# Electronic Supplementary Information

## Isoindolinone synthesis through Rh/Cu-catalyzed Oxidative C-H/N-H Annulation of N-methoxy benzamides with Saturated Ketones

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#### 1. General comments

All other reagents were purchased from TCI, Alfa Aesar, Accela and Adamas used without further purification. 1,4-dioxane was distilled from sodium and benzophenone under nitrogen and stored over 4Å molecular sieves under nitrogen. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz) spectra were obtained on Bruker spectrometer with CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal standard. Chemical shifts are reported in units (ppm) by assigning the TMS resonance in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra as 0.00 ppm (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 7.26 ppm). Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet and m = multiplet), coupling constant (J values) in Hz and integration. Chemical shifts for the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are recorded in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane using the central peak of CDCl<sub>3</sub> (77.05 ppm) as the internal standard. Flash column chromatography was performed using 300–400 mesh silica with the indicated solvent system according to standard techniques. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on pre-coated, glass-backed silica gel plates. The yields of the products reported are the isolated yields and the average of two runs.

#### 2. General procedure to prepare N-methoxybenzamides



A dried round-bottom flask was charged with acid (4.5 mmol), DCM (15 mL), and 2 drops of DMF. Then, oxalyl chloride (0.60 mL, 0.876 g, 6.9 mmol) was added dropwise within 5 min at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for about 4h and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc (40 mL) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.24 g, 9.0 mmol), MeONH<sub>2</sub>·HCl (458 mg, 5.4 mmol), water (20 mL) were sequentially added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature and extracted with EtOAc (50 mL). The organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL × 2), brine (15 mL × 2), and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography, using EtOAc/ PE as the eluent.

#### 3. Optimization details for the reaction conditions

#### Table S1. Optimization of silver salts <sup>a</sup>



Entry	Silver salts (equiv.)	Yield (%)
1	Ag <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (1.0)	43
2	AgOAc (2.0)	46
3	Ag <sub>2</sub> O (1.0)	30
4	AgNO <sub>3</sub> (2.0)	trace
5	Ag <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (1.0)	17
6	AgOAc (1.5)	50
7	AgOAc (1.0)	53

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), 1,2-Diethoxyethane (2.0 mL), N<sub>2</sub>, 22 h, isolated yield.

## Table S2. Optimization of solvents <sup>a</sup>

N <sup>OMe</sup> +	Cp*RhCl <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>2</sub> (2.5 n AgSbF <sub>6</sub> (10 mol Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub> (20 mol TEMPO (1.0 equ PPh <sub>3</sub> (20 mol% AgOAc (1.0 equ <b>2a</b>	$ \begin{array}{c}                                     $
Entry	Solvent (mL)	Yield (%)
1	1,2-diethoxyethane (2.0)	53
2	1,4-dioxane (2.0)	59
3	Toluene (2.0)	45
4	1,2-DCB (2.0)	41
5	TFE (2.0)	0
6	HFIP (2.0)	0
7	MeCN (2.0)	0
8	1,4-dioxane (1.5)	65

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.2 mmol), **2a** (0.6 mmol), 120 °C, N<sub>2</sub>, 22 h, isolated yield.

## Table S3. Optimization of reaction temperature. <sup>a</sup>



Entry	Temp. (°C)	Yield (%)
1	120	65
2	110	78

3	100	67

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: 1a (0.2 mmol), 2a (0.6 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL), N<sub>2</sub>, 22 h, isolated yield.

## Table S4. Optimization of the amount of AgSbF<sub>6</sub>.<sup>a</sup>



 $^{\rm a}$  Reaction conditions: 1a (0.2 mmol), 2a (0.6 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL), 110 °C,  $N_2,$  22 h, isolated yield.

#### Table S5. Optimization of the amount of PPh<sub>3</sub>.<sup>a</sup>



 $^{\rm a}$  Reaction conditions: 1a (0.2 mmol), 2a (0.6 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL), 110 °C,  $N_2,$  22 h, isolated yield.

## Table S6. Optimization of the amount of Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.<sup>a</sup>



Entry	Cu(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Yield
	(equiv.)	(%)
1	0.2	78
2	0.1	69
3	0	0

 $^{\rm a}$  Reaction conditions: 1a (0.2 mmol), 2a (0.6 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL), 110 °C,  $N_2,$  22 h, isolated yield.

