

***Convenient Preparation of Substituted  
5-Amino oxazoles via a Microwave-  
Assisted Cornforth Rearrangement***

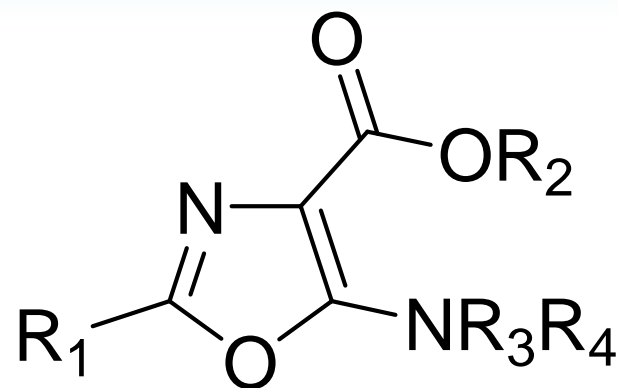
***M. Brad Nolt***

***Technology Enabled Synthesis Group,  
Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Merck  
Research Laboratories (WP), Merck & Co.***

***October 13, 2005***

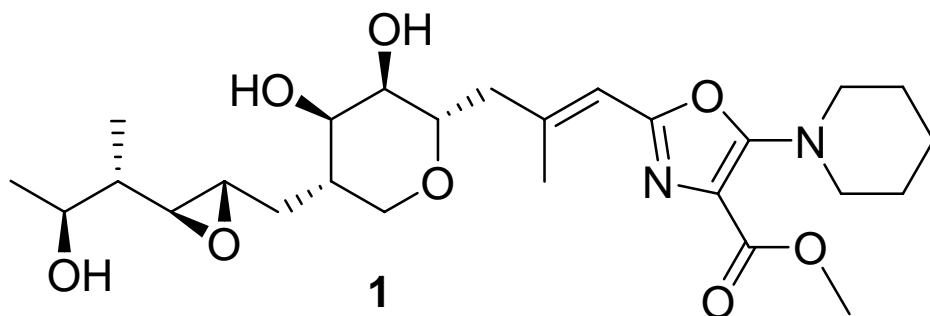
# Trisubstituted 5-Aminooxazoles

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- 
- Biologically active oxazole-containing compounds
  - An established route involves a key thermal rearrangement and is conducive to microwave-assisted methodology
  - Underrepresented in current literature

## Antibiotics



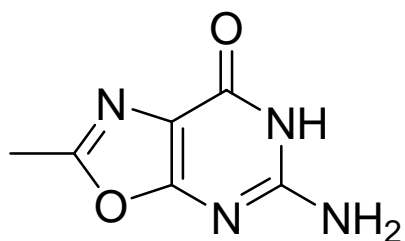
1

MIC ( $\mu\text{g} / \text{mL}$ )

<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> Q1	2
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> PU7	32
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	16

Psuedomonic acid derivative 1 has demonstrated growth inhibition of Gram-positive and -negative bacteria

## Toxin Antidotes



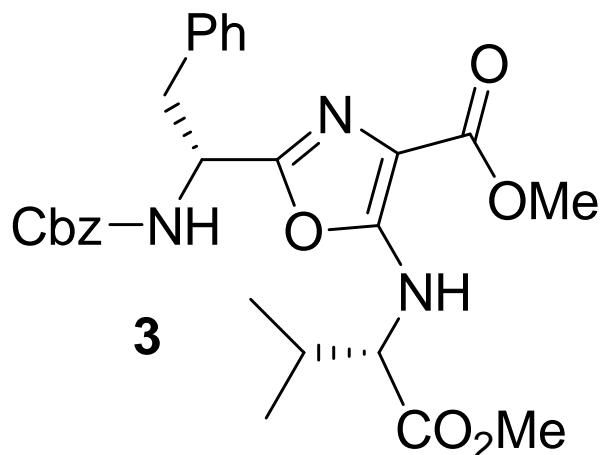
**2**

	Stx1A1 IC <sub>50</sub>	RTA IC <sub>50</sub>
8-methyl-9-oxoguanine	1.0 mM	0.4 mM

Bicyclic oxazole **2** is an inhibitor of the enzymatic A chain of ricin (RTA) and a Shiga-like toxin Stx1A1, produced from pathogenic *E. coli*.

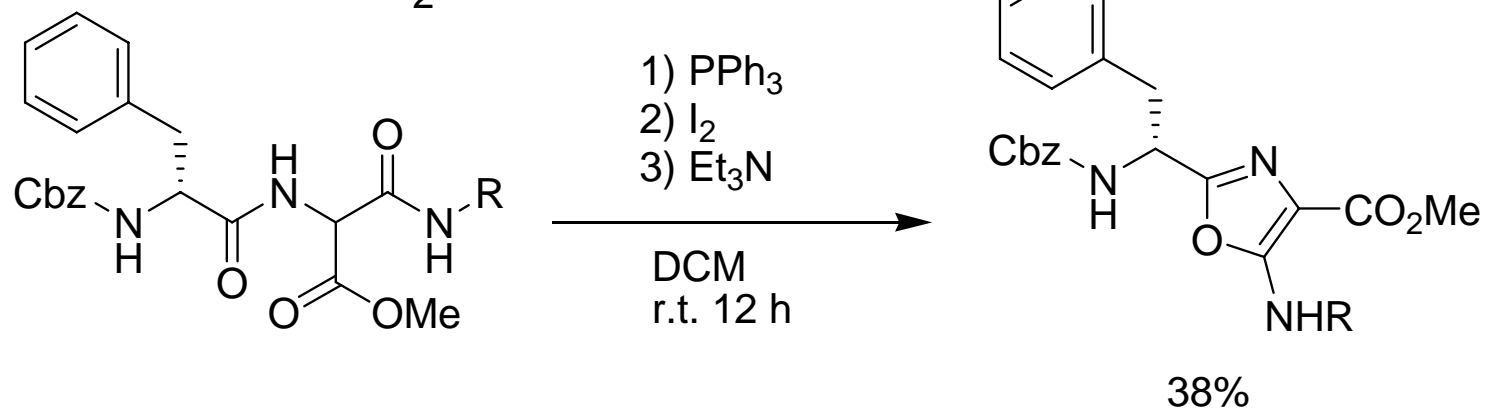
Miller, D. J.; Ravikumar, K.; Shen, H.; Suh, J.-K.; Kerwin, S. M.; Robertus, J. D. *J. Med. Chem.* **2002**, *45*, 90.

## Protein Therapy



Oxazole 3 is based on the C-terminal hexapeptide His<sup>16</sup>-Trp<sup>21</sup> of the endothelin-1 receptor.

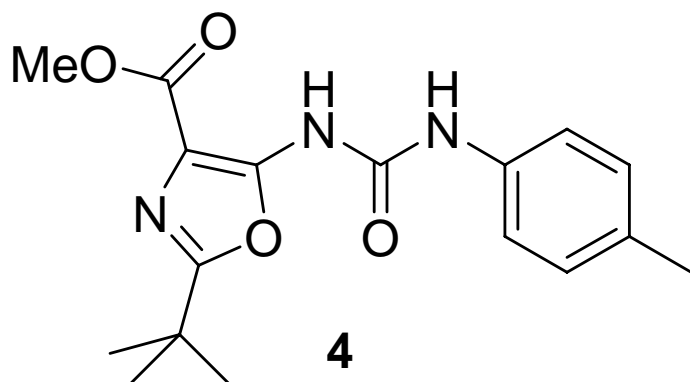
Peptidomimetics could attenuate specific protein binding pathogenic pathways



Falorni, M.; Giacomelli, G.; Porcheddu, A.; Dettori, G. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, 3217.

von Geldern, T. W.; Hutchens, C.; Kester, J. A.; Wu-Wong, J. R.; Chiou, W.; Dixon, D. B.; Opgenorth, T. J. *J. Med. Chem.* **1996**, 39, 957.

