## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

# The Bigger, the Better: Ring-size Effects of Macrocyclic Oligomeric Co(III)-salen Catalysts 

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## General

Cyclooct-4-en-1-yl salen ligand monomer and the original mixture of macrocyclic salen ligands were synthesized following our previous report. ${ }^{1}$ All reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and, unless specified below, used without further purification. Dichloromethane was dried by passing through columns of activated copper and alumina successively. Chlorobenzene was distilled under argon prior to use. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel $60 \AA$ ( $230-400$ mesh) from Sorbent Technologies. Size-exclusive chromatography was performed using Toyopearl HW-40 SEC resin purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectra were recorded at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ on a Bruker AC $400(400 \mathrm{MHz})$ spectrometer. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were obtained at 100.0 MHz on a Bruker AC 400 spectrometer. All chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) with reference to solvent residual peaks. MALDITOF mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker OmniFLEX Maldi-TOF spectrometer using dithranol as the matrix. Gel-permeation chromatography (GPC) analyses were performed on a Shimadzu LC-10AD pump coupled to a UV detector. American Polymer Standards columns were used with THF as the mobile phase (flow rate at $1.0 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ ) and poly(styrene)s were employed as standards for calibration. The chiral GC analyses were carried on a Shimadzu GC 14-A instrument equipped with an FID detector. Either a Chiraldex $\gamma$-TA column (Advanced Separation Technologies, Inc.) or a $\beta$-Dex 120 column (Supelco) was used with helium as the carrier gas. The chiral HPLC analyses were performed on a Shimadzu-10A
system. A Chiracel OD column (Chiral Technologies, Inc.) and HPLC grade n-hexane and isopropanol (flow rate at $1 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ ) were used. Elemental analyses were performed by Quantitative Technologies Inc.

## Macrocyclic oligomeric salen ligand separation based on ring size



Figure S1. MALDI-TOF mass spectra of the original macrocyclic oligomer mixture; (A) non-metalated, and (B) metalated cyclic oligomers.

The crude salen oligomers were subjected to flash column chromatography with $60 \AA$ silica gel. The elution solvent was a hexane/ethyl acetate mixture containing $0.2 \%$ triethyl amine with a solvent gradient changing from 100/0 to $100 / 5$ hexanes to ethyl acetate ratios. Individual fractions were analyzed with MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. Pure dimeric ligand was obtained from the first fractions. The following fractions contain mixtures enriched with different range of ring-size oligomers. Fractions were combined resulting in four to six final fractions containing mixtures of different ring-size oligomers. After removal of the solvents, the residual solids of each fraction were re-dissolved in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3} /$ methanol (1:1) and further purified by SEC column chromatography. The SEC column had a 2 cm inside diameter and was 500 cm long and filled with Toyopearl HW-40 resin. The commercial resin was stored in ethanol and it was necessary to fully exchange the solvent to $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3} /$ methanol. A $1: 1$ mixture of $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ /methanol was used as the elution solvent. The collected fractions were analyzed with MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. Pure trimers and higher mass mixtures (tetramer to hexamer and pentamer to decamer) were obtained. To obtain pure tetramers, three to four further SEC purification steps were necessary. In the end, the following oligomers were obtained (yields compared to the starting mixture are in parentheses): dimer $(25 \%)$, trimer ( $16 \%$ ), tetramer ( $2 \%$ ), tetramer-hexamer ( $7 \%$ ) and pentamer-decamer (3\%).

Salen ligand dimer $(\mathrm{n}=2):{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MH}_{\mathrm{Z}}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}) 13.87(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OH}), 13.64$ (br, 13.60 side peak, $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OH}$ ), $8.32(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}=\mathrm{C} H), 8.26(\mathrm{~m}, 8.12$ side peak, $1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}=\mathrm{CH}), 7.35(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, Ar$H$ ), 7.01 (d, $J=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-H), 6.91$ (m, 1H, Ar-H), 6.77 (m, 6.67 side peak, 1H, Ar- $H$ ), 5.48 (m, br, $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}), 3.32\left(\mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{br}, 2 \mathrm{H}, 2 \mathrm{NCHCH}_{2}\right.$ ), 2.49-2.94 (m, br, 1H, CHCO), 2.33-1.35 (m, 18H), 1.42 ( s , $\left.9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 1.40\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 1.24\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (100 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm})$ 174.9175.3 ( $\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CO}_{2}$, multiple chemical environments), $165.9,164.5,158.1,158.0,141.5,140.0,138.3$, 136.2, 129.1-132.1 (m, 2C, $\mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}$, multiple chemical environments), 126.9, 126.0,122.5, 121.2, 118.1, $117.7,72.5,72.3,41.2-44.1$ ( $\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CHCO}_{2}$, multiple chemical environments), $35.0,34.9,34.0,33.1$ (br, overlapping signals), 31.4 (overlapping signals), 29.5 (overlapping signals), 29.2 (overlapping signals), 29.1, 24.3 (br, overlapping signals); MALDI-TOF MS ( $m / z$ ) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{82} \mathrm{H}_{116} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{8}, 1285.8$, found, 1286.5 (M+H); GPC: $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{n}}=1650, \mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{w}}=1774$, PDI = 1.06. Anal. Calcd for $\left(\mathrm{C}_{41} \mathrm{H}_{58} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)_{2}: \mathrm{C}, 76.60 ; \mathrm{H}$, 9.09; N, 4.36. Found: C, 76.83; H, 9.28; N, 4.21.


