

## **Medicines for All Institute**

## Summary of Process Development Work on the Synthesis of Frag A of Lenacapavir



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#### **Executive Summary**

This process development report (PDR) describes the results of synthetic route scouting (SRS) and scale-up optimization (OPT) efforts at the Medicines for All Institute (M4ALL) to discover new, cost-effective synthetic strategies to make a key intermediate and cost-driver in the synthesis of lenacapavir: (*S*)-1-(3,6-dibromopyridin-2-yl)-2-(3,5-difluorophenyl)ethan-1-amine (**Frag A**). Lenacapavir is a first-in-class antiretroviral that targets HIV's capsid protein. It was developed by Gilead Sciences Inc. and approved by the FDA in 2022. Gilead's baseline synthesis of **Frag A** leverages classical chiral synthesis using an expensive enantiopure auxiliary (and other costly raw materials).<sup>1</sup> Herein, we report a chiral resolution-based approach to produce **Frag A** from 3,6-dibromo-2-methylpyridine (LenA 4). <sup>a</sup> This route comprises 7 steps (linear). The key transformations include a two-step aldehyde synthesis, a telescoped three-step racemic amine synthesis, and a dynamic kinetic resolution (DKR) with N-acetyl-D-leucine (NADL). Process development of the LenA 4 enables the production of **Frag A** as a single enantiomer in 25-30% overall isolated yield, demonstrated at scales up to 200 grams. Techno-economic (TE) cost analysis suggests that, compared to the baseline route (Gilead's chiral auxiliary-based approach), LenA 4 offers an overall raw material cost (RMC) reduction of 33-41%.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Two additional synthetic approaches to **Frag A** are summarized in the Appendix of this document, LenA 1 and LenC 3. They were not advanced for optimization, in view of the superior performance of LenA 4. Please see the appendices for further details.



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#### 1 Introduction

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), is one of the world's most serious health and development challenges. Approximately 39 million people are currently living with HIV, and tens of millions of people have died of AIDS-related causes since the beginning of the epidemic.<sup>2</sup> In 2020, there were approximately 20 million people on antiretroviral therapy (ART), a number which was expected to reach 24 million by 2024. Approved HIV treatment regimens currently fall into seven drug classes, based on their distinct mechanism of action. Today, approximately 22 million individuals are on a dolutegravir-based regimen: the "gold-standard" treatment comprises the combination of two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), tenofovir disoproxil and lamivudine, and the integrase strand transfer inhibitor dolutegravir.<sup>3</sup>

Lenacapavir (Sunlenca<sup>®</sup>) is a high-potency HIV treatment in development by Gilead Sciences. The drug is a first-in-class HIV-1 capsid protein inhibitor that displays picomolar activity, extended pharmacokinetics, and little to no cross-resistance with clinically used antiretroviral agents.<sup>4,5</sup> Lenacapavir achieves its revolutionary anti-HIV-1 activity by blocking the viral replication of the HIV-1 virus, which is closely related to many processes of the viral lifecycle: uptake, assembly, and release.<sup>1</sup> Because of this classification, the FDA has designated lenacapavir as a breakthrough drug. The novel therapy earned approval from both the European Commission and the FDA in 2022 as a treatment for multidrug-resistant HIV (MDR HIV) infections.<sup>6–8</sup> In 2023, in the United States, the cost for HIV-indicated injections and tablets (wholesale; not for PrEP) was \$42,450 per patient per year.<sup>9–11</sup> To ensure patient access to lenacapavir-for-PrEP globally, significantly lower annual costs must be realized.<sup>8,c</sup>

#### 1.1 Background of Frag A in Lenacapavir

Lenacapavir was first reported by Gilead Sciences in a family of patents and publications in 2018-2020.<sup>1,12–14</sup> Structurally speaking, lenacapavir is an extremely complex active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), with three chiral sp<sup>3</sup>-hybridized carbon centers and 10 fluorine atoms in four different functional environments. Lenacapavir consists of three advanced intermediates - Fragment A (**Frag A**), Fragment B, and Fragment C - as shown in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> For example, "PrEP medications would need to cost <\$54 a year per patient for South Africa to afford them."<sup>10</sup> 6



Figure 1.1.1.





Gilead has published several patents related to the initial synthesis and optimization of this molecule with several approaches to each fragment being demonstrated.<sup>12,13,15,16</sup> These routes utilize expensive starting materials and reagents and rely on costly chiral separation techniques that are not amenable to scaleup. Improvements to **Frag A**'s synthesis will, thus, have a meaningful impact on the overall cost of the molecule.

#### 1.2 Introduction of LenA 4

M4ALL developed a DKR-based approach <sup>d</sup> to decrease raw material costs associated with **Frag A** synthesis (Scheme 1.2.1). M4ALL's development work consisted of four key project milestones: synthesis of aldehyde **A4.8** (Milestone 1), synthesis of the racemic amine **A1.5** (Milestone 2), chiral resolution to **Frag A** (Milestone 3), and the synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride **A4.4a** (Milestone 4).<sup>e</sup> For future work maybe consider use of Na-*t*-amylate as it is cheaper than *t*-BuOK.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> It is also known as crystallization-induced diastereomer transformation.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>e</sup> 3,5-Difluorobenzyl chloride is the main cost-driver in LenA 4. We developed a cost-effective two-step process to make this molecule (Milestone 4). The details of the 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride synthesis are discussed in the Appendix 4.1.





Scheme 1.2.1 M4All approach (LenA 4) for the synthesis of Frag A

LenA 4 is a linear-7-step process that utilizes a readily available 3,6-dibromo-2-methylpyridine (A4.5) as a starting material. The synthesis commenced with oximation of 3,6-dibromo-2-methylpyridine A4.5 and tertiary butyl nitrite. The resulting oxime A4.6 was then hydrolyzed to aldehyde A4.8 using glyoxylic acid. Aldehyde A4.8 was converted to a racemic amine A1.5 through a telescoped three-step process (imination with diphenylmethanamine (A4.9), alkylation with 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride (A4.4a), then acidic hydrolysis). Lastly, racemic A1.5 was resolved using N-acetyl-D-leucine (NADL) *via* dynamic kinetic resolution (DKR) to afford the desired enantiopure Frag A.

It should be noted that some chemistry in this report is known in the literature,<sup>13</sup> however, the reported sequence is lacking in sufficient experimental details and thus presenting challenges to reproduce and ultimately scale-up:

- Synthesis of aldehyde (A4.8) from 3,6-dibromo-2-methylpyridine (A4.5) is reported.<sup>13,18</sup> Its synthesis was demonstrated on a gram scale; the procedure was not appropriate for scale-up, as defined.
- Alkylation of **A4.10** with 3.5-difluorobenzyl bromide (**A4.4**) was reported, however, our results showed low yield and low purity profile.<sup>f</sup> Additionally, the operation suffered from the acute lachrymatory property of the 3.5-difluorobenzyl bromide.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>f</sup> The reaction of **A4.10** with 3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide afforded **A4.11** in 83% yield with 76 wt% by qNMR) while the reaction of **A4.10** with 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride afforded **A4.11** in up to 94% yield and 87 wt% purity (see section 2.2 for details).



• Resolution of A1.5 with *R*-mandelic acid and NADL was reported on small scale and lacked sufficient procedural details (i.e., purifications, purity profiles) to judge fitness for scale-up and tech transfer.

All of the abovementioned issues and unknowns presented challenges to our LenA 4 process development. These could only be resolved through independent process research and development. To this end, M4ALL developed DKR-based approach to prepare **Frag A** from readily available 3,6-dibromo-2-methylpyridine. We highlight an efficient 3-step telescoped racemic amine synthesis, alkylation with non-lachrymatory 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride, and high yielding of DKR to access **Frag A**. Furthermore, we provide detailed process development assessments of the aldehyde synthesis, racemic amine synthesis and chiral resolution. Together, these insights provide informative and valuable data for the large-scale synthesis of **Frag A**.

#### 2 Results & Discussion

- 2.1 Milestone 1: Synthesis of aldehyde A4.8
- 2.1.1 Optimization of aldehyde A4.8 synthesis



Scheme 2.1.1. Familiarization of aldehyde A4.8 synthesis

M4ALL's work commenced with familiarization of the synthesis of A4.8 from commercially available 3,6-dibromo-2-methylpyridine A4.5 according to the reported method, on a gram-scale.<sup>13,18</sup> As shown in Scheme 2.1.1, oximation of A4.5 with *t*-BuONO (1.3 eq) in the presence of *t*-BuOK (1.5 eq) gave A4.6 in approximately 83% conversion (<sup>1</sup>H NMR). Subsequent hydrolysis with 50 wt% glyoxylic acid (10V) furnished the aldehyde A4.8 in 50-60% assay yield (qNMR) together with 40-50% starting material A4.6 remaining. In our hands, as in the reported conditions, both oximation and hydrolysis reactions did not proceed to completion; purification by column chromatography was invoked in the reported preparations. Incomplete conversion and chromatographic purification are impediments to large-scale manufacture. To achieve a scalable process for the synthesis of aldehyde A4.8, we aimed to *1*) optimize the equivalents of *t*-BuONO 9



and *t*-BuOK in oximation of A4.5 (Section 2.1.1.1) and 2) identify the best concentration of glyoxylic acid for hydrolysis of A4.6 to afford A4.8; and 3) to eliminate column purification (thereby minimizing processing costs and enabling scalability).