#### 4. Mechanistic studies

#### Table S7. Dehydrogenation control experiments. <sup>a</sup>

	Cu( TE	OAc) <sub>2</sub> (20 mmol%) MPO (1.0 equiv.)	°
2a	Ας Ρ	OAc (1.0 equiv.) Ph <sub>3</sub> (20 mmol%)	4a
Entry	AgOAc	PPh <sub>3</sub>	GC-Yield
	(equiv.)	(equiv.)	(%)
1	1.0	0.2	70
2	0	0.2	30
3	1.0	0	34
4	0	0	6

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: **2a** (0.2 mmol), 1,4-dioxane (1.5 mL), 110 °C, N<sub>2</sub>, 22 h.

#### 5. General experimental procedures for the synthesis of isoindolinones

In a glove box, a 35 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a stir bar was charged with N-Methoxybenzamides **1** (0.2 mmol) Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%), TEMPO (1.0 equiv.), AgSbF<sub>6</sub> (10 mol %), Cp\*RhCl<sub>2</sub> (2.5 mol%), AgOAc (1.0 equiv.), PPh<sub>3</sub> (20 mol%). The tube was fitted with a rubber septum, and removed out from the glove box. Then propiophenone **2** (3.0 equiv.) were added through the rubber septum using syringe under the atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>. Dioxane (1.5 mL) was added to the Schlenk tube through the rubber septum using a syringe. The septum was replaced by a Teflon screwcap under N<sub>2</sub> flow. The mixture was stirred at 110 °C (preheated to 110 °C) for 22 h. After cooling, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (10 mL), filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing the pad of the silica gel with the ethyl acetate (10 mL). The organic phase was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by chromatography on silica gel to provide the corresponding product **3**.

#### 6. Characterization for products

3-(2-Oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3a)<sup>1</sup>



41.4 mg (78%); white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 40:60$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.86 (dd, J = 12.5, 7.9 Hz, 3H), 7.60 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, J = 12.4, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 5.13 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, J = 18.0, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.3, 169.9, 164.1, 146. 7, 131.9, 130.4, 129.1, 128.5, 124.1, 122.4, 114.0, 55.6, 52.6, 43.7.

7-Methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3b)<sup>2</sup>



43.1mg (77%); white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 15:85$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.85 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (s, 1H), 5.05 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (dd, J = 18.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.7, 170.9, 147.3, 144.8, 138.4, 133.7, 131.5, 130.4, 129.5, 129.0, 128.2, 119.7, 51.7, 44.2, 21.7, 17.3.

6-Methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3c)



40.2 mg (72%); white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.85 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.38 (dd, J = 17.4, 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 2H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 5.10 – 5.08 (m, 1H), 3.67 (dd, J = 18.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.6, 170.1, 144.8, 143.9, 138.6, 133.6, 132.9, 132.1, 129.5, 128.2, 124.3, 122.1, 52.3, 44.0, 21.7, 21.3. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M +Na]<sup>+</sup>: 302.1157, found: 302.1165.

5-Methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3d)



33.5 mg (60%), white solid (R<sub>f</sub> = 0.4, V<sub>THF</sub>/V<sub>PE</sub> = 30:70), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, 4H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 5.07 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.69 – 3.64 (m, 1H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 17.9, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 197.6, 170.1, 147.1, 144.8, 142. 7, 133.6, 129.5, 129.5, 129.2, 128.2, 123.9, 122.8, 52.3, 44.0, 22.0, 21.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{18}NO_2$  [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 280.1332, found: 280.1335.

5,7-Dimethyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3e)



41.1 mg (70%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.85 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 5.00 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (dd, J = 18.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.7, 171.0, 147.7, 144.8, 142.1, 138.0, 133.7, 131.4, 129.5, 128.2, 126.5, 120.2, 51.5, 44.3, 21.8, 21.7, 17.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{20}NO_2$  [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 294.1489, found: 294.1488.

7-Methoxy-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3f)



39.6 mg (67%), white solid ( $R_f$  = 0.4,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE}$  = 30:70), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.83 (d, J =

8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 7.02 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (d, J = 18.4 Hz, 3H), 3.62 (dd, J = 18.0, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, J = 18.0, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.4, 158.0, 149.7, 144.9, 134.0, 133.6, 129.5, 128.3, 114.4, 110.6, 56.0, 52.2, 44.0, 21.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 296.1281, found: 296.1273.