Figure S2. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum ( $400 \mathrm{MH}_{\mathrm{Z}}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$, room temperature) of the dimer ligand.
Although proton signals $a^{\prime}, b^{\prime}, b, c$ and $f$ are highly split, careful integration shows that all split peaks (the side peaks were integrated together with the main signals) integrate as one proton.

Salen ligand trimer $(\mathrm{n}=3):{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MH}_{\mathrm{z}}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}) 13.89(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{br}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OH}), 13.62(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{br}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{OH}), 8.32(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}=\mathrm{C} H), 8.25(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}=\mathrm{C} H), 7.33(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-H), 7.00(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, Ar-H), $6.90(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-H), 6.76(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Ar}-H), 5.40(\mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{br}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}), 3.31\left(\mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{br}, 2 \mathrm{H}, 2 \mathrm{NCHCH}_{2}\right)$, $2.58(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{br}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHCO}), 2.38-1.38(\mathrm{~m}, 18 \mathrm{H}), 1.41\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 1.39\left(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right), 1.24(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{3}\right) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta(\mathrm{ppm}) 175.1,165.9,164.7,158.1,158.0,141.6,140.0,138.5$, 136.4, 129.7-131.3 ( $\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}=\mathrm{CH}$, multiple chemical environments),126.9, 126.0,122.7, 121.3, 118.2, $117.8,72.5,72.2,42.2(\mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{br}), 35.0,34.9,34.0,33.2,33.1,31.4$ (overlapping signals), 29.5 (overlapping signals), 29.2 (overlapping signals), 24.3 (br, overlapping signals); MALDI-TOF MS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{123} \mathrm{H}_{174} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{12}(\mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{z})$, 1928.7, found, $1928.3(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}) ; \mathrm{GPC}: \mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{n}}=2164, \mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{w}}=2397$, PDI $=1.08$. Anal. Calcd for $\left(\mathrm{C}_{41} \mathrm{H}_{58} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)_{3}$ : C, 76.60; H, 9.09; $\mathrm{N}, 4.36$. Found: C, 76.48; H, 9.47; $\mathrm{N}, 4.18$.

Salen ligand tetramer ( $\mathrm{n}=4$, contaminated with trimer and pentamer combined ca. $5 \%$ ): ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra are equivalent to those of the trimer ligand. MALDI-TOF MS ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ ) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{164} \mathrm{H}_{232} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{O}_{16}, 2571.6$, found, $2571.9(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H})$; GPC: $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{n}}=2604, \mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{w}}=2786$, PDI $=1.11$. Anal. Calcd for $\left(\mathrm{C}_{41} \mathrm{H}_{58} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)_{4}$ : C, 76.60; H, 9.09; N, 4.36. Found: C, 76.66; H, 9.42; N, 4.24.

Salen ligands tetramer-hexamer $(\mathrm{n}=4-6):{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR are equivalent to those of the trimer ligand. MALDI-TOF MS $(m / z)$ calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{164} \mathrm{H}_{232} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{O}_{16}(\mathrm{n}=4)$, 2571.6, found, $2572.1(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 98 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{205} \mathrm{H}_{290} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{20}(\mathrm{n}=5), 3214.6$, found $3214.1(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 100 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{246} \mathrm{H}_{348} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{24}(\mathrm{n}=6)$, 3857.5, found $3856.8(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 27 \%)$; GPC: $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{n}}=2978, \mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{w}}=3309$, PDI $=1.11$. Anal. Calcd for $\left(\mathrm{C}_{41} \mathrm{H}_{58} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)_{4-6}: \mathrm{C}, 76.60 ; \mathrm{H}, 9.09 ; \mathrm{N}, 4.36$. Found: C, 76.62; H, 8.94; N, 4.39.