#### 2.1.1.1 Synthesis of oxime A4.6

Using Gilead's disclosed conditions, M4ALL observed ~93% (by HPLC) conversion in the oximation of A4.5 with *t*-BuONO (1.3 eq) and *t*-BuOK (1.5 eq) (Table 2.1.1, Entry 1). To achieve complete conversion (i.e., improve scale-up suitability), initial efforts focused on screening equivalents of *t*-BuOK.<sup>g</sup> The team hypothesized that increasing the equivalents of the base would facilitate the complete consumption of A4.5. Treatment of A4.5 with *t*-BuONO (1.3 eq) and *t*-BuOK (1.7 eq), however, negated the hypothesis: A4.6 was obtained in 86 A% (Table 2.1.1, Entry 2). Examining *fewer* equivalents of *t*-BuOK (1.1 eq, Table 2.1.2, Entry 3) showed comparable performance, giving A4.6 in 84 A%.<sup>h</sup> To complement these experiments in which single-portion charges of *t*-BuOK and *t*-BuONO were enacted, respectively semi-batch additions were investigated.

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<b>D</b> 1		Crude mixture (A%) <sup>2</sup>				
Entry	Conditions	A4.5	Unknown Impurities	A4.6		
1	<i>t</i> -BuONO (1.3 eq), <i>t</i> -BuOK (1.5 eq)	7	4	89		
2 <sup>3</sup>	<i>t</i> -BuONO (1.3 eq), <i>t</i> -BuOK (1.7 eq)	6	6	86		
3	<i>t</i> -BuONO (1.3 eq), <i>t</i> -BuOK (1.1 eq)	15	1	84		
4	<i>t</i> -BuONO (1.2 eq), <i>t</i> -BuOK (1.5 eq)	6	6	88		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>All reactions were carried out on 1.0 g scale at 0-12 °C with 2-MeTHF (10 mL, 10V), followed by the addition of *t*-BuONO and *t*-BuOK, stirred for 7-8 h; <sup>2</sup>The reaction mixture was precipitated by addition of sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5mL, 5V).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>g</sup> KOH and *t*-BuONa were also investigated. Neither afforded oxime A4.6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>h</sup> Employing fewer equivalents of *t*-BuONO also failed to completely consume A4.5 (Table 2.1.Error! Main Document Only.).



The solid was collected for analysis. A% was obtained by HPLC (210 nm) unless otherwise stated; <sup>3</sup>A% was obtained by qNMR.

Incremental addition enabled complete consumption of A4.5 and robust replicability in A4.6 oxime formation. On treatment of A4.5 with 1.1 eq of *t*-BuONO and 1.1 eq of *t*-BuOK (Table 2.1.2), conversion stalled after 3 h. At this juncture (3 h), A4.6 was present in 85 A% (HPLC, 210 nm). A further 0.1 eq of *t*-BuONO and 0.2 eq *t*-BuOK were then added to the reactor. After an additional 5 h, >96% conversion (A%, HPLC, 210 nm) was observed. A4.6 was obtained in >89 A% (HPLC, 210 nm) and <3.5A% A4.5 remained. After the addition of saturated aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5V), precipitated solids were washed by DI water and then dried, affording A4.6 in 87% isolated yield with 100 A% HPLC (210 nm) purity.

Table 2.1.4 Oximation of A4.5 under incremental addition approach
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	Time <i>t</i> -BuONO		t-BuOK	IPC (A%) (HPLC, 210 nm) <sup>2</sup>			
Entry <sup>1</sup>	(h)	(eq)	(eq)	A4.5	Unknown Impurities	A4.6	
1	1	1.1	1.1	12	10	78	
2	2	1.1	1.1	11	5	84	
3 <sup>3</sup>	3	1.1	1.1	9	6	85	
4	5	1.2	1.3	6	7	87	
54	8	1.2	1.3	4	7	89	

<sup>1</sup>Reactions were carried out on 50.0 g scale at 0-12 °C with 2-MeTHF (500 mL, 10V), followed by the addition of *t*-BuONO and *t*-BuOK as shown in table, 7-8 h; <sup>2</sup>A% was obtained by HPLC at 210 nm, unknown impurities (< 2 A%/each) were observed at different retention time; <sup>3</sup>At the end of 3h, 0.1 eq of *t*-BuONO and 0.2 eq of *t*-BuOK were added; <sup>4</sup>The reaction mixture was precipitated by addition of sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5V). The solid was collected and dried to afford A4.6 (48g) in 87% isolated yield with 100 A% HPLC (210 nm) purity.

Thus, optimized conditions of oximation are:

Incremental addition of *t*-BuONO and *t*-BuOK, using 1.1 eq of *t*-BuONO and *t*-BuOK, 2-MeTHF (10V), at 0 to 12 °C, followed by an additional charge of 0.1 eq of *t*-BuONO and 0.2 eq *t*-BuOK affords A4.5 in > 96 A% (HPLC, 210 nm).



• Robust repeatability was observed; comparable results were obtained on a 50 g scale.

#### 2.1.1.2 Synthesis of aldehyde A4.8

Observing Gilead's baseline conditions, M4ALL found that hydrolysis of oxime A4.6 with 50% glyoxylic acid (10V) provided aldehyde A4.8 in 59 A% (LCAP), along with 28 A% (LCAP) residual A4.6 (Table 2.1.3, Entry 1). Reaction volumes and the concentration of glyoxylic acid were investigated as key variables. The team posited that decreasing the volumes of glyoxylic acid – thereby increasing the concentration of A4.6 in the reaction medium would favor higher conversion and faster kinetics. Experiments affirmed that decreasing volumes of glyoxylic acid increased the conversion of A4.6 (Table 2.1.3, Entries 1-3). Notably, 60 A% (LCAP) of A4.8 was observed using 7.5V of glyoxylic acid (50 wt%) and 68 A% using 5 V of glyoxylic acid (50 wt%).

Table 2.1.5. Screening volumes and concentrations of glyoxylic acid for the synthesis of aldehyde A4.8



	Concentration of	Volumes of glyoxylic acid	Crude mixture (A%)			
Entry	glyoxylic acid <sup>2</sup>	(eq)	<b>A4.6</b> <sup>3</sup>	Unknown impurities <sup>4</sup>	<b>A4.8</b> <sup>3</sup>	
1		10V (20)	28	13	59	
2	50%	7.5V (15)	32	8	60	
3		5V (10)	24	8	68	
4	60%	10V (23)	30	2	68	
5	80%	5V (16)	8	4	88	
6	70%	5V (14)	2	7	91	
7 <sup>5</sup>	70%	5V (14)	2	5	93	

<sup>1</sup>All these reactions were carried out with **A4.6** (0.2 to 5 g, 1eq), 5-8 h at 80 °C in glyoxylic acid as shown in the table unless otherwise stated; <sup>2</sup>The concentration was wt%, and the aqueous solution of glyoxylic acid was prepared by dissolving glyoxylic acid in water; <sup>3</sup>A% (LCAP) was obtained by HPLC at 210 nm, glyoxylic acid was cut off; <sup>4</sup>Several unknown impurities (< 2 A%/each) were detected by HPLC at different retention time; <sup>5</sup>Reaction was performed with 20 g of **A4.6**, 5h, 80 °C. The precipitated solid was collected and washed by water to remove glyoxylic acid. **A4.8** (13 g) was obtained in 58% isolated yield with 82 wt% HPLC (210 nm) purity.

M4ALL further observed a direct correlation between glyoxylic acid concentration and A4.6 conversion in the hydrolysis (Table 2.1.3, Entries 4-5). A 68 A% (LCAP) of A4.8 was observed with the use of 60 wt% glyoxylic acid (10V), and 88 A% (LCAP) with 80 wt% glyoxylic acid



(5V). Ultimately, 5 volumes of 70 wt% glyoxylic acid proved optimal in the aldehyde-forming step, as indicated in Entry 6. Conversion of **A4.6** improved to >98 A% (LCAP). Optimal conditions were then examined on a 20 g-scale; 93 A% (LCAP) of **A4.8** was obtained with a conversion >98 A% (LCAP) (Table 2.1.3, Entry 7). Thus, optimized hydrolysis conditions are 70 wt% of glyoxylic acid (5V), 80 °C, 5 h, resulting in >98 A% (HPLC, 210 nm) of **A4.6**.

