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, NC<u>H_{2a}Ph</u>), 3.49 (1H, d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, NC<u>H_{2b}Ph</u>), 2.74 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 7.4 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_a</u>), 2.71 – 2.63 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-5_a</u>), 2.28 (1H, td, *J* = 8.9, 6.2 Hz, C<u>H₂-5_b</u>), 1.98 (1H, t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, C<u>H₂-2_b</u>), 1.92 – 1.72 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-4_a</u> and C<u>H-3</u>), 1.45 – 1.31 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-4_b</u> and C<u>H-6</u>), 0.81 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H₃-7a</u>), 0.77 (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, C<u>H₃-7b</u>).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 139.6, 129.0, 128.3, 126.9, 61.2, 59.2, 54.4, 45.6, 33.2, 29.2, 21.5, 21.3.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 204.1747, C₁₄H₂₂N requires 204.1747, Δ = 0.33 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2956, 2784, 1453, 1377, 1154, 737, 698 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = +5.5 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

The enantiomeric purity was determined by chiral HPLC analysis after conversion to the corresponding benzyl carbamate (see below).

Benzyl (R)-3-isopropylpyrrolidine-1-carboxylate, S8



(*R*)-1-Benzyl-3-isopropylpyrrolidine (+)-**3am** (30 mg, 0.15 mmol) and benzyl chloroformate (3 M in toluene, 0.29 mL, 0.89 mmol) were subjected to **general procedure C**. Purification by column

chromatography afforded piperidine **S8** (13 mg, 36%, 92:8 e.r.). The corresponding racemic Cbzpyrrolidine *rac*-**S8** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**3am**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.41 – 7.27 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.13 (2H, s, OC<u>H₂</u>Ph), 3.70 – 3.52 (2H, m, C<u>H₂-2</u> <u>2</u>_a and C<u>H₂-5</u>_a), 3.34 – 3.24 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-5</u>_b), 2.99 – 2.89 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-2</u>_b), 2.06 – 1.95 (1H, m, C<u>H₂-4</u>_a), 1.90 – 1.74 (1H, m, CH-3), 1.57 – 1.41 (2H, m, CH-6 and CH₂-4_b), 0.95 – 0.89 (6H, m, 2 x CH₃-7).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 155.0, 137.3, 128.6, 128.1, 128.0, 128.0, 66.7, 66.7, 50.9, 50.4, 46.9, 46.7, 46.3, 46.1, 32.1, 30.6, 29.8, 21.6, 21.3, 21.3. *N.B. The majority of the signals are doubled due to the rotameric nature of the carbamate.*

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 248.1646, $C_{15}H_{22}O_2N$ requires 248.1645, Δ = 0.55 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2959, 1703, 1418, 1359, 1106, 798, 697 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25} = -32.4$ (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IA column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



(2R,5R)-1-Benzyl-2,5-dimethylpiperidine, 30



(2R,5R)-2-Methylhexane-1,5-diol (+)-**2o** (132 mg, 1.0 mmol, ~53:47 dr, 94:6 er), anhydrous benzylamine (0.16 mL, 1.5 mmol), [IrCp*Cl₂]₂ (8.0 mg, 1.0 mol%) and water (0.5 mL) were subjected to **general procedure B** at 110 °C. ¹H NMR analysis of the crude reaction mixture indicated the presence of two diastereomers in 63:37 dr. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 95:5) afforded piperidine (–)-**3o**_{major} (105 mg, 52%, >95:5 dr, 75:25 er) as a colourless oil and piperidine (+)-**3o**_{minor} (50 mg, 25%, >95:5 dr, 75:25 er) as a colourless oil. The spectral data for both diastereoisomers was identical to that of the corresponding racemate described above.

(-)-**3o**_{major}: $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -65.2$ (*c* = 2.1, CHCl₃).

(+)-**30**_{minor}: $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ = +2.4 (*c* = 0.7, CHCl₃).

The enantiomeric purity of each diastereoisomer was determined by chiral HPLC analysis after conversion to the corresponding benzyl carbamate (see below).

Benzyl (2R,5R)-2,5-dimethylpiperidine-1-carboxylate, S9



N-benzyl-(2*R*,5*R*)-2,5-dimethylpiperidine (–)-**30**_{major} (26 mg, 0.13 mmol) and benzyl chloroformate (3 M in toluene, 0.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) were subjected to **general procedure C**. Purification by column chromatography afforded piperidine **S9** (31 mg, 98%, 75:25 er, >95:5 dr). The corresponding racemic piperidine *rac*-**S9** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**30**_{major}.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 7.37-7.28 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.16-5.10 (2H, m, OC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 4.46-4.39 (1H, m, C<u>H-2</u>), 3.73 (1H, dt, *J* = 13.6, 2.3 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_a), 3.13 (1H, dd, *J* = 13.5, 3.4 Hz, C<u>H</u>₂-6_b), 1.96-1.78 (3H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-3_a, C<u>H</u>₂-4_a and C<u>H-5</u>), 1.32-1.25 (2H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-3_b and C<u>H</u>₂-4_b), 1.13 (3H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃-7), 0.98 (3H, d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃-8).

 ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 156.1, 137.3, 128.6, 127.9, 127.8, 66.9, 46.8, 44.0, 27.8, 24.9, 24.8, 16.7, 16.3.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 248.1646, C₁₅H₂₂O₂N requires 248.1645, Δ = 0.24 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2936, 1693, 1423, 1355, 1336, 1308, 1260, 1244, 1159, 1076, 1029, 697 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25} = -14.2$ (*c* = 1.4, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IA column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



Benzyl (25,5R)-2,5-dimethylpiperidine-1-carboxylate, S10



N-benzyl-(2*S*,5*R*)-2,5-dimethylpiperidine (+)-**30**_{minor} (25 mg, 0.12 mmol) and benzyl chloroformate (3M in toluene, 0.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) were subjected to **general procedure C**. Purification by column chromatography afforded piperidine **S10** (29 mg, 95%, 75:25 er, >95:5 dr). The corresponding racemic piperidine *rac*-**S10** was prepared by an identical procedure starting from *rac*-**30**_{minor}.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃,) δ = 7.39-7.28 (5H, m, Ar<u>H</u>), 5.13 (2H, s, OC<u>H</u>₂Ph), 4.53-4.40 (1H, m, C<u>H-2</u>), 4.02-3.86 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-6_a), 2.53-2.43 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-6_b), 1.74-1.63 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-3_a), 1.60-1.44 (3H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-<u>3</u>_b, C<u>H</u>₂-4_a and C<u>H-5</u>), 1.30-1.19 (1H, m, C<u>H</u>₂-4_b), 1.13 (3H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃-7), 0.89 (3H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, C<u>H</u>₃-8).

¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 156.1, 137.3, 128.6, 128.0, 127.9, 67.0, 45.8, 31.5, 30.2, 27.6, 19.4, 16.2. N.B. the carbonyl peak was not observed presumably due to restricted N-CO bond rotation on the NMR timescale.

HRMS: ESI+ found $[M+H]^+$ = 248.1646, C₁₅H₂₂O₂N requires 248.1645, Δ = 0.55 ppm.

FTIR (film): v_{max} = 2936, 1693, 1423, 1336, 1308, 1260, 1244, 1159, 1146, 1076, 1029, 697 cm⁻¹.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +5.0 (*c* = 1.6, CHCl₃).

HPLC: Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak[®] IA column (99:1 hexane:IPA, 1.0 mL min⁻¹, 210 nm, room temperature):



4.3 Resubjection Experiment

To test whether the saturated aza-heterocycle products can undergo epimerization under the reaction conditions, isomerically pure *cis*-**3n** was resubjected to the optimized reaction conditions:



Procedure: 3,3-Dimethylpentane-1,5-diol⁶ **2q** (15 mg, 0.12 mmol), *cis*-**3n** (35 mg, 0.17 mmol, >95:5 d.r.), $[IrCp^*Cl_2]_2$ (0.9 mg, 1.0 mol%), NaHCO₃ (0.2 mg, 2.0 mol%) and anhydrous toluene (0.06 mL) were subjected to **general procedure A** at 110 °C. Purification by column chromatography (pentane:Et₂O 75:25) afforded piperidine *cis*-**3n** (28 mg, 80%, >95:5 d.r.) as a colourless oil. The spectral data of *cis*-**3n** (>95:5 d.r.) was identical to that described above. No signals corresponding to the minor diastereoisomer were observed in the ¹H-NMR spectra of either the purified material or the crude reaction mixture. Additionally, no formation of crossover product **3q** was observed. These results imply that epimerization of the products does not occur under the reaction conditions via reversible amine dehydrogenation.

5. References

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6. NMR Spectra





^{150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0} f1 (ppm)



















0	-10	-20	-30	-40	-50	-60	-70	-80	-90	-100	-110	-120	-130	-140	-150	-160	-170	-180
v	10	20	50	10	50	00	/0	00			110	120	150	110	150	100	170	100
									f1 (ppm)									
									11 (pp)									









0 -5 -10 -15 -20 -25 -30 -35 -40 -45 -50 -55 -60 -65 -70 -75 -80 -85 -90 -95 -100 f1 (ppm)






























S78









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0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	-50	-55	-60	-65	-70	-75	-80	-85	-90	-95	-100
0	5	10	15	20	25	50	55	10	15			00	05	/0	, 5	00	05	50	55	100
f1 (ppm)																				





90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 -230 -240 f1 (ppm)



























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0	-5	-1	0 -	15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	-50	-55	-60	-65	-70	-75	-80	-85	-90	-95	-100
f1 (ppm)																					





90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 -230 -240 f1 (ppm)





90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 -230 -240 f1 (ppm)





90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 -230 -240 f1 (ppm)













150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0 f1 (ppm)



