Salen ligands pentamer-decamer $(\mathrm{n}=5-10):{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR are equivalent to those of the trimer ligand. MALDI-TOF MS $(m / z)$ calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{205} \mathrm{H}_{290} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{20}(\mathrm{n}=5)$, 3214.6, found $3215.5(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 58 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{246} \mathrm{H}_{348} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{24}(\mathrm{n}=6), 3857.5$, found $3856.6(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 100 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{287} \mathrm{H}_{406} \mathrm{~N}_{14} \mathrm{O}_{28}(\mathrm{n}=7)$, 4500.4, found $4497.9(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 83 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{328} \mathrm{H}_{464} \mathrm{~N}_{16} \mathrm{O}_{32}(\mathrm{n}=8)$, 5143.3, found $5138.4(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 39 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{369} \mathrm{H}_{522} \mathrm{~N}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{36}(\mathrm{n}=9)$, 5786.2, found $5777.8(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 12 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{410} \mathrm{H}_{580} \mathrm{~N}_{20} \mathrm{O}_{40}(\mathrm{n}=10)$, 6429.1, found $6420.0(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 3 \%) ; \mathrm{GPC}: \mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{n}}=3342, \mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{w}}=3759$, PDI $=1.12$. Anal. Calcd for $\left(\mathrm{C}_{41} \mathrm{H}_{58} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)_{2}$ : C, 76.60; H, 9.09; N, 4.36. Found: C, 76.50; H, 9.19; N, 4.21.

: k : monomer
ligand; red: dimer ligand; magenta: trimer ligand; green: tetramer ligand; yellow: tetramer-hexamer ligands; blue: pentamer-decamer ligands.

Table S4. Characterization of monomer and macrocyclic salen oligomers by GPC.

| Macrocyclic Salen <br> Oligomer | Calculated <br> Molecular Weight | $M_{n}$ | $M_{w}$ | $P D I$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Monomer | 642.4 | 1100 | 1200 | 1.06 |
| Dimer | 1285.8 | 1700 | 1800 | 1.08 |
| Trimer | 1928.7 | 2200 | 2400 | 1.11 |
| Tetramer | 2571.6 | 2600 | 2800 | 1.07 |
| Tetramer-Hexamer | $2571.6,3214.6$, <br> 3857.5 | 3000 | 3300 | 1.11 |
| Pentamer-Decamer | $3214.6,3857.5$, | 3300 | 3800 | 1.12 |
|  | $4500.4,5143.3$, <br> $5786.2,6428.1$ |  |  |  |

## General procedure for the metalation of the macrocyclic oligomeric salen ligand

The metalation was carried out in a glove box. The salen oligomer of interest (1 equiv.) was dissolved in degassed dichloromethane $(40 \mathrm{mM})$ in a reaction vial equipped with a micro stirbar. A cobalt(II) acetate
tetrahydrate methanol solution ( 1.5 equiv. 60 mM ) was added to the salen solution. The mixture turned red immediately and some dark red precipitate formed gradually. After the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, most of the dichloromethane was removed by vacuum. A small amount of methanol was added. The reaction vial was shaken by a vortex followed by centrifugation for 2 minutes. The supernate was decanted. This procedure was repeated two more times. The final product was dried under high vacuum overnight to afford a brick red solid.
$\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-salen complex dimer ( $\mathrm{n}=2$ ): MALDI-TOF MS $(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z})$ calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{82} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{8} \mathrm{Co}_{2}, 1399.7$, found, $1399.5(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H})$; ICP-MS calcd. for $\mathrm{Co}(\%) 8.42$, found 7.38 ( $87.6 \%$ Co loading).

Co (II)-salen complex trimer ( $\mathrm{n}=3$ ): MALDI-TOF MS $(m / z)$ calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{123} \mathrm{H}_{168} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{12} \mathrm{Co}_{3}, 2099.5$, found, $2100.1(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H})$; ICP-MS calcd. for Co (\%) 8.42, found 7.78 ( $92.4 \%$ Co loading).
$\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$-salen complex tetramer ( $\mathrm{n}=4$ ): MALDI-TOF MS ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ ) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{164} \mathrm{H}_{224} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{O}_{16} \mathrm{Co}_{4}, 2799.3$, found, $2799.7(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H})$; ICP-MS calcd. for Co (\%) 8.42, found 8.03 ( $95.4 \%$ Co loading).