#### 2.1.2 Scale-up of aldehyde A4.8 synthesis

Using the optimized 2-step process for the production of **A4.8**, M4ALL evaluated hundredgram (100-200 g) scale-up batches in a 2L ChemRxnHub reactor. Commencing with 3,6-dibromo-2-methyl-pyridine **A4.5** (Table 2.1.4), the optimized process generated oxime **A4.6** in 86-87 % overall isolated yield and 93-100 wt% chemical purity (by HPLC). Hydrolysis of **A4.6** produced the aldehyde **A4.8** in 64-68 % isolated yield with 84-94 wt% purity (by GCMS). Further details, particularly regarding isolated intermediate purity, are discussed in the following paragraphs.

As summarized in Table 2.1.4, treating 3,6-dibromo-2-methyl-pyridine A4.5 with the portion-wise addition of *t*-BuONO and *t*-BuOK provided the desired oxime A4.6 in good yields. A 100 g-scale batch furnished oxime A4.6 as a light-yellow solid in 87.4% isolated yield with 100 wt% purity (HPLC) and a 200 g-scale campaign gave oxime A4.6 in 86.5% isolated yield with 93 wt% purity (HPLC). M4ALL hypothesizes the low wt% in this batch was due to the presence of trace inorganic salts, as the material showed >99 A% (HPLC, 210 nm). The definition of the A4.5 impurity profile - and associated critical process parameters - is the subject of future work.

Table 2.1.4 Synthesis of oxime A4.6 on hundred-gram-scale

I		ОН Ň
N Br	<i>t</i> -BuONO (1.1 eq + 0.1 eq)	N N
Br	<i>t</i> -BuOK (1.1 eq + 0.2 eq)	
	2-MeTHF (10V)	ы
A4.5	0 to 10 <sup>o</sup> C, 6 - 7 h	A4.6

Entry <sup>1</sup>	Input	$IPC (A\%)^2$				After purification			
	(g)	A4.5	A4.6	Unknown impurities	<b>A4.6</b> (g)	Wt% <sup>3</sup>	A%4	Yield $(\%)^5$	
1	100	4	88	8	97.5	100	99	87.4	
2	200	4	82	14	207	936	99	86.5	



<sup>1</sup>Reaction was performed with **A4.5** (1 eq), *t*-BuONO (1.2 eq) and *t*-BuOK (1.3 eq) with an incremental addition, 2-MeTHF (10V), 0 - 10 °C, 6 - 7 h, see experimental part for details; <sup>2</sup>The reactions were monitored by HPLC A% (LCAP) at 210 nm; <sup>3</sup>Wt% purity was measured by HPLC with a known standard; <sup>4</sup>A% was obtained by HPLC (210 nm); <sup>5</sup>The yield was corrected isolated yield based on wt%; <sup>6</sup>M4ALL hypothesizes the low wt% in this batch is due to the presence of trace inorganic salts, as the material showed >99 A% (HPLC, 210 nm).

Table 2.1.5 summarizes outcomes from the application of optimal conditions for A4.6 hydrolysis, performed in 50-100 gram-scale batches. With 70 wt% glyoxylic acid (5V) gave >97% conversion and in-process analysis of the crude showed 89-90 A% (HPLC, 210 nm) A4.8. After aqueous workup, the isolated assay yield of A4.8 was 60-64%, and its purity >99 A% (HPLC). Wt% purity was lower, at 84-94%. Low wt% assay was attributable to residual glyoxylic acid,<sup>i</sup> which could ultimately be purged during the racemic amine synthesis. Thus, A4.8 with 84–94 wt% purity was used for the next step without further purification.

			70 v Br .6	vt% glyoxylic acid (5V) 80 °C, 6-7 h	→ N Br A4.8		
Entry <sup>1</sup>	Input $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{G} (\mathbf{g})$		IPC $(A\%)^2$		Afte	er purification	1
	A4.0 (g)	A4.6	A4.8	Unknown impurities <sup>3</sup>	A4.8 (g)	Wt% <sup>4</sup>	Yield (%)
1	50	3	90	7	32	94	64
2	100	2	88	10	60	86 <sup>6</sup>	60

Table 2.1.5 Synthesis of aldehyde A4.8 on hundred-gram-scale

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<sup>1</sup>Reaction was performed with 1 eq of oxime A4.6, glyoxylic acid (5V, 70 w/w% in water) at 80 °C for 6-7 h; <sup>2</sup>A% was obtained by HPLC at 210 nm; <sup>3</sup>Several unknown impurities were observed (< 2 A%/each); <sup>4</sup>Wt% purity was obtained by GCMS measurement with a known standard; <sup>5</sup>Corrected isolated yield based on wt% purity; <sup>6</sup>Low wt% assay was attributable to residual glyoxylic acid.

4

57

846

61

93

3

95

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> Residual glyoxylic acid could be removed by extensive water wash, at the expense of accompanying **A4.8** material loss. **A4.8** loss notwithstanding, the water wash process was also very time consuming. Considering glyoxylic acid is orthogonal to the following chemistry and that it can also be purged during the racemic amine synthesis, **A4.8** was not subjected to further purification.



#### 2.2 Milestone 2: Synthesis of racemic amine A1.5

#### 2.2.1 Optimization of racemic amine A1.5 synthesis

With A4.8 in hand, our focus shifted to the synthesis of racemic amine A1.5. A three-step telescoped protocol for the synthesis of A1.5, from aldehyde A4.8, is disclosed the public domain (Scheme 2.2.1).<sup>13</sup> Condensation of A4.8 with diphenylmethanamine (A4.9) afforded the imine A4.10. The umpolung of imine A4.10 allowed alkylation with 3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide (A4.4 in the presence of excess KOH, under phase transfer catalysis, to yield A4.11. Hydrolysis of the newly formed imine A4.11 with aqueous  $H_2SO_4$  gave amine A1.5. While the three-step protocol was described on a small scale in the literature,<sup>13</sup> the disclosure lacked sufficient procedural details (e.g., yields, purification methods, purity profiles, and safety assessment) to judge fitness for scale-up.



Scheme 2.2.1. Reported telescoped three-step synthesis of racemic amine A1.5

To deliver a practical process for the A1.5 scale-up, key factors and parameters needed to be addressed through practical engagement with the chemistry depicted above. M4ALL would need to:

- Develop analytical standards for intermediates (A10, A4.11) (for reaction monitoring, in-process assays, development of in-process controls, etc.)
- Determine yields and purity profiles for each step before telescoping the process. The information will also allow us to allocate our efforts to optimization.
- Address the safe use of 3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide (A4.4), a potent lachrymator that can present safe-handling concerns at scale.
- Address the use of excess KOH, which may cause issues when scaling up (in the alkylation step).



 Address intensification opportunities in the use of excess H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>; as currently defined, the process requires large volumes of aqueous base to quench during, thus reducing volume-time-output in the last step.<sup>19</sup>

#### 2.2.1.1 Step-wise synthesis of racemic amine A1.5

To address the abovementioned issues, a stepwise synthesis of the racemic amine A1.5 was launched. Synthesis of imine A4.10 commenced with the condensation of A4.8 (1.0 eq) and diphenylmethanamine (A4.9, 1.05 eq). Imination proceeded smoothly in toluene at 60 °C, providing a full conversion after 3h.<sup>j</sup> After removal of solvent, (removing toluene and adding IPA is difficult on scale which was solved by telescoping described below) the crude A4.10 was obtained as a stable, tacky solid in >90% yield by qNMR; residual amine A4.9 was the prevailing impurity. Trituration with iPrOH purged amine A4.9 completely and gave A4.10 as a white solid in 90% isolated yield with 99 wt% (qNMR) purity (Table 2.2.1). Thus, unknowns related to A4.10 yield and purity profile were clarified,<sup>k</sup> and analytical reference standards generated.

#### Table 2.2 Verification of imine A4.10 synthesis



EntryInputSolventConversion1Isolated Yield2Wt%3								
1	5 g	Toluene	100.0 %	90 %	99%			
<sup>1</sup> Conversion was measured by <sup>1</sup> HNMR; <sup>2</sup> Corrected yield based on qNMR purity; <sup>3</sup> Wt% was obtained by qNMR.								

With the purified imine A4.10 in hand, we evaluated its umpolung alkylation under the reported conditions. The reaction of A4.10 (1.0 eq) with 3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide (A4.4, 1.2 eq) in the presence of KOH (5 eq) and *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr (4 mol%) in toluene (6V) proceeded smoothly. A4.11 was obtained in 83% yield with moderate purity (76 wt% by qNMR). During this investigation, the authors confronted 3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide's highly potent lachrymatory

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>j</sup> The imination was also evaluated in 2-MeTHF. A lower purity profile was observed, so toluene was selected for telescoping process development.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>k</sup> Purification by crystallization will be a time-bound priority during **Frag A** scale-up activities in Year 2. Trituration was pursued here to expedite timelines pursuant Year 1 milestone compliance.