## Anti-neoplastic

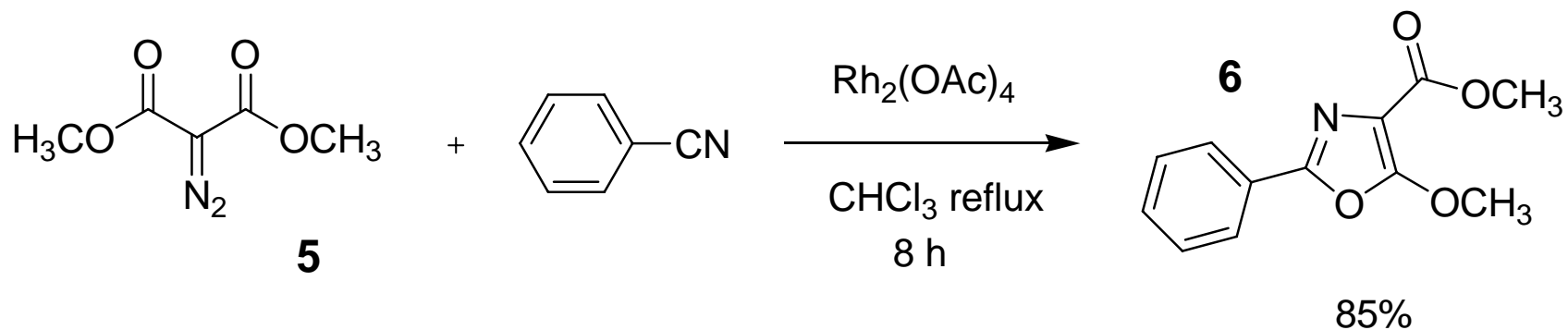


Urea oxazole **4** has demonstrated Raf kinase inhibition and may be instrumental in limiting Ras oncogene activity

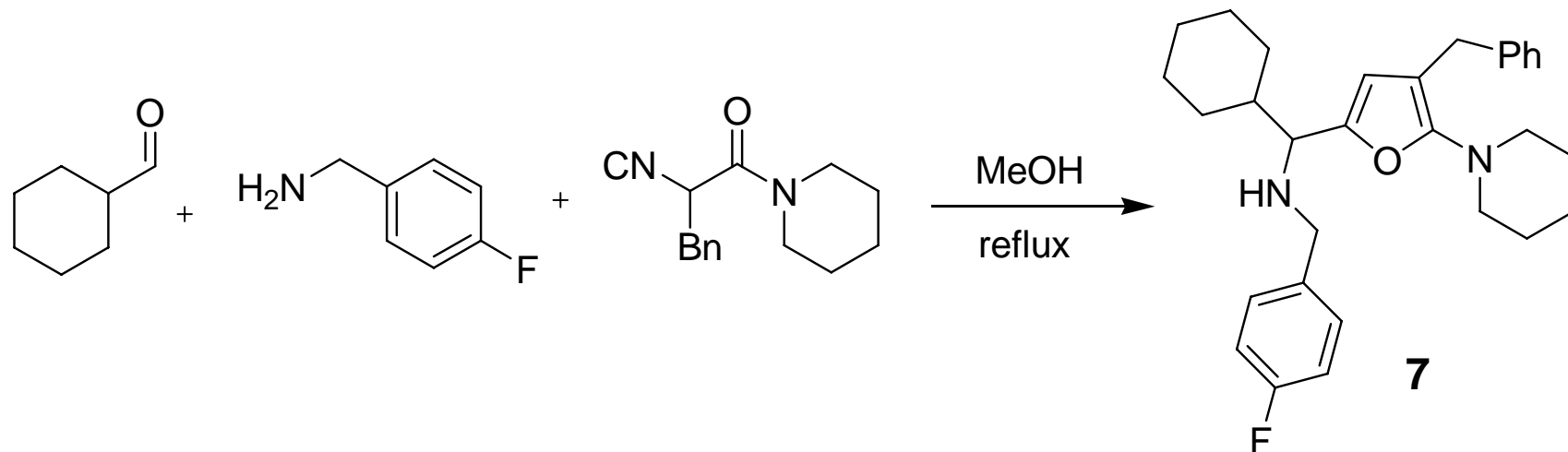
Smith, R. A.; Barbosa, J.; Blum, C. L.; Bobko, M. A.; Caringal, Y. V.; Dally, R.; Johnson, J. S.; Katz, M. E.; Kennure, N.; Kingery-Wood, J.; Lee, W.; Lowinger, T. B.; Lyons, J.; Marsh, V.; Rogers, D. H.; Swartz, S.; Walling, T.; Wild, H. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2001**, *11*, 2775.

# 5-Aminooxazole Synthesis

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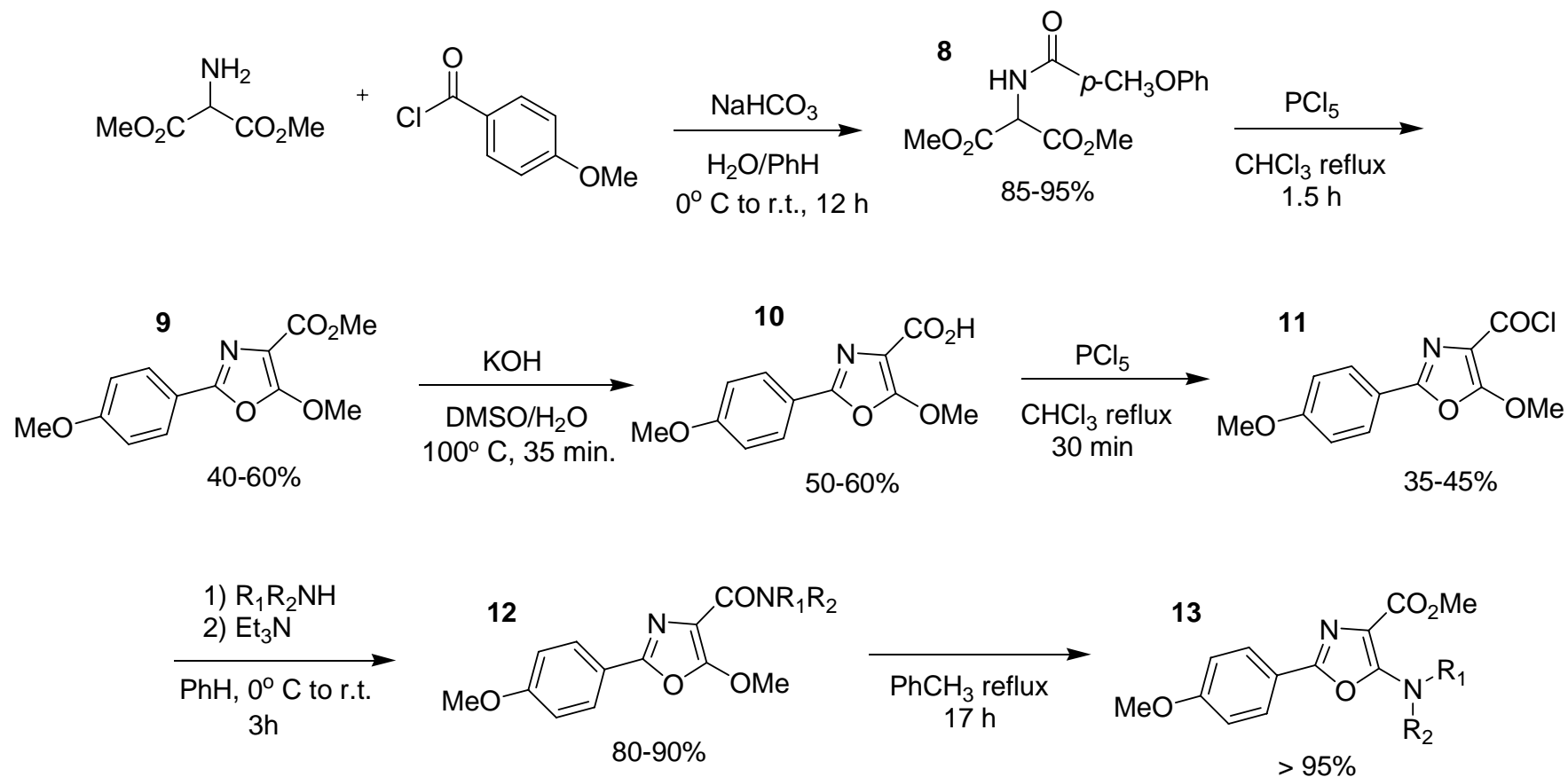
Connell, R.; Scavo, F.; Helquist, P.; Akermark, B. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, 27, 5559.



Sun, X.; Janvier, P.; Zhao, G.; Bienaymé, H.; Zhu, J. *Org. Lett.* **2001**, 3, 877.