Co (II)-salen complex tetramer-hexamer ( $\mathrm{n}=4-6$ ): MALDI-TOF MS ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ ) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{164} \mathrm{H}_{224} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{O}_{16} \mathrm{Co}_{4}$ $(\mathrm{n}=4), 2799.3$, found, $2799.1(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 100 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{205} \mathrm{H}_{280} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{20} \mathrm{Co}_{5}(\mathrm{n}=5)$, 3499.1, found, 3500.6 $(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 85 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{246} \mathrm{H}_{336} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{24} \mathrm{Co}_{6}(\mathrm{n}=6)$, 4199.0 , found, $4198.9(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 21 \%)$; ICP-MS calcd. for Co (\%) 8.42, found 7.84 ( $93.1 \%$ Co loading).

Co(II)-salen complex tetramer-hexamer ( $\mathrm{n}=5-10$ ): MALDI-TOF MS ( $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ ) calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{205} \mathrm{H}_{280} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{20} \mathrm{Co}_{5}(\mathrm{n}=5)$, 3499.1, found, $3501.9(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 45 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{246} \mathrm{H}_{336} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{24} \mathrm{Co}_{6}(\mathrm{n}=6)$, 4199.0, found, $4201.7(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 100 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{287} \mathrm{H}_{392} \mathrm{~N}_{14} \mathrm{O}_{28} \mathrm{Co}_{6}(\mathrm{n}=7)$, 4898.8, found, $4901.3(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}$, $87 \%$ ); calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{328} \mathrm{H}_{448} \mathrm{~N}_{16} \mathrm{O}_{32} \mathrm{Co}_{8}(\mathrm{n}=8)$, 5598.6 , found, $5601.3(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 51 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{369} \mathrm{H}_{504} \mathrm{~N}_{18} \mathrm{O}_{36} \mathrm{Co}_{9}(\mathrm{n}=9), 6298.5$, found, $6299.8(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 18 \%)$; calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{410} \mathrm{H}_{560} \mathrm{~N}_{20} \mathrm{O}_{40} \mathrm{Co}_{10}(\mathrm{n}=10)$, 6988.3, found, $6999.0(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}, 5 \%)$; ICP-MS calcd. for Co (\%) 8.42, found 7.62 ( $90.5 \%$ Co loading).

## General procedures for Hydrolytic Kinetic Resolution (HKR)

The Co(II)-salen oligomers of interest ( 0.005 mmol based on cobalt) were dissolved in dichloromethane $(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ in a 20 mL reaction vial. Glacial acetic acid $(10 \mu \mathrm{~L})$ was added to the solution and the mixture was stirred in the open air for 40 min during which time the color changed from red to dark brown. The solvent and the excess acetic acid were removed by rotary evaporation. Residual solvent was further removed azeotropically with toluene $(2 \times 100 \mu \mathrm{~L})$ and the remaining solid was dried overnight under high vacuum. The racemic epoxide of interest ( $2 \sim 50 \mathrm{mmol}$ depending on catalyst ratios) was added to the activated catalyst followed by chlorobenzene (about $500 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ ) as an internal standard. The reaction vial
was immersed into a water bath at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and an aliquot of the solution $(4 \mu \mathrm{~L})$ was taken and analyzed. Deionized water ( $0.54 \mathrm{~mL}, 30 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.6$ equiv) was added to the reaction mixture to start the reaction. The resolution reaction was monitored by chiral GC. For kinetic studies, aliquots ( $4 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ ) were taken at certain times and diluted with 3 mL diethyl ether. The diethyl ether solutions were then passed through plugs of silica gel packed in a Pasteur pipet. The filtrates were concentrated to about $100 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ and subject to chiral GC analyses. The absolute configurations were assigned by comparison with authentic samples. ${ }^{1}$

## (R)-1,2-Epoxyhexane (Table 1, Entry 1)

Tetramer-hexamer catalyst ( $0.01 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), reaction time: 80 minutes. (R)-1,2-epoxyhexane was obtained in $>99 \%$ ee (Chiraldex $\gamma-\mathrm{TA}, 60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, isothermal, $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{R}$, major $)=11.30 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}$, minor $\left.)=10.83 \mathrm{~min}\right)$.

## (S)-Epichlorohydrin (Table 1, Entry 2)

Tetramer-hexamer catalyst ( $0.01 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), reaction time: 100 minutes. (S)-epichlorohydrin was obtained in $>99 \%$ ee $\left(\right.$ Chiraldex $\gamma-\mathrm{TA}, 90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, isothermal, $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{R}$, minor $)=6.16 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}$, major $\left.)=5.96 \mathrm{~min}\right)$.