Crude **A4.11**<sup>3</sup>

properties.<sup>1</sup> By comparison, its halide congener 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride<sup>m</sup> (A4.4a) is a much less potent lachrymator and easier to handle. Thus, treatment of imine A4.10 with A4.4a under the above conditions provided A4.11 in up to 95% yield with 76 wt% (qNMR) purity (Table 2.2.2, Entry 1). Further screening of base stoichiometry showed that 1.2 eq of KOH enabled complete conversion, delivering A4.11 in 94% yield and 87 wt% purity (Table 2.2.2, Entries 2-4).<sup>n</sup> Thus, scale-up concerns associated with materials compatibility (large additions of KOH) and EHS (benzyl bromide as a lachrymator) were mitigated. The unknown yields and purity profiles were also addressed.



Table 2.2.2 KOH equivalent screen	in the synthesis of imine A4.11

Entry	KOH (ag)	Conversion of $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{I}0^2$					
Lifti y	KOII (eq)		Assay Yield (%) <sup>4</sup>	Wt% <sup>5</sup>			
1	5	100%	95	76			
2	1.2	100%	94	87			
3	2	100%	84	71			
4	3	100%	95	75			

<sup>1</sup>The reaction was conducted with **A4.10** (1g, 1eq), **A4.4a** (1.2 eq), *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr (4 mol%), KOH (50 wt% in water), toluene (6 mL, 6V) at 60 °C for 3h under the conditions shown in the table unless otherwise stated; <sup>2</sup>Conversion measured by qNMR; <sup>3</sup>The toluene layer was collected and evaporated to dryness for qNMR analysis; <sup>4</sup>Corrected yield based on qNMR purity; <sup>5</sup>Wt% was obtained by qNMR, and major impurity was unreacted **A4.4a**.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Even small quantities have the potential to create challenging EHS conditions. SDS guidance for safe handling should be strictly observed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>m</sup> A two-step process was developed to synthesize 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride (Milestone 4). It was discussed in the Appendix 4.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>n</sup> Identification of impurities in crude A4.11 will be a time-bound priority during Frag A scale-up activities in Year 2. The crude with 87 wt% purity was pursued here to expedite timelines pursuant Year 1 milestone compliance.



Intensification of the A4.11's hydrolysis to A1.5 was then investigated. Hydrolysis of A4.11 with  $H_2SO_4$  (5 eq) – as reported proceeded smoothly. Amine A1.5 and benzophenone were the major constituents in the crude. After an acid-base workup, benzophenone was purged and the racemic amine A1.5 was obtained as a white solid in >90% yield and >95 wt% purity (HPLC). The reported protocol invokes a large quantity of aq. KOH (7V, 50 wt%) to quench the reaction mixture, commensurate with the excess  $H_2SO_4$  (5 eq) used in the hydrolysis. Application of 1.2 eq  $H_2SO_4$  delivered complete hydrolysis and enabled materially reduced consumption of aq. KOH (3V, 50 wt%) during the workup,° however, the use of 1.2 eq  $H_2SO_4$  generated precipitates that caused issues during the following acid-base workup, as a result, 1.2 -5 eq of  $H_2SO_4$  was used in the hydrolysis.

Thus, optimized conditions for each step, based on the chemistry done on a step-wise basis, are as follows:

- The imine formation from A4.8 (1.0 eq) and A4.9 (1.2 eq) afforded A4.10 in >90% purity (yield) in toluene (6V), 60 °C for 3h. The major impurity was unreacted A4.9 which won't impact the next alkylation step and also can be purged easily in downstream workup.
- The alkylation of A4.10 (1.0 eq) with 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride (A4.4a, 1.2 eq) in the presence of KOH (1.2 eq) and *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr (4 mol%) afforded A4.11 in >95% yield with >87 wt% purity.
- The hydrolysis of A4.11 (1.0 eq) with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (1.2 -5eq) afforded racemic amine A1.5 in > 90% yield with >95 wt% purity after an acid-base workup.

#### 2.2.1.2 Verification of telescoped synthesis of A1.5

The above-optimized conditions were then applied to the telescoping of A1.5 from A4.8. The reported protocol was initially tried on a 1g-scale, followed by 5- and 10-g refinement batches. A4.8, treated with A4.9, generated A4.10 in quantitative yield (qNMR; in-solution yield). The resulting A4.10 solution was submitted to alkylation with A4.4a (1.2 eq), KOH (1.2 eq), and catalytic *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr (4 mol%), rendering A4.11 in 71% yield (qNMR; in-solution). The organic layer (toluene), containing A4.11, was retained for the final hydrolysis step. Complete conversion

<sup>°</sup> The hydrolysis of A4.11 (1.0 eq) with  $H_2SO_4$  (1.2 -5eq) proceeds smoothly, parenthetically, the use of 1.2 eq  $H_2SO_4$  generated precipitates that caused issues during the acid-base workup. Optimization of equivalents of the  $H_2SO_4$  with a reliable purification process will be pursued in Frag A scale-up activities in Year 2.



(hydrolysis) of A4.11 was observed after 3 h in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (5 eq). The aqueous layer was collected and the pH was adjusted to > 12 with KOH (50 wt%, 7V). The precipitated solid, crude A1.5, obtained in an overall 67% assay yield (qNMR) with a purity of 76 wt% (qNMR) (Table 2.2.3, Entry 1). With a 5g-scale, A1.5 was obtained in 78% overall yield (by qNMR) with a purity of 81 wt% (qNMR) (Table 2.2.3, Entry 2). Finally, the process was verified with a 10 g-scale of A4.8 with further purification. After imination, alkylation, and hydrolysis, the obtained solid (crude A1.5) was washed with toluene ( $2V \times 3$ ) and heptanes ( $2V \times 3$ ) to give A1.5 in 75% overall isolated yield (three-step) with 96 wt% purity (by qNMR) (Table 2.2.3, Entry 3).

Table 2.2.3 Telescoped synthesis of A1.5 from A4.8



		Assay yield $(%)^2$		<i>Step-C</i> : Output ( <b>A1.5</b> ) <sup>3</sup>				
Entry <sup>1</sup> Input $A4.8$	Assay yield (%)		T1 4 114	Mana(a)	<b>XX</b> 40/5			
		Step-A A4.10	Step-B A4.11	I hree-step yield	Mass (g)	W t%		
1	1g	100	71	67%	1.3	76% <sup>6</sup>		
2	5g	100	87	78%	6.3	81% <sup>6</sup>		
37	10g	100	_8	75%	11.6	96%		

<sup>1</sup>Reaction conditions: <u>Step-A</u>: **A4.8** (1 eq), A4.9 (1.05 eq), toluene (6V) at 60 °C for 3 h; <u>Step-B</u>: *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr (4 mol%), KOH (50 wt% in water, 1.2 eq), 60 °C, 3 h; <u>Step-C</u>: H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (5 eq, 15 wt%), 60 °C, 3h; <sup>2</sup>Assay yield was obtained by qNMR; <sup>3</sup>After the reaction, the water layer was basified with KOH (50 wt%) to afford crude **A1.5** without further purification, unless otherwise stated, then an acid-base treatment, see experimental section for details; <sup>4</sup>Corrected isolated yield based on wt%; <sup>5</sup>Wt% purity was obtained by qNMR; <sup>6</sup>Low wt% of the crude was probably due to the impurities as shown in the scheme, the major impurity was byproduct benzophenone, all these impurities can be removed as shown in entry 3. <sup>7</sup>Crude **A1.5** was purified by toluene/heptane treatment, see experimental section (80 g scale) for details; <sup>8</sup>Known from Entries 1 and 2, this reaction was monitored by <sup>1</sup>HNMR/TLC (thin layer chromatography), and the formation of **A4.11** was not quantitated in this batch to save operating time.

#### 2.2.2 Scale-up of racemic amine A1.5 synthesis

The telescoped synthesis of racemic amine A1.5 was verified on a 53 g and 80 g scale. Both batches showed similar yields and purity profiles. A1.5 was obtained in 80-81% overall yield (three-step) with 95-97 wt% purity (HPLC). The results are summarized in Table 2.2..



#### Table 2.2.4 Scaling up the telescoped synthesis of A1.5



<sup>1</sup>See experimental section for details;  ${}^{2}H_{2}SO_{4}$  (2 eq) was used in hydrolysis;  ${}^{3}H_{2}SO_{4}$  (1.2 eq) was used in hydrolysis;  ${}^{4}A4.8$  was made from Milestone 1;  ${}^{5}A\%$  was obtained by HPLC (210 nm);  ${}^{6}Wt\%$  was obtained by HPLC (210 nm), lower wt% might be due to solvent residues;  ${}^{7}Corrected$  yield based on wt% purity.