# 5-Aminooxazole Synthesis

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Dewar, M. J. S.; Turchi, I. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1975**, *40*, 1521.

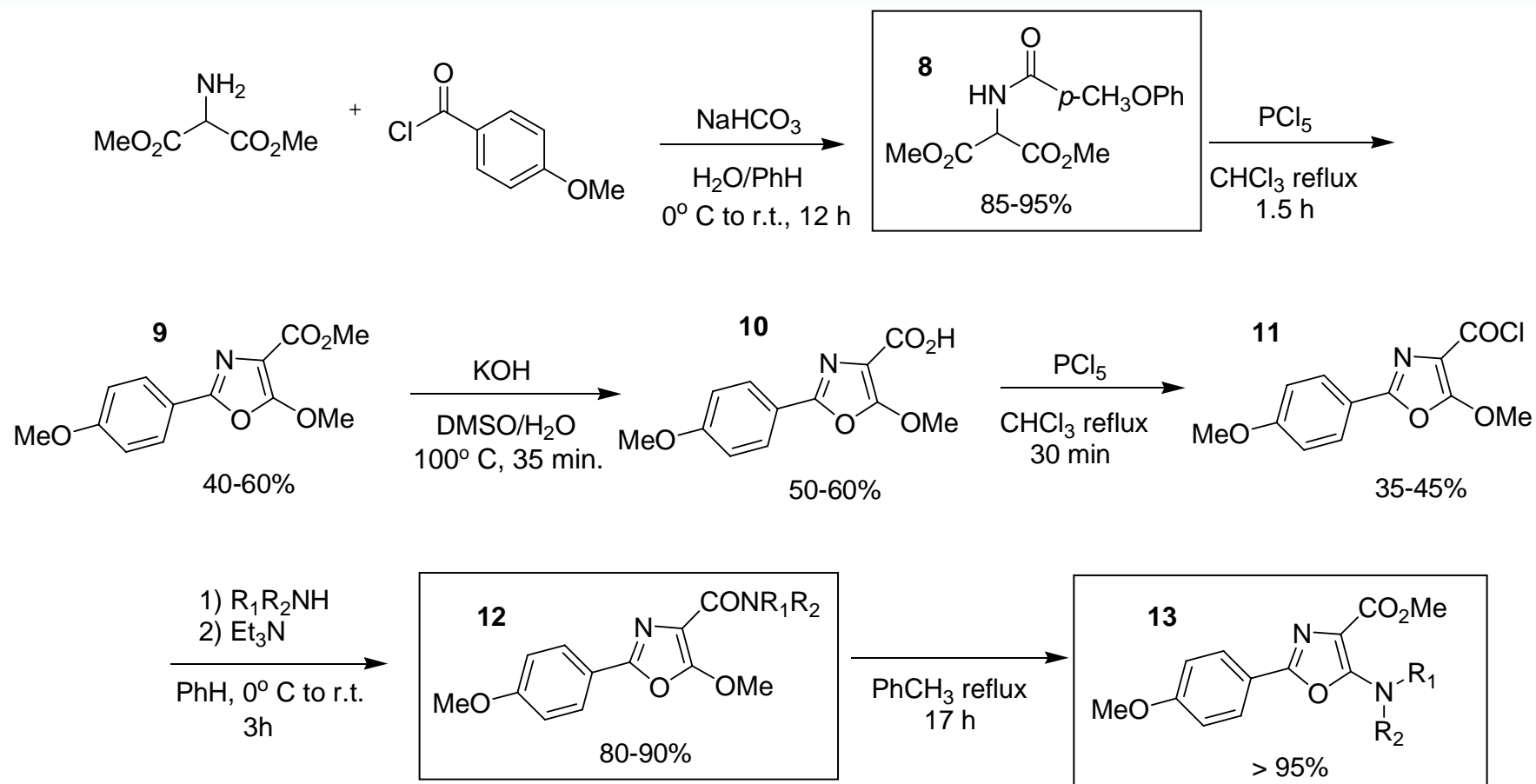
Dewar, M. J. S.; Turchi, I. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1974**, *96*, 6148.

Dewar, M. J. S.; Spanniger, P. A.; Turchi, I. J. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1973**, 925.



# 5-Aminooxazole Synthesis

a



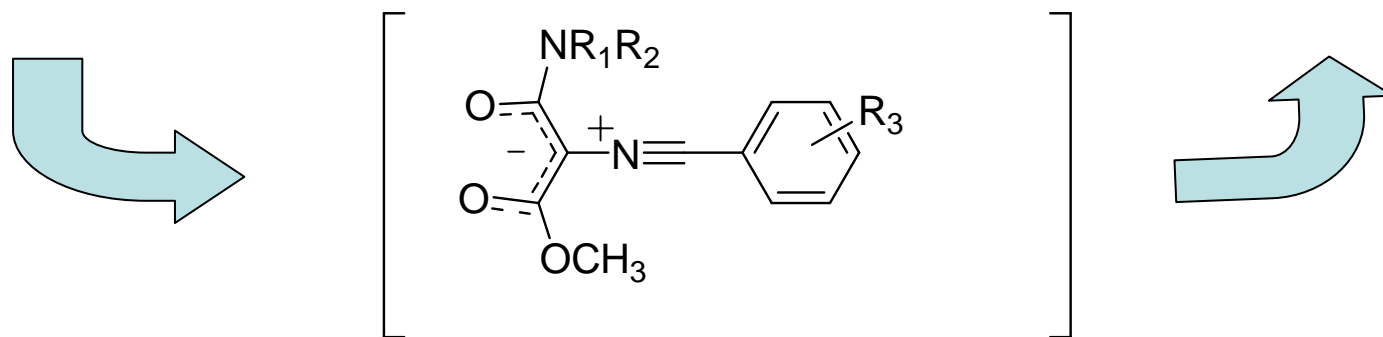
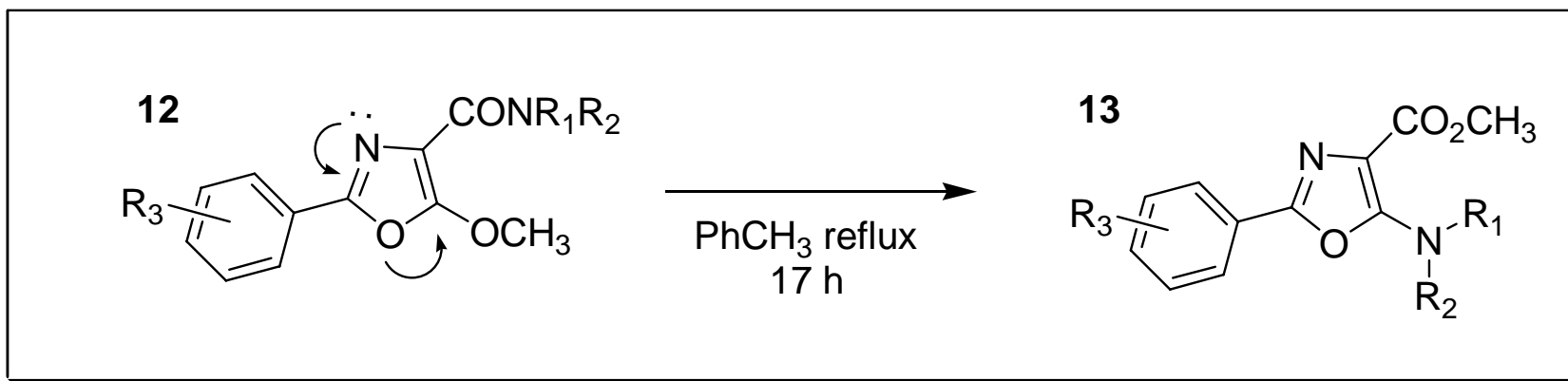
Dewar, M. J. S.; Turchi, I. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1975**, *40*, 1521.

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# Cornforth Rearrangement

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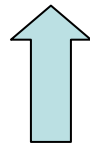


Dewar, M. J. S.; Turchi, I. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1974**, *96*, 6148.