## (S)-Allyl glycidyl ether (Table 1, Entry 3)

Tetramer-hexamer catalyst ( $0.01 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), reaction time: 5 hours. (S)-allyl glycidyl ether was obtained in > $99 \%$ ee $\left(\right.$ Chiraldex $\gamma-\mathrm{TA}, 9{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, isothermal, $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}$, major $)=9.86 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{R}$, minor $\left.)=9.24 \mathrm{~min}\right)$.

## (S)-Phenyl glycidyl ether (Table 1, Entry 4)

Tetramer-hexamer catalyst ( $0.01 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), reaction time: 2 hours. (S)-phenyl glycidyl ether was obtained in $>99 \%$ ee $\left(\right.$ Chiracel OD, isopropanol : hexane $=10: 90(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}), \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}$, major $)=10.85 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{R}$, minor $)=$ 7.48 min ).

## (R)-Styrene oxide (Table 1, Entry 5)

Tetramer-hexamer catalyst ( $0.1 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), reaction time: 3.5 hours. (R)-styrene oxide was obtained in $>99 \%$ ee ( $\beta$-Dex 120, temperature programming: $89^{\circ} \mathrm{C} 5 \mathrm{~min}, 89^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ at $3{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{min}, 110^{\circ} \mathrm{C} 10 \mathrm{~min}$; $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}$, minor $)=18.55 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{R}$, major $\left.)=18.08 \mathrm{~min}\right)$.

## (R)-tert-Butyloxirane (Table 1, Entry 6)

Tetramer-hexamer catalyst ( $0.25 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ), reaction time: 5 hours. (R)-tert-butyloxirane was obtained in $>$ $99 \%$ ee (Chiraldex $\gamma-\mathrm{TA}, 40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, isothermal, $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}$, minor $)=14.06 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{R}$, major $\left.)=12.74 \mathrm{~min}\right)$.

## Reaction scope test of the asymmetric ring-opening of epoxides

The catalyst activation was carried out as described above. The absolute configuration of (R)-1-chloro-3-phenoxy-2-propanol was assigned by comparing the sign of the measured optical rotation with the literature report. ${ }^{2}$ (R)-1-(2-trimethylsilyl ethoxy)-2-hexanol was assigned by conversion to 1,2-hexane diol and compared with an authentic sample. (S,S)-Cyclohexane-1,2-diol was assigned by comparison with an authentic sample.

## Asymmetric ring-opening of epichlorohydrin with phenol

Epichlorohydrin ( $383 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 4.88 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.22$ equiv) and $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}(0.2 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) were added to the activated $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{III})$-salen complex ( $0.25 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ). The reaction vial was immerged in a $4{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ water bath. Phenol (206.8 $\mathrm{mg}, 2.2 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was added to start the reaction. The reaction was monitored by GC-MS. After 4 hours, the reaction solution was diluted with 5 mL of diethyl ether and filtered through a pad of silica gel. The plug of silica gel was washed with 20 mL diethyl ether. The combined filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure to provide the crude product, (R)-1-chloro-3-phenoxy-2-propanol, as a yellowish oil ( $399 \mathrm{mg}, 98 \%$ yield). The acetate derivative (prepared by $4 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ product, $400 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ dichloromethane, 44 $\mu \mathrm{L}$ pyridine, $40 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ acetyl chloride and stirring for 15 min followed by filtration through a plug of silica gel) has at least an enantiomeric excess of $99 \%$ as determined by chiral GC analysis (Chiraldex $\gamma$-TA column, $155{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, isothermal, $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}$, minor $)=29.1 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{R}$, major $\left.)=32.9 \mathrm{~min}\right) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MH}_{\mathrm{Z}}\right.$, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 7.33(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.01(\mathrm{t}, J=1.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.94(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 4.22(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.11(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 3.76(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.90(\mathrm{br}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 158.2,129.6,121.5,114.6,69.9$, 68.5, 46.0. $[\alpha]^{23}{ }_{\mathrm{D}}=-0.4\left(\mathrm{c}=2.01, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$, lit. $-0.7\left(\mathrm{c}=2.09, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) .{ }^{2}$