#### 2.3 Milestone 3: Resolution approach to **Frag A**

#### 2.3.1 Optimization of Frag A synthesis

With the racemic amine A1.5 in hand, our efforts were focused on dynamic kinetic resolution (DKR) to access Frag A.<sup>p</sup> DKR is also known as crystallization-induced stereoisomer transformation, which was emerged as an important tool in practical asymmetric synthesis.<sup>17,20</sup> More importantly, the DKR of a racemate allows for a theoretical yield of 100% rather than a theoretical yield of 50% in a classical resolution approach.

The DKR approach for resolution of A1.5 was discovered by Gilead Sciences, Inc.,<sup>12</sup> however, the reported resolution was on a small scale and the lack of procedural details (i.e. purification, purity profiles) made it difficult to judge fitness for scale-up. Gram-scale reactions were conducted to familiarize ourselves with the DKR of A1.5. To our delight, using N-acetyl-D-leucine (NADL) as a resolving agent, the resolution of A1.5 in the presence of 5 mol% pyridine-2-carboxaldehyde and 10 mol% ZnO afforded (*S*)-A1.5-NADL in 61% yield with excellent diastereoselectivity (99.6 %de) (Table 2.3.1, Entry 1). Replacement with inexpensive (R)-(-)-mandelic acid as the resolving agent, the resolution afforded (*S*)-A1.5-Mandelate in a much lower isolated yield (28%) but excellent enantioselectivity (100 %de) (Table 2.3.1, Entry 2). Thus, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>p</sup> Resolution of **A1.5** under traditional conditions with (*R*)-(-)-mandelic acid, L-(+)-tartaric acid, N-acetyl-D-leucine (NADL) and (1R)-(-)-10-camphorsulfonic acid was also investigated. It was found that (*R*)-(-)-mandelic acid was the best resolving agent, affording the enantiomer in 31% isolated yield with 100% de.



reaction with NADL was repeated in a 10g-scale of A1.5 (Table 2.3.1, Entry 3). After resolution, (S)-A1.5-NADL salt was obtained in 63% corrected overall yield with 100% de. Notably, wt% of the obtained salt was 80% and careful <sup>1</sup>HNMR scrutiny of the salt found the presence of approximately 20 wt% of free NADL. To remove NADL, the salt was treated with aq. NaOH (1.3 eq, 1M). This treatment rejected NADL completely and free amine (S)-A1.5 (Frag A) was obtained in 95% yield with 99% qNMR purity and 100%ee (Scheme 2.3.1). The X-ray structure of (S)-A1.5 obtained by single crystal X-ray crystallography confirmed the (S)-absolute configuration of the enantiopure amine.<sup>q</sup>

Table 2.3.1 Chiral acids screen for DKR of A1.5



(S)-A1.5-Mandelate

Entry	Scale	Chiral acid	Product (output)	de (%) <sup>3</sup>	Yield (%) <sup>4</sup>	Wt%	$[\alpha]_{D}^{205}$
11	1 g	N-Acetyl-D-Leucine	<b>(S)-A1.5-NADL</b> (1.2 g)	99.6	61	73 <sup>6</sup>	+66.1
2 <sup>2</sup>	1 g	(R)-Mandelic acid	(S)-A1.5-Mandelate (0.4 g)	100	28	60 <sup>6</sup>	+31.2
3	10 g	N-Acetyl-D-Leucine	<b>(S)-A1.5-NADL</b> (11.5 g)	100	63	79 <sup>7</sup>	+64.4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Dynamic Kinetic Resolution of A1.5 with N-Acetyl-D-Leucine (1.25 eq), 2-PyCHO (5 mol%), ZnO (10 mol%), toluene (10V), 60 °C, 6h, then 35 °C, 4 days; <sup>2</sup>Dynamic kinetic resolution of A1.5 with R-(-)-Mandelic acid (1.25 eq), 2-PyCHO (5 mol%), ZnO (10 mol%), toluene (10V), 60 °C, 6h, then 35 °C, 4 days; <sup>3</sup>The diastereomeric excess (de) was measured by SFC (210 nm); <sup>4</sup>Corrected isolated yield based on wt% purity; <sup>5</sup>Specific rotation was recorded in MeOH (10mg/mL) at 20 °C under 589 nm; <sup>6</sup>Wt% was obtained by qNMR; <sup>7</sup>Wt% was obtained by HPLC (210 nm).



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>q</sup> Notably, enantiomers resolved from NADL and (R)-(-)-mandelic acid showed 100% de and (+)-sign of optical rotation number as the free amine (S)-A1.5, it is assumed that the same (S)-absolute configuration was obtained.



Scheme 2.3.1. Synthesis of enantiopure free amine Frag A

Thus, the optimized DKR conditions are:

- Resolution of A1.5 with N-acetyl-D-leucine (1.25 eq), 2-PyCHO (5 mol%), ZnO (10 mol%), toluene (10V), 35 °C, 4 days, gave (S)-A1.5-NADL in 80 wt%, 99 A%, 100%de.
- The complex was treated with aq. NaOH (1.3 eq, 1M), 25 °C, 1h, and (S)-A1.5 was obtained in 95% isolated yield with 99 wt% (qNMR), 100%ee
- This two-step protocol showed robust repeatability and afforded 65-70% overall isolated yields on 1-10 g scales.

#### 2.3.2 Scale-up of Frag A synthesis

The above optimized DKR conditions for the synthesis of **Frag A** were demonstrated on two 25g-scale batches (Table 2.3.2).<sup>r</sup> Both batches showed similar isolated yield and purity profiles, affording **(S)-A1.5-NADL** in 66-68% isolated assay yield with 76-80 wt% purity (HPLC) and 100%de. As expected, the main impurity in **(S)-A1.5-NADL** was the remaining resolving agent NADL. To demonstrate the scalability of the de-NADL reaction, 10g of **(S)-A1.5-NADL** was treated with aq NaOH using the above-developed condition. After completion of the reaction, a simple aqueous workup delivered **Frag A** as a white solid in 96% assay yield with 97 wt% purity and 100%ee. As a result, the overall isolated yield of **Frag A** from **A1.5** was expected to be 63-65% under the current conditions.



Table 2.3.2 Demonstration of DKR approach to Frag A on decagram-scale

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>r</sup> Due to the timeline of the project, we just verified the DKR conditions on 25g-scale reactions for now. Several elements related to the scale-up of this approach, such as reduction of reaction time, demonstration of 100g-scale, etc. will be addressed when we work on the API project during the next year.



	Input A1.5	(S)-A1.5- NADL	Wt% <sup>4</sup>	de (%)	Yield <sup>5</sup>	Frag A	Wt% <sup>4</sup>	Ee (%) <sup>6</sup>	Yield <sup>5</sup>	$[\alpha]_D^{207}$
1	25 g	31 g	80%	100	68%	5.5 g	97	100	96%	+92.2
2	25 g	32 g	76%	100	66%	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup>See experimental section for details; <sup>2</sup>After the reaction, the precipitates were collected and washed by cold toluene ( $10V \times 2$ ); <sup>3</sup>The de-NADL was carried out with (*S*)-A1.5-NADL (10 g, 1eq), aq NaOH (1.3 eq, 1M), H<sub>2</sub>O (5V), 20 °C, 1h, after completion of the reaction, the precipitates were collected and dried for analysis; <sup>4</sup>Wt% was obtained by HPLC (210 nm); <sup>5</sup>Corrected yield based on wt% purity; <sup>6</sup>Ee was measured by SFC; <sup>7</sup>Specific rotation was recorded in MeOH (10mg/mL) at 20 °C under 589 nm.

#### 3 Experimental sections

#### 3.1 Analytical report for lenacapavir Frag A

Based on the 7-step process plus an additional 2 steps for A4.4a starting material synthesis developed by M4All for lenacapavir Frag A (Scheme 3.1.1), the M4All analytical team developed achiral LC-UV and chiral SFC-UV detection methods for it, its intermediates and starting materials.



#### 3.1.1 Pharmacopoeia methods

Monographs from the United States Pharmacopoeia and the European Pharmacopeia are not available for lenacapavir **Frag A**.



#### 3.1.2 Method development

#### 3.1.2.1 3.1.2.1 Chromatographic conditions

Initially, method development work was performed using a GC-MS. GC-MS was chosen due to the nature of some of the initial route scouting work. As the project progressed, a LC-UV method was adopted which utilized an Agilent ZORBAX RR Eclipse Plus C18, 4.6 x 100 mm, 3.5  $\mu$ m with gradient elution (0.1% phosphoric acid in water: acetonitrile) in order to allow for easier in process testing. It was later discovered this method was problematic for intermediates **A4.8** and **A4.10** as the acidic nature of the mobile phase caused degradation of these molecules.