6-Methoxy-7-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3g)



42.7 mg (68%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.84 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 3H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 4.99 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.63 (dd, J = 17.9, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.9, 170.9, 158.1, 144.8, 138.7, 133.8, 129.9, 129.5, 128.2, 127.3, 119.7, 113.6, 56.2, 50.9, 44.6, 21.8, 9.6. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M +Na]<sup>+</sup>: 310.1438, found: 310.1434.

6,7-Dimethoxy-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one(3h)



3h

42.9 mg (66%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 40:60$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.82 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (q, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 4.99 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.60 (dd, J = 17.9, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.6, 168.3, 152.6, 147.8, 144.8, 140.1, 133.7, 129.5, 128.2, 124.1, 117.3, 117.0, 62.5, 56.8, 51.3, 44.4, 21.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 326.1387, found: 326.1392.

7-Fluoro-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3i)



3i

36.3 mg (64%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  8.60 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (td, J = 7.9, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 5.10 (dd, J = 7.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (dd, J = 17.9, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.39 – 3.33 (m, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  197.0, 166.2 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 158.2 (d, J = 257.4 Hz), 150.9 (d, J = 3.1 Hz), 144.0, 134.0 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 133.9, 129.4, 128.3, 119.7 (d, J = 3.8 Hz), 119.3 (d, J = 13.4 Hz), 115.1 (d, J = 19.4 Hz), 52.1, 43.3, 21.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for  $C_{17}H_{15}FNO_2$  [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 284.1081, found: 284.1081.

5-Fluoro-7-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3j)



41.6 mg (70%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.96 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 5.03 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.63 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 3.07 (dd, J = 17.9, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.3, 169.9, 164.7 (d, J = 252.5 Hz), 149.8 (d, J = 10.1 Hz), 144.9, 141.3 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 133.6, 129.5, 128.2, 125.2, 117.7 (d, J = 22.5 Hz), 107.3 (d, J = 24.0 Hz), 51.6 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 44.1, 21.7, 17.4. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FNO<sub>2</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 298.1238, found: 298.1243.

4-Fluoro-7-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3k)



38.1 mg (64%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.83 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.26 – 7.25 (m, 2H), 6.93 (dd, J = 13.4, 9.0 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 5.03 (dd, J = 9.9, 2.7 Hz,

1H), 3.59 (dd, J = 17.9, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, J = 17.9, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.3, 169.9, 167.7 (d, J = 252.5 Hz), 149.8 (d, J = 10.1 Hz), 144.9, 141.2 (d, J = 10.1 Hz), 133.6, 129.5, 128.2, 125.2 (d, J = 2.0 Hz), 117.6 (d, J = 22.2 Hz), 107.1 (d, J = 23.2 Hz), 51.6, 51.6, 44.1, 21.7, 17.4. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FNO<sub>2</sub> [M +Na]<sup>+</sup>: 320.1063, found: 320.1066.

6-Chloro-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3I)



40.2 mg (67%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.84 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 3H), 7.54 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 5.12 (dd, J = 9.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, J = 18.0, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, J = 18.0, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.2, 168.6, 145.0, 144.8, 134.8, 133.5, 132.1, 131.3, 130.3, 129.6, 129.3, 128.2, 124.3, 123.8, 52.4, 43.7, 21.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>15</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> [M +Na]<sup>+</sup>: 322.0611, found: 322.0619.

5-Chloro-7-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3m)



41.8 mg (67%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.84 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 3H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 5.03 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, J = 18.0, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.3, 169.9, 148.9, 145.0, 140.1, 137.6, 133.5, 130.6, 129.6, 128.2, 127.6, 120.2, 51.5, 44.0, 21.8, 17.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> [M +Na]<sup>+</sup>: 314.0767, found: 314.0775.

4-Chloro-7-methyl-3-(2-oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (3n)



24.9 mg (40%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.85 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 5.07 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dd, J = 18.1, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, J = 18.1, 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.9, 169.4, 144.9, 143.7, 137.2, 133.6, 132.1, 131.8, 131.3, 129.5, 128.2, 126.2, 51.5, 41.5, 21.7, 16.9. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>17</sub>CINO<sub>2</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 314.0942, found: 314.0958.

3-(2-Oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[e]isoindol-1-one (30)



30

40.4 mg (64%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.22 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.67 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.59 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 5.16 (dd, J = 10.2, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dd, J = 17.9, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dd, J = 17.9, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.5, 171.1, 147.1, 144.8, 133.6, 133.2, 133.0, 129.6, 129.5, 128.2, 128.1, 128.1, 126.7, 126.0, 123.9, 119.4, 52.2, 43.5, 21.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 316.1332, found: 316.1331.