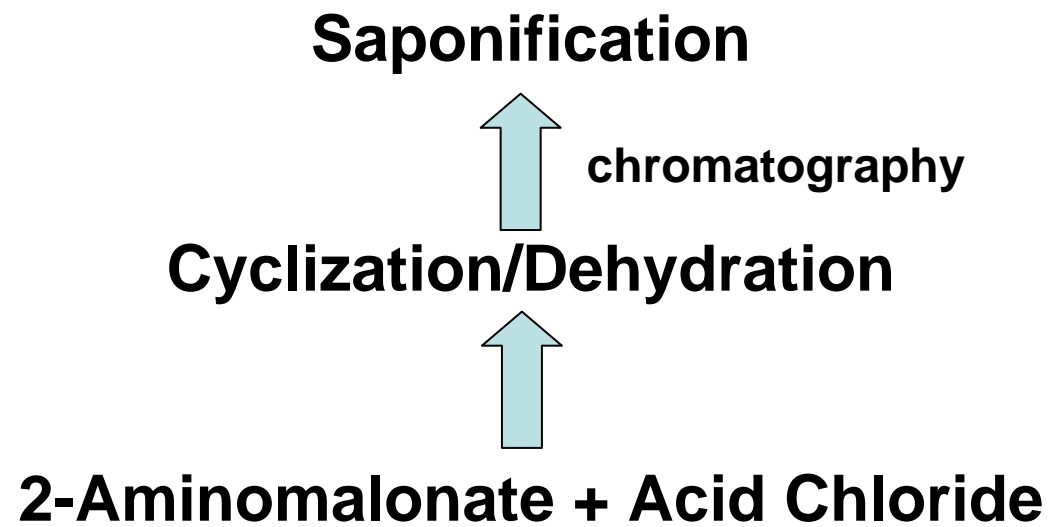
Dewar, M. J. S.; Spaninger, P. A.; Turchi, I. J. *J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun.* **1973**, 925.