The on-column degradation of A4.8 and A4.10 was solved by increasing the mobile phase buffer pH. This necessitated a change in column to comfortably accommodate a more basic mobile phase without shortening the column lifetime. The final method adopted an Agilent ZORBAX Extend-C18, 4.6 x 250 mm, 5  $\mu$ m with gradient elution using 25 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 8.5 and methanol as mobile phases. Methanol was chosen for mobile phase B as potassium phosphate solubility in acetonitrile is low. Initial conditions were set to 60:40 (phosphate: methanol) and held for 0.5 min. At this time the mobile phase B was increased to 90% over 9.5 min and held for 15 min. Column temperature was set to 30 °C and a flow rate of 1 mL/min was used. Injection volume was 1  $\mu$ L and chromatograms were collected at 210 nm and 225 nm (Figure 3.1.1). Details for LenA-1 can be found in Section 4.4.



Figure 3.1.1. Chromatogram for all starting materials, intermediates and product in the synthesis of **Frag A**.



Chiral separation was needed for A1.5 (Figure 3.1.2). This was achieved using an SFC-DAD with a Chiral Technologies CHIRALPAK IA SFC, 4.6 x 250 mm, 3  $\mu$ m column. Flow rate was set to 2 mL/min with an injection volume of 5  $\mu$ L. Column temperature was 25 °C. Isomers were separated isocratically with 90:10 CO<sub>2</sub>: methanol over 10 min. Details for LenA-2 can be found in Section 4.4.



Figure 3.1.2. Chiral separation of A1.5 after resolution (Frag A).

#### 3.1.2.2 Wavelength selection and relative response factors

Ideal detection wavelengths were determined isosbestically on a stepwise basis. Starting material steps for A4.4a (Figure 3.1.3) and Frag A steps 1 and 2 (A4.5 through A4.8) have the most similar responses using 210 nm (Figure 3.1.4, Figure 3.1.5). The remaining steps to Frag A (A4.8 through A4.12 and A1.5) have the most similar responses when 225 nm is used (Figure 3.1.6, Figure 3.1.7, Figure 3.1.8). Relative response factors (Table 3.1.1) for each step were determined stepwise using both mass concentration and molar concentrations (Eqn 3.1.2.1).





Figure 3.1.3. Isosbestic plots for synthesis of the chloride starting material A4.4a.







Figure 3.1.5. Isosbestic plots for synthesis of the A4.8.







Figure 3.1.6. Isosbestic plots for synthesis of the A4.10.





Figure 3.1.8. Isosbestic plots for synthesis of the racemic and enantiopure A1.5.

$$Relative RF = \frac{\left(\frac{Analyte \ 2 \ Peak \ Area}{Analyte \ 2 \ Conc.}\right)}{\left(\frac{Analyte \ 1 \ Peak \ Area}{Analyte \ 1 \ Conc.}\right)}$$
(3.1.2.1)

Table 3.1.1. Retention Times and Relative Response Factors for Starting Materials, Synthetic Impurities and **Frag A** at 210 and 225 nm

Synthesis of A4.4a, Step 1									
Compound	Time (min)	RRT*	RRF at 21	0 nm	RRF at 225 nm				
Compound			(mg/mL)	(M)	(mg/mL)	(M)			
A4.2	4.4	0.56	0.93	1.0	123	135			
Undesired A4.3	6.3	0.81	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1			



A4.3	7.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0				
Synthesis of A4.4a, Step 2										
Compound	Time (min)	DDT	RRF at 210 nm		RRF at 225 nm					
Compound			(mg/mL)	(M)	(mg/mL)	(M)				
Undesired A4.3	6.3	0.54	1.1	1.1	0.02	0.01				
A4.3	7.8	0.67	0.83	0.73	0.01	0.01				
A4.4a	11.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0				
Synthesis of Frag A, Step 1										
Compound	Time (min)	RRT	RRF at 21	0 nm	RRF at	225 nm				
Compound			(mg/mL)	(M)	(mg/mL)	(M)				
A4.6	7.4	_	-	_	-	-				
	8.4									
A4.5	11.9	-	-	-	-	-				
Synthesis of Frag A, Step 2										
Compound Time (min) R		RRT	RRF at 21	0 nm	RRF at	225 nm				
Compound	Time (min)	RRT								
Compound	Time (min)	RRT	(mg/mL)	(M)	(mg/mL)	(M)				
Compound A4.7	<b>Time (min)</b> 2.1	0.26	(mg/mL) 0.05	( <b>M</b> ) 0.01	(mg/mL) 0.01	( <b>M</b> ) 0.004				
A4.7 A4.6	Time (min)           2.1           7.4	0.26 0.93	(mg/mL) 0.05	(M) 0.01	(mg/mL) 0.01	( <b>M</b> ) 0.004				
A4.7 A4.6	Time (min)           2.1           7.4           8.4	0.26 0.93 1.05	(mg/mL) 0.05 -	(M) 0.01 -	(mg/mL) 0.01 -	(M) 0.004 -				
Compound A4.7 A4.6 A4.8	Time (min)         2.1         7.4         8.4         8.0	RRT           0.26           0.93           1.05           1.0	(mg/mL) 0.05 - 1.0	(M) 0.01 - 1.0	(mg/mL) 0.01 - 1.0	(M) 0.004 - 1.0				
Compound A4.7 A4.6 A4.8	Time (min) 2.1 7.4 8.4 8.0 Synthe	0.26 0.93 1.05 1.0 sis of Fra	(mg/mL) 0.05 - 1.0 mg A, Step 3	(M) 0.01 - 1.0	(mg/mL) 0.01 - 1.0	(M) 0.004 - 1.0				
Compound A4.7 A4.6 A4.8 Compound	Time (min) 2.1 7.4 8.4 8.0 Synthe Time (min)	RRT 0.26 0.93 1.05 1.0 sis of Fra RRT	(mg/mL) 0.05 - 1.0 ng A, Step 3 RRF at 21	(M) 0.01 - 1.0 0 nm	(mg/mL) 0.01 - 1.0 RRF at	(M) 0.004 - 1.0 225 nm				
Compound A4.7 A4.6 A4.8 Compound	Time (min)         2.1         7.4         8.4         8.0         Synthe         Time (min)	RRT 0.26 0.93 1.05 1.0 sis of Fra RRT	(mg/mL) 0.05 - 1.0 ng A, Step 3 RRF at 21 (mg/mL)	(M) 0.01 - 1.0 0 nm (M)	(mg/mL) 0.01 - 1.0 RRF at (mg/mL)	(M) 0.004 - 1.0 225 nm (M)				
Compound A4.7 A4.6 A4.8 Compound A4.8	Time (min)         2.1         7.4         8.4         8.0         Synthe         Time (min)         8.0	RRT 0.26 0.93 1.05 1.0 sis of Fra RRT 0.54	(mg/mL) 0.05 - 1.0 ag A, Step 3 RRF at 21 (mg/mL) 0.42	<pre>(M) 0.01 - 1.0 0 nm (M) 0.26</pre>	(mg/mL) 0.01 - 1.0 RRF at (mg/mL) 1.0	(M) 0.004 - 1.0 225 nm (M) 0.61				
Compound A4.7 A4.6 A4.8 Compound A4.8 A4.8 A4.9	Time (min)         2.1         7.4         8.4         8.0         Synthe         Time (min)         8.0         10.5	RRT 0.26 0.93 1.05 1.0 sis of Fra RRT 0.54 0.71	(mg/mL) 0.05 - 1.0 mg A, Step 3 RRF at 21 (mg/mL) 0.42 0.33	<pre>(M) 0.01 - 1.0 0 nm (M) 0.26 0.14</pre>	(mg/mL) 0.01 - 1.0 RRF at (mg/mL) 1.0 0.25	(M)       0.004       -       1.0       225 nm       (M)       0.61       0.11				