3-(2-Oxo-2-(p-tolyl)ethyl)-2,3,6,7,8,9-hexahydro-1H-benzo[e]isoindol-1-one (3p)



40.2 mg (63%), white solid (R<sub>f</sub> = 0.4, V<sub>THF</sub>/V<sub>PE</sub> = 40:60), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.84 (d, J =

8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.28 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 5.01 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (dd, J = 18.0, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (s, 2H), 3.02 (dd, J = 18.0, 10.3 Hz, 1H), 2.84 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.86 – 1.78 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.8, 171.2, 145.0, 144.8, 137.8, 137.6, 133.7, 132.9, 129.5, 128.5, 128.2, 119.0, 51.4, 44.3, 29.6, 25.0, 22.8, 22.4, 21.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 320.1645 , found: 320.1642.

3-(2-Oxo-2-(m-tolyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4a)



4a

35.6 mg (67%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.87 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.76 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 5.13 (dd, J = 10.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, J = 18.1, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd, J = 18.1, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.5, 170.0, 146.6, 144.9, 133.6, 132.0, 131.9, 129.5, 128.5, 128.2, 124.1, 122.4, 52.5, 43.9, 21.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 266.1176 , found: 266.1179.

3-(2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4b) 1



4b

38.3 mg (68%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.92 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.12 (dd, J = 9.8, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.66 (dd, J = 17.9, 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, J = 17.9, 10.2 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.3, 169.9, 164.1, 146.7, 132.0, 131.9, 130.4, 129.1, 128.5, 124.1, 122.4, 114.0, 55.6, 52.6, 43.7.

3-(2-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4c)



4c

36.6 mg (62%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.85 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.46 (m, 3H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (s, 2H), 5.10 (dd, J = 9.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dd, J = 17.9, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.02 (dd, J = 17.9, 10.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  195.8, 170.1, 152.4, 148.4, 146.6, 131.9, 130.9, 128.5, 127.4, 124.6, 124.1, 122.4, 108.0, 107.7, 102.0, 52.6, 43.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 296.0917, found: 296.0920.

3-(2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4d) 1



4d

42.6 mg (79%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.99 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.60 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 5.13 (dd, J = 9.7, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (dd, J = 18.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd, J = 18.0, 9.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.3, 170.1, 166.1 (d, J = 254.6 Hz), 146.5, 132.5 (d, J = 3.0 Hz), 132.0, 130.8 (d, J = 9.5 Hz), 128.6, 127.4, 124.1, 122.4, 116.0 (d, J = 21.9 Hz), 52.4, 44.0.

3-(2-(3-Fluorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4e) 3



38.8 mg (72%), white solid (R<sub>f</sub> = 0.4, V<sub>THF</sub>/V<sub>PE</sub> = 30:70), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  8.58 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.62 – 7.56 (m, 3H),

7.53 – 7.46 (m , 2H), 5.10 (dd, J = 7.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (dd, J = 18.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.42 – 3.32 (m, 1H, H<sub>2</sub>O). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-d6)  $\delta$  196.8 (d, J = 2.1 Hz), 169.3, 162.3 (d, J = 246.3 Hz), 147.4, 138.6 (d, J = 6.2 Hz), 132.4, 131.6, 131.0 (d, J = 7.8 Hz), 128.2, 124.5 (d, J = 2.7 Hz), 123.4, 122.9, 120.5 (d, J = 21.4 Hz), 114.7 (d, J = 22.4 Hz), 52.2, 43.8.

3-(2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4f) <sup>3</sup>



33.4 mg (62%), white solid (R<sub>f</sub> = 0.4, V<sub>THF</sub>/V<sub>PE</sub> = 30:70), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.96 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.51 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 7.14 (ddd, *J* = 11.4, 8.3, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 5.13 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (dt, *J* = 18.8, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (ddd, *J* = 18.8, 10.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.1 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz), 170.1, 162.4 (d, *J* = 256.2 Hz), 146.4, 135.6 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz), 132.0 (d, *J* = 5.5 Hz), 130.6 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 128.5, 124.8 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz), 124.5 (d, *J* = 12.6 Hz), 124.1, 122.4, 116.9 (d, *J* = 23.8 Hz), 52.5 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz), 48.9 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz).