**2-Aminomalonate + Acid Chloride**

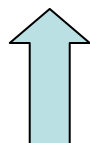
**Cyclization/Dehydration**



**2-Aminomalonate + Acid Chloride**



**Amide Formation Resin-Bound Reagents  
Microwave**



**Saponification**

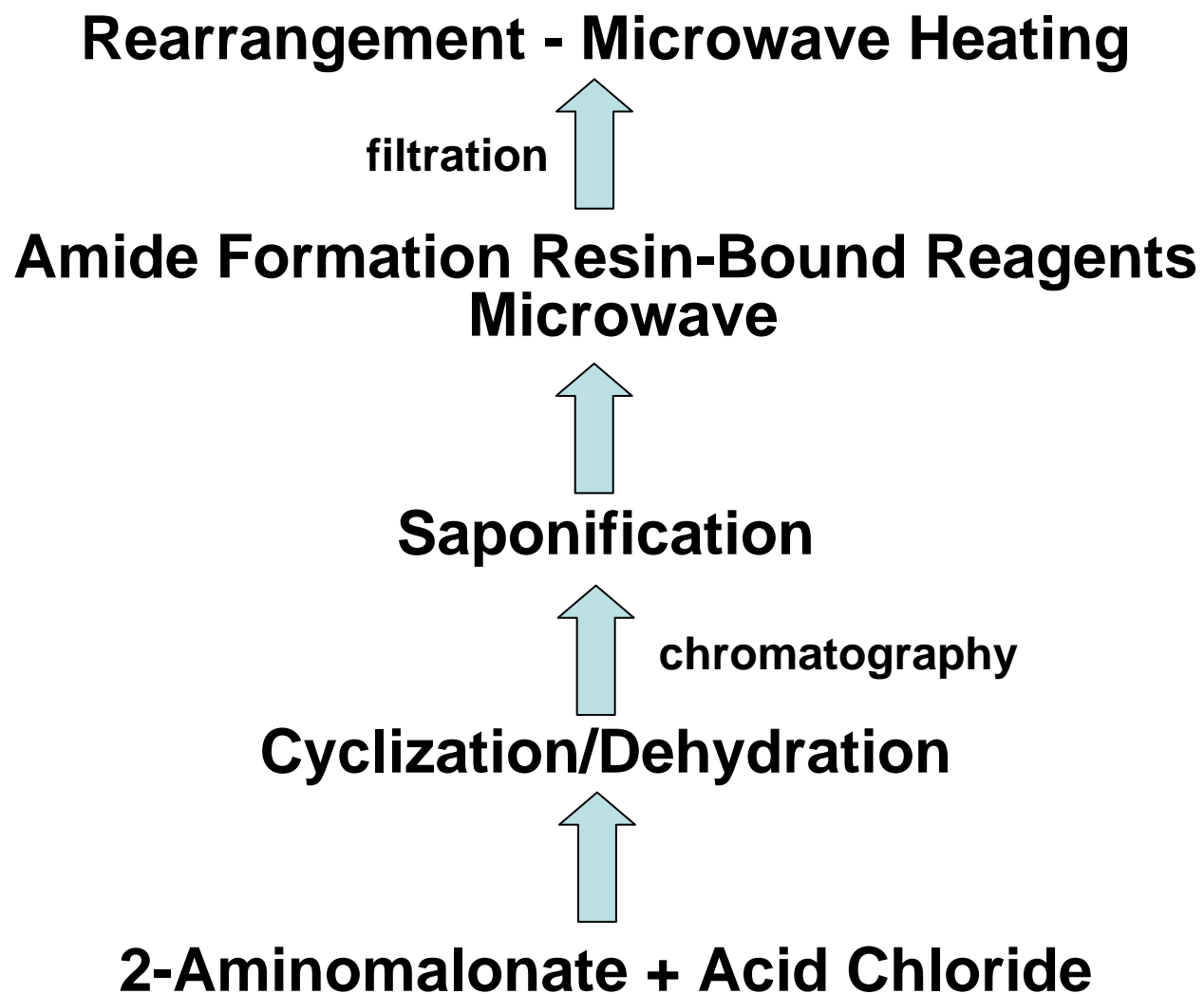


chromatography

**Cyclization/Dehydration**

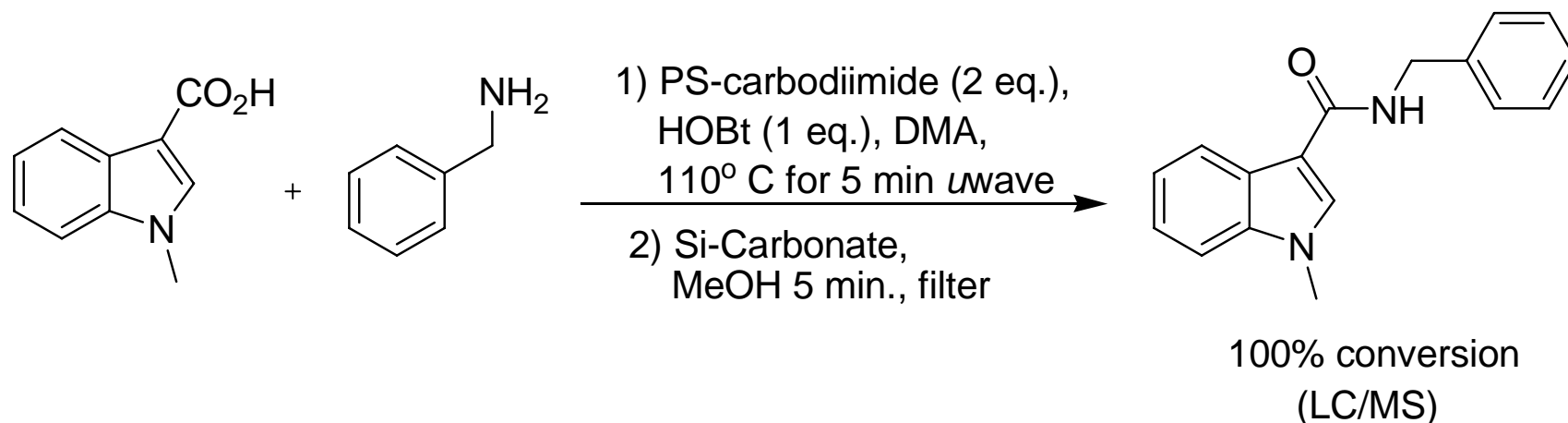


**2-Aminomalonate + Acid Chloride**



# Microwave-, Polymer-Assisted Amide Formation

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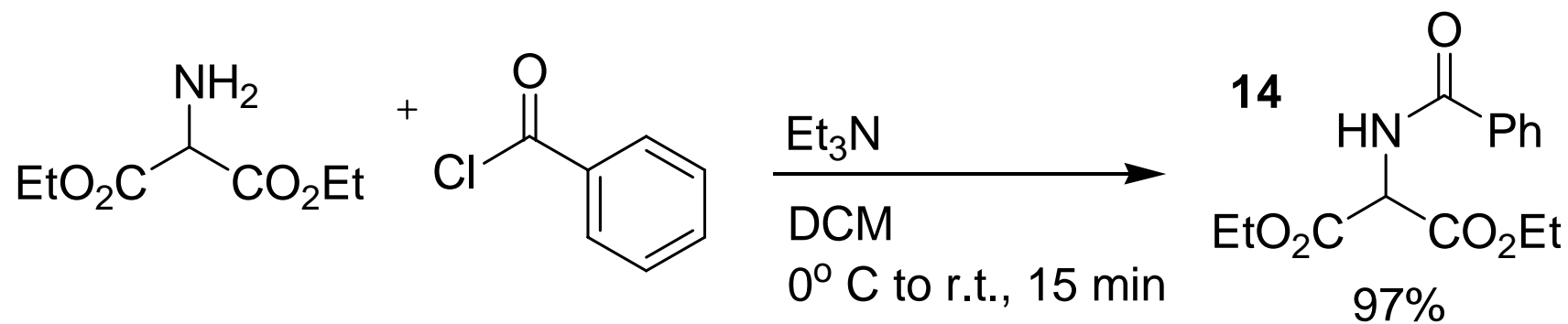
- Accelerated amide coupling (room temp. reaction times ~16 h)
- Complete conversion to product in excellent yield
- HOBt scavenging leaves material that is 98% pure

Sauer, D. R.; Kalvin, D.; Phelan, K. M. *Org. Lett.* **2003**, 5, 4721.



# Amide Formation - 1

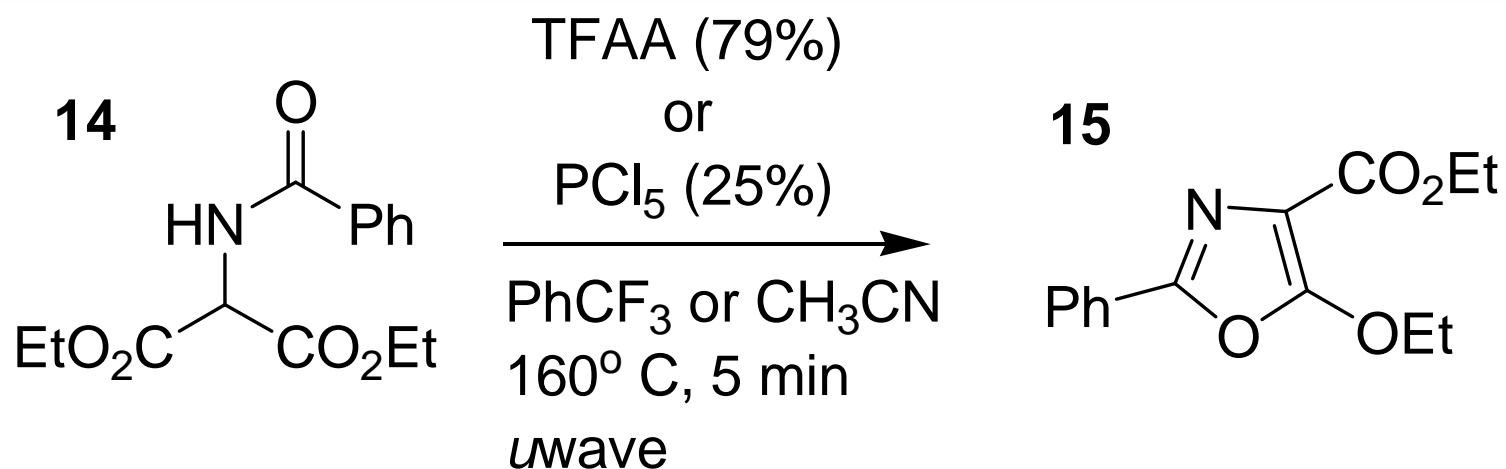
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- Aqueous workup removes impurities
- High yields
- Amides from amines and acids

# Cyclization/Dehydration

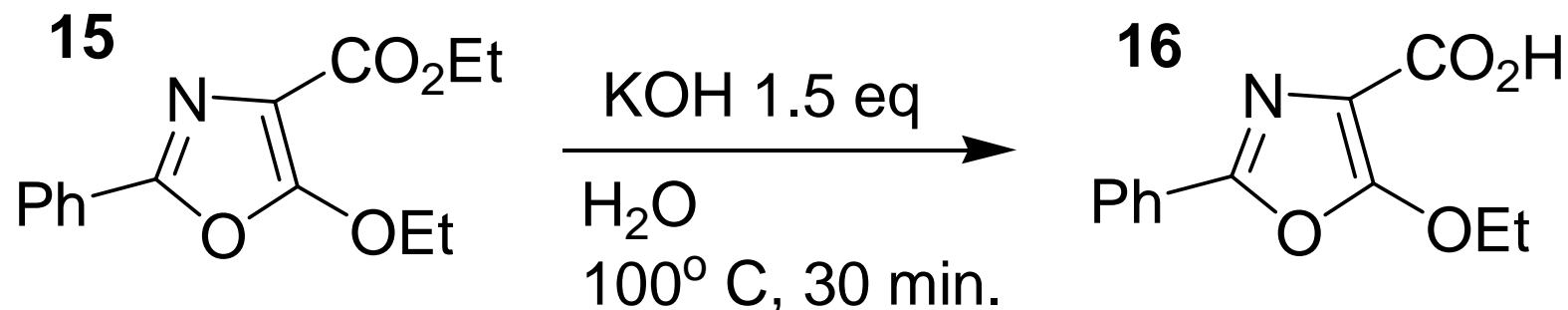
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- Microwave heating decreases reaction time from ~1.5 h to 5 min
- Few byproducts by LC/MS
- Flash chromatography purification

# Hydrolysis

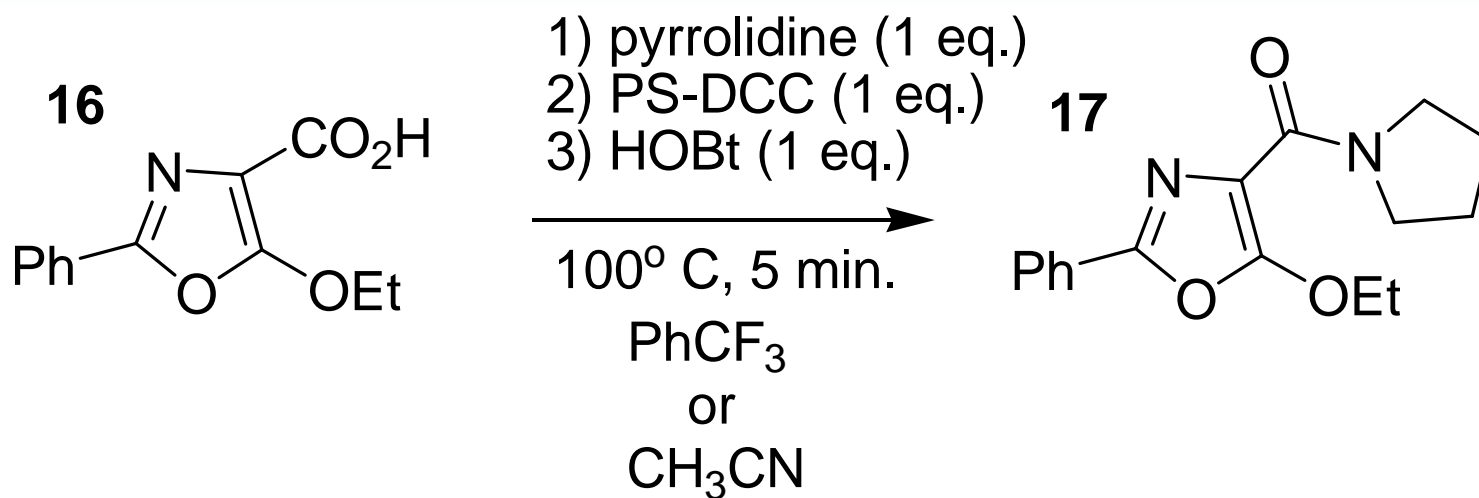
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- Complete conversion to acid observed by LC/MS
- 48% yield of clean material by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR
- Can be used without purification
- Possibility of microwave heating