<b>Time (min)</b> 11.7	<b>RRT</b>	RRF at 21 (mg/mL)	0 nm	RRF at	225 nm			
11.7 14.9	0.66	(mg/mL)	(M)		n RRF at 225 nm			
11.7	0.66		(1,-)	(mg/mL)	(M)			
1/ 0	0.00	0.49	0.14	0.61	0.18			
14.7	0.84	0.93	0.72	1.3	1.0			
17.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0			
Synthesis of Frag A, Step 5								
Time (min)	RRT	RRF at 210 nm		RRF at 225 nm				
Thire (min)	KN I	(mg/mL)	(M)	(mg/mL)	(M)			
12.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0			
17.8	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.5			
Synthe	sis of Fra	ng A, Step 6						
Time (min)	RRT	RRF at 21	0 nm	RRF at	225 nm			
Thire (min)	INITI	(mg/mL)	(M)	(mg/mL)	(M)			
2.5	0.20	1.1	0.42	0.68	0.26			
12.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0			
	14.9 17.8 Synthe Time (min) 12.5 17.8 Synthe Time (min) 2.5 12.5	14.9       0.84         17.8       1.0         Synthesis of Fra         Time (min)       RRT         12.5       1.0         17.8       1.4         Synthesis of Fra         Time (min)       RRT         2.5       0.20         12.5       1.0	14.9 $0.84$ $0.93$ $17.8$ $1.0$ $1.0$ Synthesis of Fraz A, Step 5RRT (mg/mL) $12.5$ $1.0$ $1.0$ $17.8$ $1.4$ $1.8$ Synthesis of Fraz A, Step 6RRT (mg/mL) $2.5$ $0.20$ $1.1$ $12.5$ $1.0$ $1.0$	14.9 $0.84$ $0.93$ $0.72$ 17.8 $1.0$ $1.0$ $1.0$ Synthesis of Frag A, Step 5RRT (mg/mL)(M)12.5 $1.0$ $1.0$ $1.0$ 17.8 $1.4$ $1.8$ $1.6$ Synthesis of Frag A, Step 6RRT (mg/mL)(M)Colspan="3">Colspan="3"Colspan="3">Colspan="3"Colspan="3"Colspan="3"Time (min)RRT (mg/mL) <td <="" colspan="3" td=""><td>14.9<math>0.84</math><math>0.93</math><math>0.72</math><math>1.3</math>17.8<math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math>Synthesis of Frag A, Step 5<b>RRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nmRRF at 1.0</b>12.5<math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math>17.8<math>1.4</math><math>1.8</math><math>1.6</math><math>1.1</math>Synthesis of Frag A, Step 6<b>RRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nm10101010101010101011111111111111111111</b><t< td=""></t<></td></td>	<td>14.9<math>0.84</math><math>0.93</math><math>0.72</math><math>1.3</math>17.8<math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math>Synthesis of Frag A, Step 5<b>RRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nmRRF at 1.0</b>12.5<math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math><math>1.0</math>17.8<math>1.4</math><math>1.8</math><math>1.6</math><math>1.1</math>Synthesis of Frag A, Step 6<b>RRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nm10101010101010101011111111111111111111</b><t< td=""></t<></td>			14.9 $0.84$ $0.93$ $0.72$ $1.3$ 17.8 $1.0$ $1.0$ $1.0$ $1.0$ Synthesis of Frag A, Step 5 <b>RRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nmRRF at 1.0</b> 12.5 $1.0$ $1.0$ $1.0$ $1.0$ 17.8 $1.4$ $1.8$ $1.6$ $1.1$ Synthesis of Frag A, Step 6 <b>RRF at 210 nmRRF at 210 nm10101010101010101011111111111111111111</b> <t< td=""></t<>

\*RRT = relative retention time

#### *3.1.2.3 UV spectra*

UV spectra of each compound can be found in Section 4.4.

#### 3.1.2.4 Linearity

A1.5, which corresponds to Frag A, was tested over the range of 0.07 mg/mL to 1.1 mg/mL. A 1/x weighted, 7-level curve over this range was linear with an  $R^2 > 0.99$  (Figure 3.1.9).





Figure 3.1.9. 7-Level calibration curve for A1.5.

#### 3.1.2.5 Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantitation (LOQ)

Limits were not determined for the starting materials, intermediates, impurities or product.

#### 3.1.3 Impurities

#### 3.1.3.1 Starting material impurities

Impurities were not specified nor determined for lenacapavir **Frag A** (salt of **A1.5**) starting materials.

#### 3.1.3.2 Synthesis impurities

Impurities were not isolated and characterized for lenacapavir **Frag A** (salt of **A1.5**) or for the intermediates en route to **A1.5**.

### 3.1.4 Forced degradation studies

Forced degradation studies were not performed for lenacapavir **Frag A** (salt of **A1.5**) nor its starting materials, intermediates and impurities.

#### 3.1.5 Methods

Analytical methods used to support the synthesis of lenacapavir **Frag A** (salt of **A1.5**) are appended to this report (Section 4.4).

#### 3.1.5.1 Key starting materials

A4.2, A4.3, A4.4a, A4.5, A4.7, A4.9, and A4.12 are analyzed via LC-UV using the method "LenA-1".



#### 3.1.5.2 Reagent and solvents

Toluene, dichloromethane (DCM) and heptane were analyzed using the GC-MSD method "GC Solvents".

#### 3.1.5.3 Intermediates

The A4.6, A4.8, A4.10 and A4.11 are synthetic intermediates in this process. These intermediates as well as crude and isolated A1.5 are analyzed via LC-UV using "LenA-1".

#### 3.1.5.4 In-process controls (IPC)

Requirements for IPCs were not set on this process. However, when IPCs were collected, they were analyzed via LC-UV using the "LenA-1" method.

#### 3.1.5.5 Final product analysis

Isolated **Frag A** (enantiopure **A1.5**) was assayed using the "LenA-1" method on LC-UV. This material was also subjected to chiral SFC-UV analysis (LenA-2), KF titration of water content and residual solvent analysis by GC-MS for toluene, dichloromethane (DCM) and heptane ("GC Solvents").

#### 3.1.5.6 Method appropriateness

During development of the "LenA-1" certain performance characteristics were evaluated to select analytical conditions. These results are described above and include linearity and limits of detection. This method was not tested for specificity. Method validation was not performed.

#### 3.2 Detailed experimental procedure

#### 3.2.1 General method

Reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used as received unless otherwise indicated. Where applicable, reactions were conducted in oven-dried (120 °C) glassware, which was assembled while hot, and cooled to ambient temperature under an inert atmosphere. Reactors were pre-rinsed with reaction solvent and subjected to evacuation/back-fill cycles (3×) as necessary. Reactions were monitored by TLC (precoated silica gel 60 F254 plates, EMD Chemicals), Agilent GCMS or crude <sup>1</sup>H NMR. HRMS was recorded using Perkin Elmer Axion 2 ToF MS, ionization mode: positive with scan range: 100 - 1000 m/z, flight tube voltage: 8 kV, spray voltage: 3.5 kV, solvent: methanol. TLC was visualized with UV light. The proton (<sup>1</sup>H NMR), carbon (<sup>13</sup>C NMR) and 2-DNMR spectra of the compounds were recorded on Bruker Avance III HD Ascend 600 MHz spectrometer. The NMR solvents used were DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, CDCl<sub>3</sub> and CD<sub>3</sub>OD. The chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm). Coupling constants J



are reported in hertz (Hz). The abbreviations used to designate signal multiplicity were: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet, p, pentet; dd, doublet of doublets; ddd, doublet of doublet of doublets; dt, double of triplets; ddt, doublet of doublet of triplets; m, multiplet; br, broad.

# 3.2.2 Experimental section Synthesis of oxime A4.6



A 5L jacketed reactor equipped with an overhead stirrer and thermocouple for internal temperature monitoring was charged with 2-MeTHF (2L, 10V) and 2,5-dibromomethylpyridine A4.5 (200 g, 797 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 10 min at 210 rpm, then cooled to 0-5 °C. *t*-BuONO (116 mL, 876.8 mmol, 1.1 eq) was added slowly over 20 min, then followed by the addition of *t*-BuOK (98.38 g, 876.8 mmol, 1.1 eq) in 2-MeTHF (878 mL) over 30 min, maintaining the internal temperature below 10 °C. After addition, the reaction mixture was stirred at 0-5 °C. During the course, the reaction was monitored by HPLC every 1 h. About 2 h later, HPLC showed 16 A% A4.5 remaining. Additional *t*-BuONO (5.3 mL, 39.85 mmol, 0.1 eq) and *t*-BuOK (6.70 g, 59.78 mmol, 0.15 eq) in 2-MeTHF (59.8 mL) were added at 0-5 °C then the mixture was stirred for another 5 h. The A% of A4.5 was < 1%. The mixture was diluted with 2-MeTHF (200 mL), then 10% sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (5V) was added slowly over 30 min (temperature was slightly increased +2 °C). The mixture was diluted with DI water (1 L, 5V). The precipitate was filtered and washed with DI water (600 mL, 3V). The solid was dried at 45 °C under 25 mmHg to afford 207 g of light-yellowish oxime A4.6 in 86.5% of yield (93.1 wt% purity by HPLC, KF: 0.26 wt%).

<sup>1</sup>**HNMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):**  $\delta$  11.70 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 8.15 – 7.97 (m, 1H), 7.67 (s,1H), 7.64 – 7.55 (m, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO): δ 151.74, 143.22, 143.03, 139.15, 129.35, 119.44.