3-(2-Oxo-2-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4g) <sup>3</sup>



4g

29.4 mg (46%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.07 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 5.16 (dd, J = 9.6, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (dd, J = 18.2, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (dd, J = 18.2, 9.9 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  197.1, 170.1, 146.3, 138.6, 135.3 (CF<sub>3</sub>), 135.0 (CF<sub>3</sub>), 132.1, 132.0, 128.7, 128.5, 126.0(d, J = 11.0 Hz), 124.8 (CF<sub>3</sub>), 124.3, 122.4, 122.1 (CF<sub>3</sub>), 52.3, 44.5.

3-(2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4h)<sup>1</sup>



4h

41.7 mg (73%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.89 – 7.84 (m, 3H), 7.59 – 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.40 (m, 4H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 5.13 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 9.7 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.7, 170.2, 146.4, 140.4, 134.3, 132.0, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 127.4, 124.1, 122.40, 52.4, 44.0. 3-(2-(3-Chlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (**4i**) <sup>3</sup>



4i

40.6 mg (70%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.92 (s, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (dd, J = 15.4, 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (dd, J = 12.0, 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 5.14 (dd, J = 9.7, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (dd, J = 18.2, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd, J = 18.2, 9.9 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.7, 170.1, 146.3, 137.5, 135.2, 133.8, 132.1, 130.2, 128.7, 128.2, 127.4, 126.2, 124.2, 122.4, 52.3, 44.2.

3-(2-(4-Bromophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4j)<sup>1</sup>



52.8 mg (80%), white solid (R<sub>f</sub> = 0.4, V<sub>THF</sub>/V<sub>PE</sub> = 30:70), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.85 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.61 –7.56 (m, 3H), 7.50 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 5.13 (dd, *J* = 9.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.65 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 9.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 196.9, 170.1, 146.4, 134.7, 132.1, 132.0, 131.9, 129.6, 129.2, 128.6, 124.1, 122.4, 52.3, 44.0.

3-(2-(3-Bromophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4k)



4k

46.2 mg (70%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.07 (s, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (dd, J = 8.0, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (t, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 5.13 (dd, J = 9.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (dd, J = 18.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd, J = 18.2, 9.8 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  196.6, 170.1, 146.3, 137.7, 136.7, 132.0, 131.9, 131.1, 130.4, 128.6, 126.6, 124.2, 123.2, 122.4, 52.3, 44.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 351.9958, found: 351.9949.

3-(2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4)



42.9 mg (67%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.56 (m 2H), 7.53 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 5.14 (dd, J = 9.9, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (dd, J = 18.2, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, J = 18.2, 10.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  195.8, 170.0, 146.2, 138.7, 135.5, 133.7, 132.1, 131.9, 131.0, 130.1, 128.8, 127.1, 124.3, 122.4, 52.2, 44.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 320.0240, found: 320.0244.

3-(2-Oxo-2-(thiophen-2-yl)ethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4m)<sup>1</sup>



34.5 mg (67%), whitle solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.86 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 5.13 (dd, J = 9.7, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, J = 17.6, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, J = 17.6, 10.0 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C

NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3) δ 190.5, 170.0, 146.3, 143.1, 134.7, 132.7, 132.0, 128.6, 128.4, 127.4, 124.2, 122.4, 52.5, 44.5.

3-(2-(5-Methylfuran-2-yl)-2-oxoethyl)isoindolin-1-one (4n)



4n

29.1 mg (57%), white solid ( $R_f = 0.4$ ,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE} = 30:70$ ), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.84 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 2H), 6.16 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.08 (dd, J = 9.8, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (dd, J = 17.6, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.92 (dd, J = 17.6, 10.0 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  185.7, 170.1, 158.5, 150.8, 146.5, 131.9, 131.8, 128.4, 124.0, 122.4, 120.0, 109.4, 52.3, 43.1, 14.0. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 256.0968, found: 256.0967.

3-(2-Oxobutyl)isoindolin-1-one (40)



14.3 mg (33%), white solid (Rf = 0.4,  $V_{THF}/V_{PE}$  = 40:60), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 4.87 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 18.1, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 2.56 – 2.44 (m, 3H), 1.09 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  209.6, 171.0, 147.1, 138.4, 131.5, 130.4, 128.9, 119.5, 51.4, 47.5, 36.2, 17.3, 7.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> [M +H]<sup>+</sup>: 218.1176 found: 218.1174.

#### 7. References

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## 8. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra



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



























