## Asymmetric ring-opening of 1,2-epoxyhexane with trimethyl silyl ethanol

1,2-Epoxyhexane ( $794 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 6.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.5$ equiv) and $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}(0.2 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) were added to the activated $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{III})$-salen complex ( $0.2 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ). The reaction vial was immerged in a water bath at room temperature. Trimethylsilyl ethanol ( $376 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 2.6 \mathrm{mmol}, 1$ equiv) was added to start the reaction. The reaction was monitored by GC mass spectrometry. After 5 hours, the reaction solution was diluted with 5 mL of diethyl ether and filtered through a pad of silica gel. The plug of silica gel was washed with 20 mL of diethyl ether. The combined filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure to provide the crude product, (R)-1-(2-trimethylsilyl ethoxy)-2-hexanol, as a yellowish oil ( $584 \mathrm{mg}, 96 \%$ yield). To measure the $e e$, the product was converted to the diol via deprotection ( 4 mg product in 0.4 mL dichloromethane was treated with $1 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{LiBF}_{4}(1 \mathrm{M}) \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ solution and heated at $80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2 hours). The bis TFA ester derivative from the diol ( 1 mg diol in 2 mL anhydrous dichloromethane was treated with 0.3 mL trifluoroacetic anhydride and heated at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min ) was analyzed by chiral GC (Chiraldex $\gamma$-TA
column, $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, isothermal, $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}$, minor $)=15.4 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{R}$, major $\left.)=16.9 \mathrm{~min}\right)$. The ee was determined to be above $99 \%$. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MH}_{\mathrm{Z}}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 3.71(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.54(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.41(\mathrm{dd}, J=2.8,9.0$, $1 \mathrm{H}), 3.22(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.4,9.3,1 \mathrm{H}), 2.84(\mathrm{br}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 1.48(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 1.31(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 0.90(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 0.01(\mathrm{~s}, 9 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (100 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 76.2,71.7,69.9,34.4,29.1,24.1,19.6,15.4,0.00 .[\alpha]^{23}{ }_{\mathrm{D}}=+1.8(\mathrm{c}=$ 1.03, $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ).

## Asymmetric ring-opening of cyclohexene oxide with water

Cyclohexene oxide ( $115.5 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 1.14 \mathrm{mmol}$, 1 equiv) and $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}^{2} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(1: 1,0.3 \mathrm{~mL})$ were added to an activated $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{III})$-salen complex ( $1 \mathrm{~mol} \%$ ). The reaction vial was immerged in an oil bath at $40{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Deionized water ( $51.3 \mu \mathrm{~L}, 2.85 \mathrm{mmol}$, 2.5 equiv) was added to start the reaction. The reaction was monitored by GC mass spectrometry. Some precipitation formed during the reaction process. After 50 hours, the solution was diluted with diethyl acetate and passed through a pad of silica gel. The pad was washed with 200 mL of ethyl acetate. The combined filtrates were concentrated under reduced pressure to provide the crude product, (S,S)-cyclohexane-1,2-diol, as a white solid ( $121 \mathrm{mg}, 92 \%$ yield). The bisTFA derivative was prepared from 1 mg diol in 2 mL anhydrous dichloromethane treated with 0.3 mL trifluoroacetic anhydride and heated at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 min . The ee was determined to be above $99 \%$ by chiral GC analysis (Chiraldex $\gamma-\mathrm{TA}$ column, $110{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, isothermal, $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}\left(\mathrm{R}, \mathrm{R}\right.$, minor) $=9.01 \mathrm{~min}, \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{R}}(\mathrm{S}, \mathrm{S}$, major $)=9.69 \mathrm{~min}) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MH}_{\mathrm{Z}}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 3.70(\mathrm{br}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.32(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.95(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.70$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 1.26(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (100 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}): 75.7,32.9,24.4 .[\alpha]^{23}{ }_{\mathrm{D}}=+30.6(\mathrm{c}=1.2$, $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ).

## Appendix A



Figure S5. Reduced Co (III)salen complex with OAc counter-ion that shows the atom type that was used in the force field for the atoms directly involved in parameterization to extend the MMFF94 force field.