## Amide Formation - 2

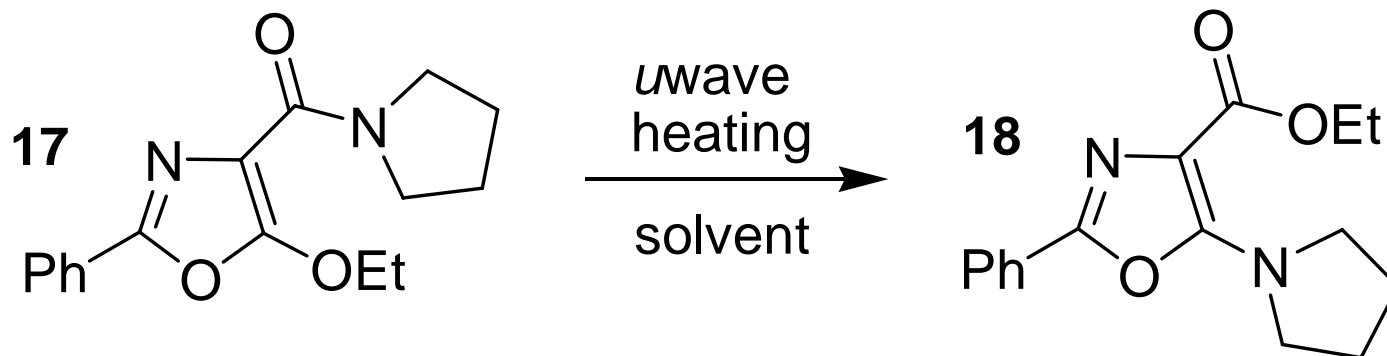
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- Shortened reaction time, complete conversion to product
- No excess reagents required
- Simple filtration and optional wash with MP-carbonate removes HOBT

# Microwave-Promoted Cornforth Rearrangement – Optimization Study

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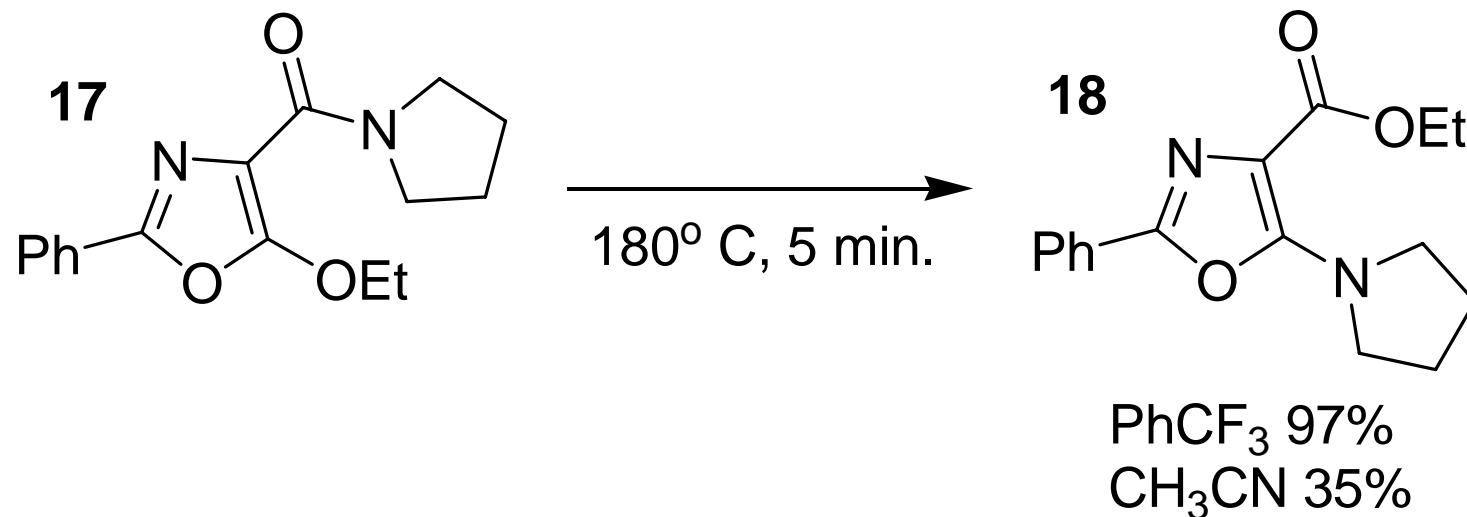


entry	solvent	rearrangement conditions	product/starting material <sup>a</sup>
1	acetonitrile	150° C, 10 min.	1:99
2	acetonitrile	160° C, 10 min.	1:2.2
3	acetonitrile	170° C, 10 min.	1:1.3
4	acetonitrile	180° C, 10 min.	99:1

a) determined by UV HPLC

# Microwave-Promoted Cornforth Rearrangement

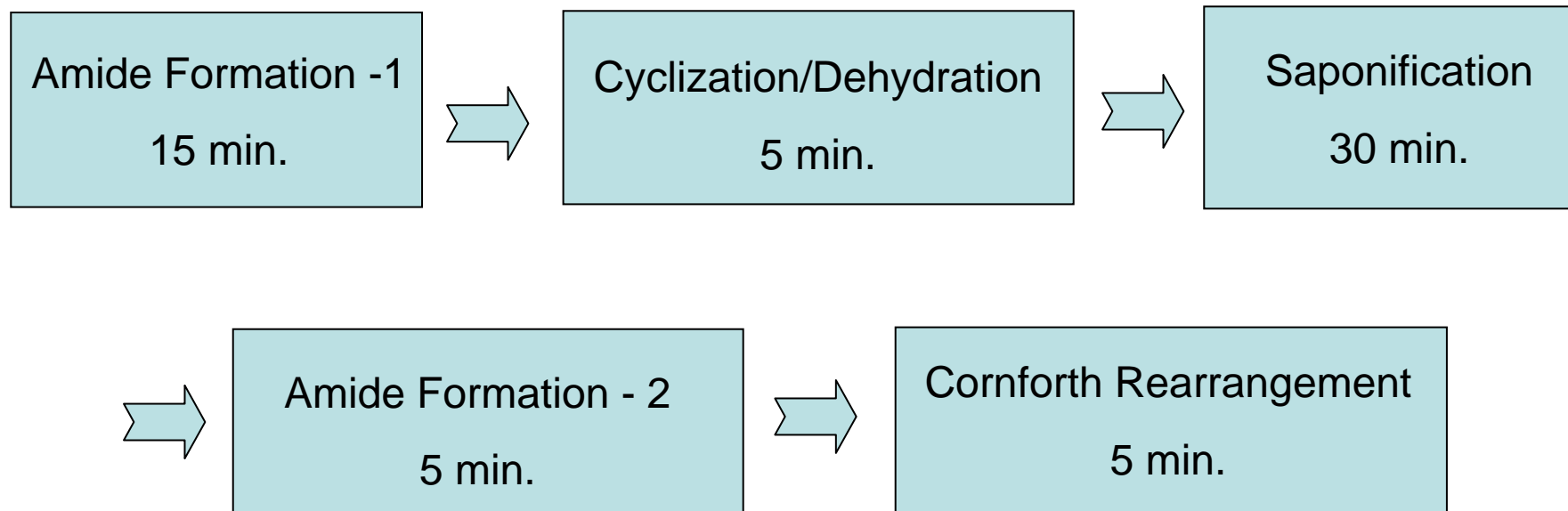
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- Dramatic decrease in reaction time - Microwave heating improves reaction time from 17 h to 5 min
- Good to excellent yields for two-step process
- Purity is typically  $> 93\%$  by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR

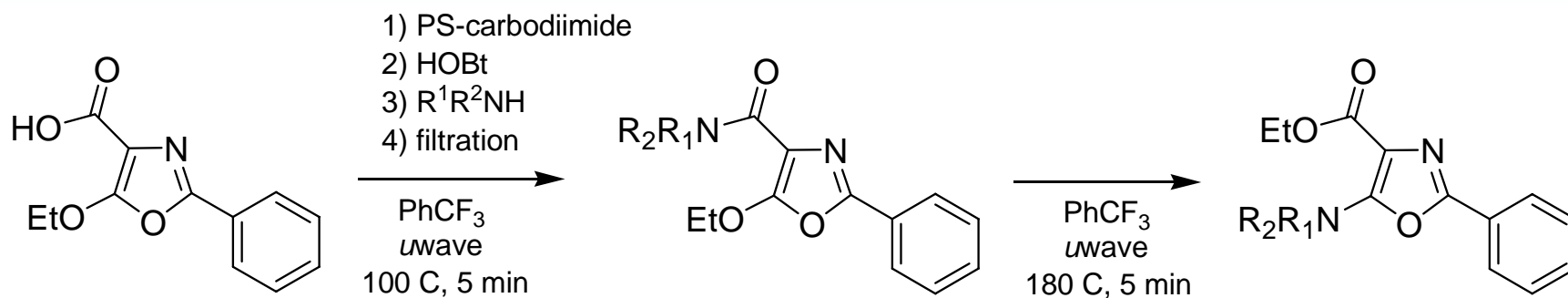
# High-Speed Synthesis

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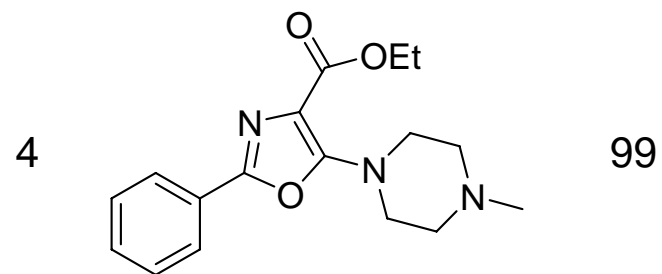
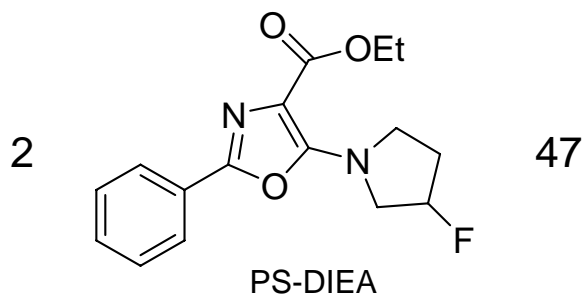
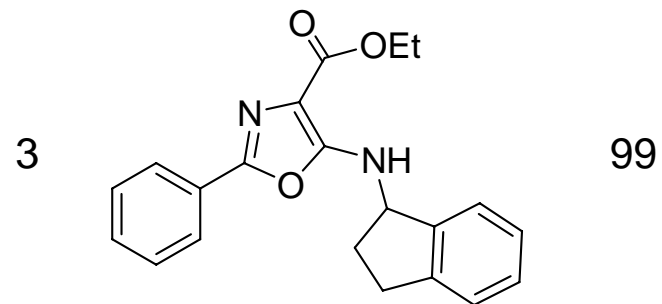
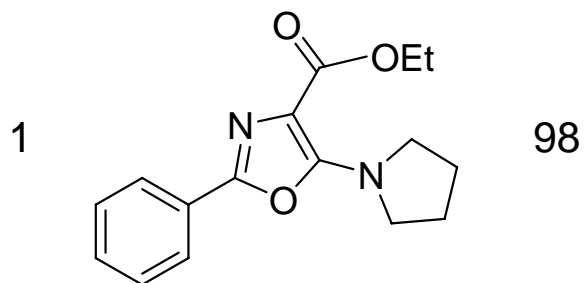


- Total reaction time approximately one hour
- More than 30-fold time reduction in comparison to original procedure

# 5-Aminooxazole-4-carboxylate Synthesis a

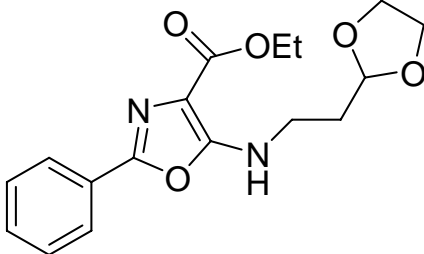
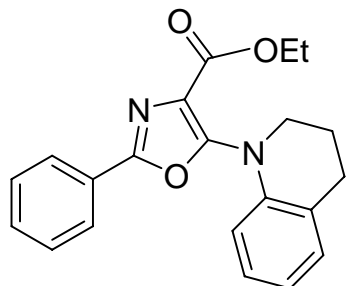
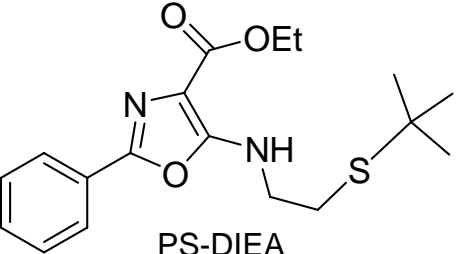
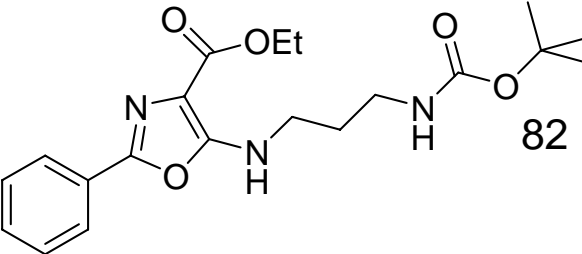
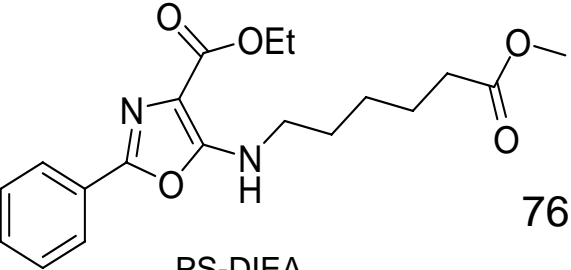
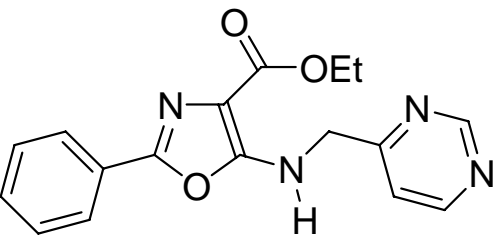


entry	product	yield (%)	entry	product	yield (%)
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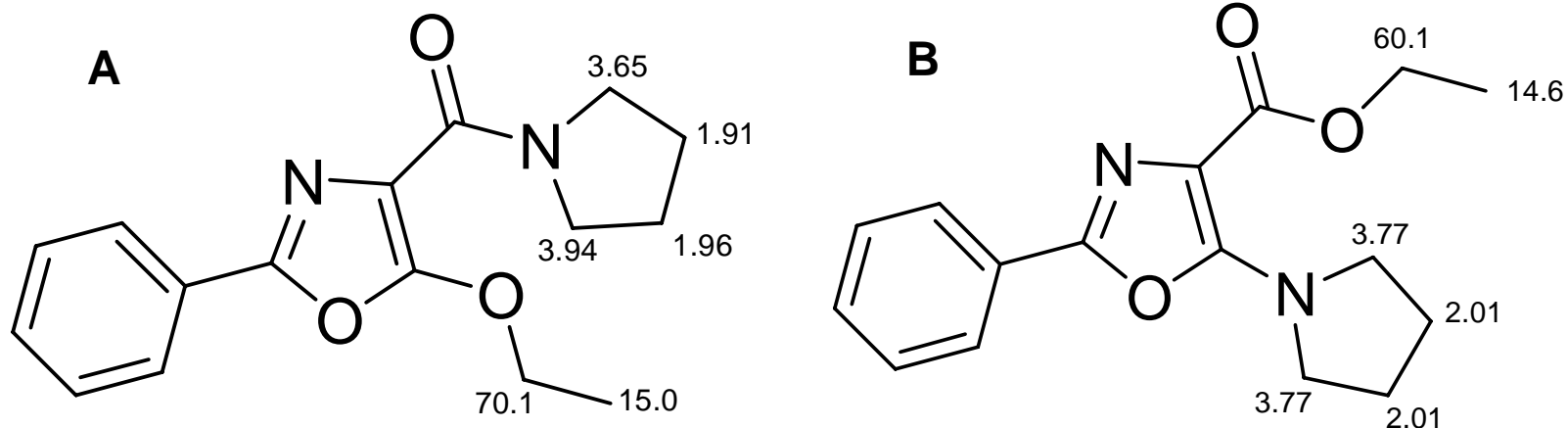