Table S6. Cartesian coordinates (X, Y, Z) and electrostatic point charges for the optimized geometry of the singlet state for the reduced Co-salen complex with the acetate counter-ion.

| Atom | $\mathrm{X}(\AA)$ | $\mathrm{Y}(\AA)$ | $\mathrm{Z}(\AA)$ | Charge |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| N 1 | -1.9680103790 | -0.1242184687 | 0.0641556408 | -0.62937 |
| N 2 | -0.1630708440 | 1.7239565025 | -0.1441722134 | -0.65036 |
| O1 | 0.0266303159 | -1.9346544090 | 0.7116227391 | -0.53077 |
| O2 | 1.6539633444 | -0.0632622838 | 0.8771604198 | -0.51227 |
| C1 | -2.2568918387 | -2.5449426969 | 0.1295055377 | -0.18083 |
| C2 | -0.8910016489 | -2.8402356126 | 0.5025981065 | 0.50648 |
| C3 | 2.1157840659 | 2.2942729254 | 0.5059429235 | -0.13198 |
| C4 | 2.4711465418 | 0.9590039689 | 0.9216305420 | 0.47351 |
| C5 | -2.7187900854 | -1.1954455744 | -0.0065021229 | 0.22486 |
| C6 | 0.8124336477 | 2.5906539387 | -0.0042068365 | 0.17309 |
| H1 | -3.8023311520 | -1.0664323773 | -0.1573382197 | 0.07110 |
| H2 | 0.6221541310 | 3.6384788010 | -0.2844071064 | 0.08720 |
| C7 | -2.5224268816 | 1.2454955344 | -0.0272647644 | 0.35996 |
| H3 | -2.5713233153 | 1.6393377875 | 1.0117731728 | -0.01789 |
| C8 | -1.4540982433 | 2.0762830637 | -0.7744717962 | 0.49821 |
| H4 | -1.3999529995 | 1.6770989686 | -1.8093913773 | -0.00819 |
| Co | -0.0673742758 | -0.1317415226 | 0.1839442789 | 1.00709 |
| C9 | -3.9096624430 | 1.4016715426 | -0.6741148833 | -0.09596 |
| H5 | -3.8898280186 | 0.9659799552 | -1.6931716942 | 0.03560 |
| H6 | -4.6734313699 | 0.8484858606 | -0.0966823787 | 0.04697 |
| C10 | -4.2979255826 | 2.8950078190 | -0.739462506 | -0.12096 |
| C11 | -1.8347023626 | 3.5651899438 | -0.8260947425 | -0.26740 |
| H7 | -1.8352571628 | 3.9841861807 | 0.2007475685 | 0.06680 |
| H8 | -1.0903243936 | 4.1358676751 | -1.4116502478 | 0.08468 |
| C12 | -3.2297994118 | 3.7320627246 | -1.4675414733 | -0.03260 |
| H9 | -3.5132968500 | 4.8006968999 | -1.4668901279 | 0.05020 |
| H10 | -3.1799296478 | 3.4200597184 | -2.5301881138 | 0.02177 |


| H11 | -5.2773553698 | 3.0019975886 | -1.2411068588 | 0.05492 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| H12 | -4.4286602474 | 3.2822709358 | 0.2913041313 | 0.04107 |
| C13 | 4.6864829805 | 1.8024968629 | 1.5466925995 | -0.08259 |
| C14 | 3.7803719304 | 0.7529983062 | 1.4525174359 | -0.26362 |
| H13 | 5.6899308460 | 1.6113998439 | 1.9461094695 | 0.12233 |
| C15 | 3.0694089691 | 3.3430222368 | 0.6128522484 | -0.13705 |
| C16 | 4.3406869946 | 3.1105732343 | 1.1229442523 | -0.15224 |
| C17 | -1.4803358521 | -5.2256168407 | 0.5210659158 | -0.07453 |
| C18 | -0.5435282971 | -4.2152918994 | 0.6966363775 | -0.29241 |
| H14 | -1.1769195631 | -6.2690705757 | 0.6713387636 | 0.12076 |
| C19 | -3.1891344086 | -3.6077984462 | -0.0367824088 | -0.13286 |
| C20 | -2.8179571803 | -4.9332669054 | 0.1480116909 | -0.16470 |
| H15 | 2.7833068731 | 4.3490194169 | 0.2782688737 | 0.11943 |
| H16 | -4.2214700709 | -3.3577320900 | -0.3160081981 | 0.11725 |
| C21 | 1.0944409479 | -0.4133520256 | -2.3358991614 | 0.70934 |
| O3 | -0.0372353784 | -0.5529798463 | -1.6448305876 | -0.49516 |
| O4 | 2.1609131769 | 0.0650050900 | -1.9555155712 | -0.47585 |
| H17 | -3.5450629824 | -5.7404733310 | 0.0131125493 | 0.12379 |
| H18 | 0.4905432274 | -4.4334681632 | 0.9827508436 | 0.16219 |
| H19 | 5.0687360895 | 3.9253686869 | 1.1939359351 | 0.12297 |
| H20 | 4.0418993660 | -0.2632961534 | 1.7637004638 | 0.16175 |
| C22 | 0.9007044395 | -0.9752509773 | -3.7571036302 | -0.59829 |
| H21 | 1.7682697964 | -0.6942887920 | -4.3730155106 | 0.14905 |
| H22 | 0.8256342531 | -2.0756973252 | -3.7094735777 | 0.17481 |
| H23 | -0.0295634744 | -0.5985687821 | -4.2142095045 | 0.16069 |