# 5-Aminooxazole-4-carboxylate Synthesis a

entry	product	yield (%)	entry	product	yield (%)
5		23	8		99
6	 PS-DIEA	51	9		82
7	 PS-DIEA	76	10		97

# Cornforth Rearrangement Confirmation

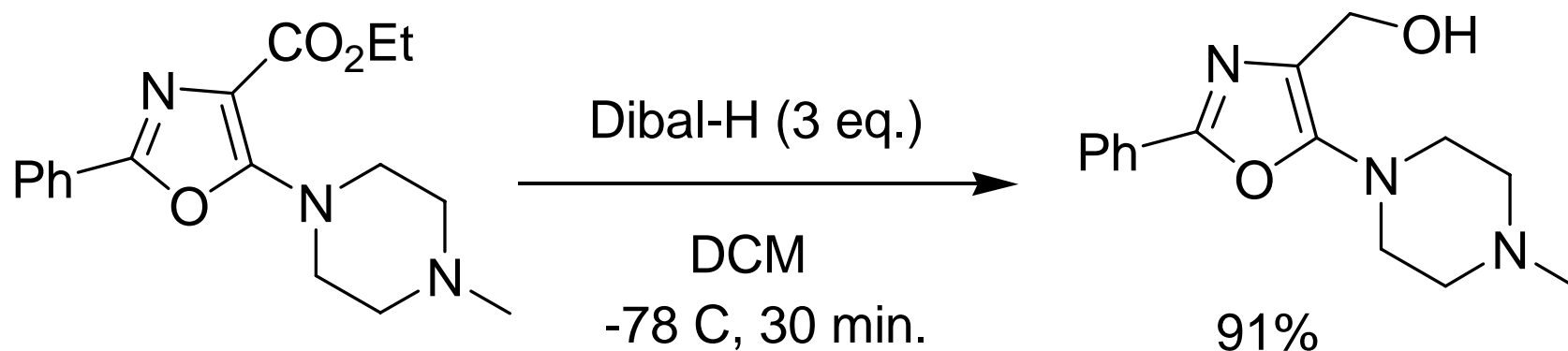
a



- HPLC Retention Times
- HMBC NMR Studies – Partial carbonyl shielding causes a difference in proton shifts on the pyrrolidine ring in the case of A, the rearranged product has equivalent methylene protons in the 2- and 5-positions of B

# Cornforth Rearrangement Confirmation

a

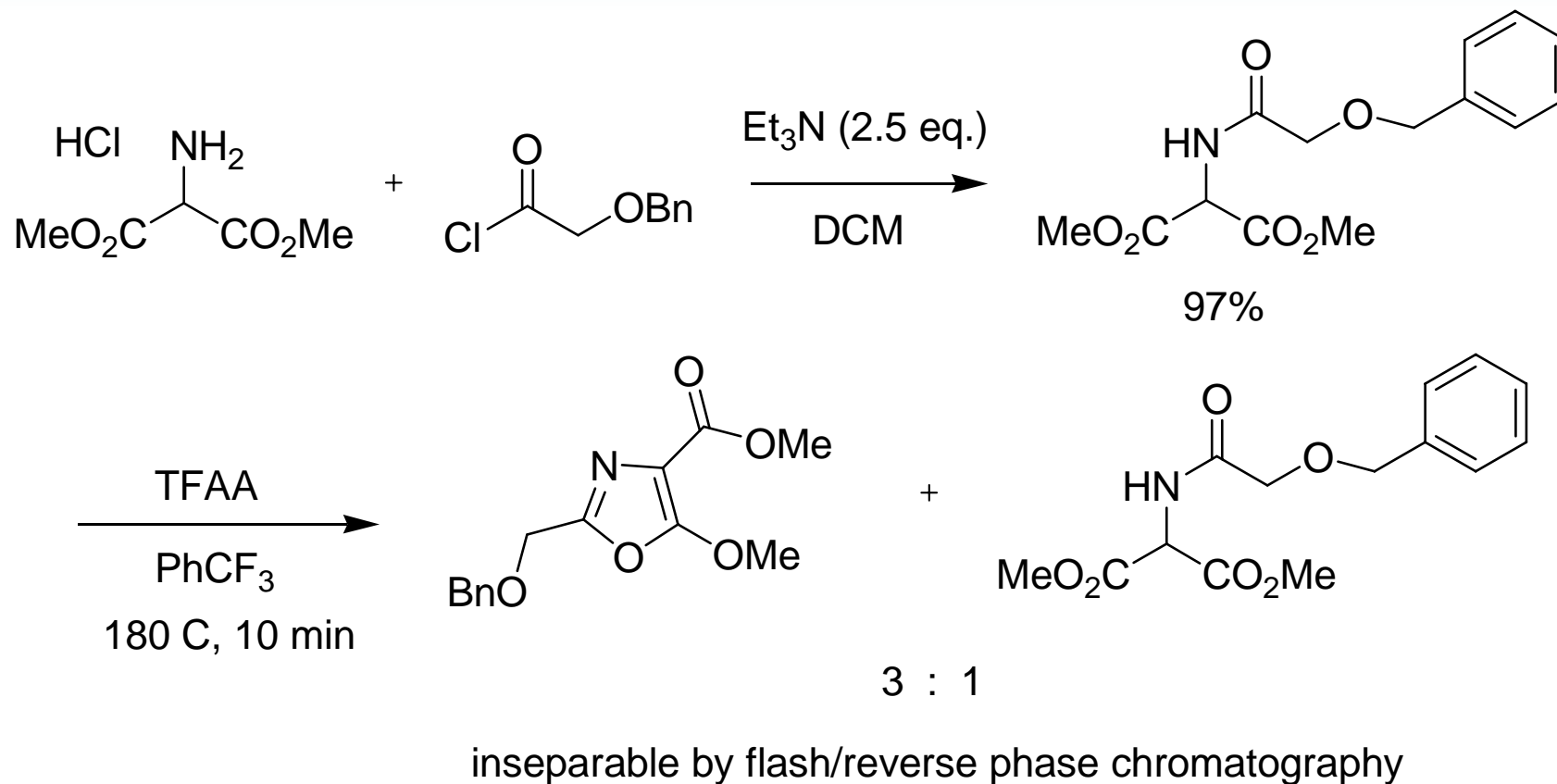


- The thermal rearrangement was unequivocally confirmed by the characterization of the reduced product



# Synthesis

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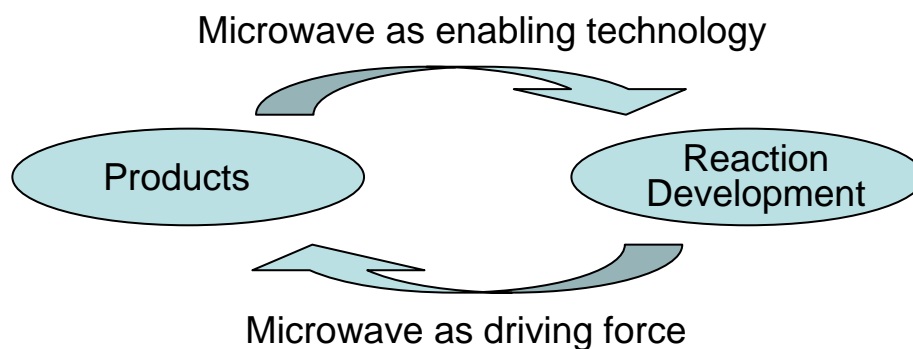


- 
- Optimization studies are in progress

# Conclusions

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- Microwave heating can significantly shorten reaction times versus conventional thermal conditions
- Microwave-assisted synthesis can be used effectively in combination with solid-phase reagents
- Microwave reactors have become an integral part of method development in TES



# ***Acknowledgments and Contributors***

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## **TES**

Brian Eastman

Steve Sharik

Mark Smiley

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Corey Theberge

David D. Wisnoski

F. Vivien Yang

Zhijian Zhao

Ray McClain

Todd Anderson

Scott Wolkenberg

Craig Lindsley

## **Research NMR**

Sandor Varga

## **Medicinal Chemistry**

George Hartman

Steve Young