Table S7. Parameters for initial charges ( $\mathrm{q}_{0}$ ) and van der Waals radius $\left(\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{i}}\right)$ and well depth $(\varepsilon)$ for Cosalen.

| Atom | $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{i}}(\AA)$ | $\mathrm{e} \varepsilon(\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mole})$ | $\mathrm{q}_{0}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{~N}+=$ | - | - | -0.100 |
| CO | 2.009 | 0.298 | 3.00 |
| Oar | 1.825 | - | $-0.25-1.00$ |
| OCO | - | - |  |

Table S8. Parameters for bond stretch and bond charge increment parameters for Co-salen. The units for $\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{x}} /($ mole $\AA)$.

| Atom i | Atom j | $\mathrm{r}_{0}(\AA)$ | $\mathrm{k}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{k}_{3}$ | $\mathrm{k}_{4}$ | $\mathrm{w}_{\mathrm{ij}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CO | $\mathrm{N}+=$ | 1.885 | 155.726 | -311.452 | 363.361 | 0.3125 |
| CO | Oar | 1.845 | 222.353 | -444.706 | 518.824 | 0.3125 |
| CO | OCO | 1.877 | 279.851 | -559.702 | 652.986 | 0.7500 |
| $\mathrm{~N}+=$ | Car | 1.296 | 320.335 | -640.670 | 747.448 | 0.3000 |
| Car | Oar | 1.306 | 528.606 | -1057.212 | 1233.414 | -0.3500 |
| C | $\mathrm{N}+=$ | 1.486 | - | - | - | - |

Table S9. Parameters for linear angle bend parameters for Co-salen.

| Atom i | Atom j | Atom k | $\mathrm{q}_{0}\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | $\mathrm{k}_{\theta_{\mathrm{q}}}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


|  |  |  |  | $\left(\mathrm{kcal} \mathrm{mole}^{-1}\right)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Oar | CO | AS+= | 180 | 72.2528 |
| SEar | CO | N+= | 180 | 72.2528 |

Table S10. Parameters for normal angle bend parameters for Co-salen. The units for $\mathrm{k}_{\theta \mathrm{x}}$ are $\mathrm{kcal} /(\mathrm{mole}$ $\mathrm{rad}^{x}$ ).

| Atom i | Atom j | Atom k | $\mathrm{q} \theta_{0}\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | $\mathrm{K}_{\theta 2 \mathrm{q} 2}$ | $\mathrm{~K}_{\theta 393}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Oar | CO | OCO | 90.000 | 32.3020 | -12.9208 |
| $\mathrm{~N}+=$ | CO | OCO | 90.000 | 33.0406 | -13.2162 |
| AS+= | CO | $\mathrm{N}+=$ | 90.000 | 34.8000 | -13.9200 |
| $\mathrm{~N}+=$ | CO | Oar | 90.000 | 33.7495 | -13.4998 |
| Oar | CO | SEar | 90.000 | 32.8852 | -13.1541 |
| HC | Car | Car | 120.571 | 40.5167 | -16.2500 |
| C | C | $\mathrm{N}+=$ | 106.424 | 84.4157 | -33.8567 |
| HC | C | $\mathrm{N}+=$ | 106.973 | 62.8980 | -25.2265 |
| CO | Oar | Car | 128.965 | 61.5483 | -24.6193 |
| CO | $\mathrm{N}+=$ | C | 111.553 | 47.2114 | -18.8846 |
| CO | AS+= | C | 123.395 | 47.2114 | -18.8846 |
| CO | $\mathrm{N}+=$ | Car | 125.243 | 46.9740 | -18.7896 |
| Oar | Car | Car | 121.185 | 52.1477 | -20.8591 |
| C | $\mathrm{N}+=$ | Car | 122.374 | 50.4427 | -20.1771 |
| $\mathrm{~N}+=$ | Car | Car | 125.505 | 57.2041 | -22.8816 |
| $\mathrm{~N}+=$ | Car | HC | 117.202 | 48.3113 | -19.3245 |
| CO | OCO | C1 $=$ | 119.679 | 48.9986 | -19.5994 |

## References

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