Melting Point: 191 °C

**IR (ATR, DCM)** v<sub>max</sub> = 3309, 1587, 1388, 1140, 892.

**HRMS** m/z:  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O·H<sup>+</sup>, 278.8763; found: 278.8743.





Figure 3.2.1. Pictures of scale-up synthesis of oxime A4.6





To a 2 L jacketed glass reactor equipped with an overhead stirrer and thermocouple was charged with 70% (w/w) glyoxylic acid (467 g) in water (200 mL) and stirred for 5 min at 370 rpm. The solution was warmed to 80-85 °C, and oxime A4.6 (100 g, 332.60 mmol) was added in one portion *via* an addition funnel. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80-85 °C for 7-8 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by HPLC), the mixture was cooled to 0-5° C and stirred for 30 min. The suspension was drained and the reactor was washed with cold water (300 mL, 3V). Suspensions



were combined and filtered. The filter cake was washed with cold water (100 mL, 1V) (pH of the filtrate was found to be 2-3). The wet solid (85g) was taken back into the reactor and suspended in water (250 mL, 2.5V) and stirred for 30 min at 20 °C. The precipitate was collected by filtration and washed cold water (250 mL, 2.5V) (filtrate showed pH 3-4). The washing process was repeated until the pH of the filtrate was 5-6. The resulting solid was dried at 55 °C under vacuum to afford 60 g of A4.8 (86 wt% by GCMS, KF: 0.2%, corrected assay yield: 60%).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d**<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  9.95 (s, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86 – 7.82 (m, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO): δ 189.45, 148.70, 145.74, 140.22, 133.24, 120.34.

Melting Point:125 °C.

**IR (ATR, DCM) v**<sub>max</sub> = 2877, 1694, 1543, 1412, 1382.

**HRMS** m/z:  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>3</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>NO·H<sup>+</sup>, 263.8654; found: 263.8637.



Figure 3.2.2. Pictures of scale-up synthesis of aldehyde A4.8

Synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl alcohol A4.3



A 2 L round bottle flask equipped with an overhead stirrer was charged NaBH<sub>4</sub> (28.7 g, 759.0 mmol) in THF (400 mL, 4V), followed by the addition of 3,5-difluorobenzoic acid **A4.2** (100 g, 632.5 mmol) in THF (300 mL, 3V) at 0 °C. To the mixture, iodine (80.2 g, 316.2 mmol) in THF (300 mL, 3V) was added slowly. After addition, the mixture was heated at 65 °C and stirred for 24 h. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was cooled to 0-5 °C. Ice-cold water (1 L, 10V)



was added and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 L (10V)  $\times$  2). The combined organic layer was washed with 10% *aq*. NaCl solution (1L, 10V). The organic layer was evaporated under reduced pressure to obtain the desired alcohol **A4.3** as colorless liquid (104.12 g, corrected assay yield: 89.9 %, purity: 93.7 A% by HPLC).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.25 (dq, *J* = 8.3, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.76 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 2.21 (s, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 163.11 (dd, *J* = 249.1 Hz, 12.6 Hz), 144.80 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 109.10 (dd, *J* = 20.2, 5.1 Hz), 102.69 (t, *J* = 25.6 Hz), 63.91.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (564 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -108.5.

IR (ATR, DCM) v<sub>max</sub>: 3400, 1627, 1595, 1554, 1459, 1414, 1187.



Addition of 3,5-difluorobenzoic Addition of  $I_2$  to the reaction mixture acid  ${\bf A4.2}$ 



Synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a



3,5-Difluorobenzyl alcohol A4.3 (40.9 g, 284.14 mmol) and DMF (0.944 g, 1.0 mL, 4 mol%) dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL). To the mixture thionyl chloride (58.95 g, 35.7 mL, 1.7 eq) was added slowly at 0 °C (internal temperature was maintained between 2-5 ° C during the time of addition). After addition, the mixture was refluxed at 39 °C for 16 h. After the completion of the reaction (confirmed by TLC monitoring and HPLC analysis), the reaction mixture was subject to



distillation. The distillate at 89.3 °C under 22-88 mmHg was collected (38.4 g, containing trace amount of SOCl<sub>2</sub>). The collected fraction was washed with aq. saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL) and ice-cold water (100 mL). The organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure to obtain the product as a pale-yellow liquid (See Figure 3.2.4) (33 g, isolated yield: 71.4%, purity: 100 wt% by HPLC).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.93 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, J = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (tt, *J* = 8.9 Hz, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.97 (dd, *J* = 249.5, 12.7 Hz), 140.92 (t, *J* = 9.3 Hz), 111.38 (dd, *J* = 20.4, 5.4 Hz), 103.81 (t, *J* = 25.2 Hz), 44.64 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz).

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (564 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -109.8.

IR (ATR, DCM) v<sub>max</sub>: 1627, 1600, 1461, 1442, 1326, 1269, 1120. MS-EI (*m/z*): 162 and 127



Distillation setup for the purification of 3,5-Difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a

Isolated 3,5-Difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a

Figure 3.2.4. Purification of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a

Synthesis of racemic amine A1.5




Step A: To a 2 L RB reactor was charged 3,6-dibromopicolinaldehyde A4.10 (80.0 g, 87 wt%, 1 eq, 262.7 mmol), toluene (480.0 mL, 6V, Sigma, anhydrous) and diphenylmethanamine A4.9 (50.55 g, 1.05 eq, 275.90 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 60 °C and stirred for 1 h. HPLC showed completion of the reaction.

Step B: To the above reaction mixture tetrabutylammonium bromide (3.39 g, 0.04 eq, 10.51 mmol), 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a (51.25 g, 1.2 eq, 317 mmol) and 25% aqueous KOH (20.81 g, 85 wt%, 1.2 eq, 315.3 mmol in 46 mL water) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at 60 °C. After 3 h (<sup>1</sup>HNMR showed completion of the reaction), 160 mL of toluene (2V) and 160 mL of water (2V) were added and stirred for 10 min. The toluene layer was collected and washed with water two times (240 mL (3V) and 160 mL (2V)). The combined water layer was extracted with toluene two times (160 mL (2V) × 2). The combined toluene layers were charged to the reactor for the next step (Step C).

Step C: The above toluene solution was heated to 60 °C. Sulfuric acid (31.53 g, 98% wt, 1.2 eq, 315.3 mmol) was dissolved in 127 mL water and this resulting solution was added to the warm toluene solution. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 2 h. After 2 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to 20 °C. The toluene layer was separated, and washed with water 3 times (160 mL, 240 mL, and 160 mL, 7V in total). The combined water layers were washed with heptane 2 times (240 mL, 160 mL, 5V in total). During the heptane wash, pale-yellowish solids were precipitated. The heptane layer was discarded and both solids and water layer were collected for further purification. The solid (~30 g) was dissolved in methanol (105 mL, 3.5V) at 60 °C, stirred for 10 min, and cold water (300 mL, 10V) was added slowly at 20 °C to obtain the 1<sup>st</sup> crop of A1.5 as a beige solid (30 g). The aqueous layer was further washed with toluene 3 times (160 mL, 240 mL, and 160 mL, 7V in total). The colorless aqueous layer was basified with 35 mL (50% KOH) solution. The precipitate was filtered and dried to afford the 2<sup>nd</sup> crop A1.5 as a beige solid (56.5 g). After combined two crops of solids, 86.5 g of A1.5 was obtained, 81% assay corrected yield; wt%: 97% by HPLC; A%: 99% by HPLC.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**: δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 – 7.17 (m, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (t, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 4.67 – 4.41 (m, 1H), 3.06 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.84 – 2.67 (m, 1H); 1.80 (bs, 2H)



<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  163.0 (dd, J = 248.0, 13.0 Hz), 162.7, 142.7, 142.5 (t, J = 8.9 Hz), 140.6, 128.2, 119.1, 112.3 (dd, J = 19.7, 4.7 Hz), 102.2 (t, J = 25.4 Hz), 56.1, 43.7. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -110.3.

Melting point: 92 °C.

IR (ATR, DCM) v<sub>max</sub> = 3360, 3030, 3060, 1590, 1490, 1120, 1000, 830.

HRMS *m/z*: [M+H]+ calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>·H+, 390.9252; found: 390.9253.



Figure 3.2.5. Pictures of scale-up of synthesis of *racemic* amine A1.5

Synthesis of (S)-A1.5-NADL via DKR reaction



A 1 L three-necked round bottom flask was equipped with an overhead stirrer and a N<sub>2</sub> bubbler. A1.5 (25 g, 63.76 mmol, 1 eq), N-acetyl-D-leucine (13.80 g, 79.71 mmol, 1.25 eq) and ZnO (519.1 mg, 6.37 mmol, 0.1 eq) in anhydrous toluene (625 mL, 25V) was charged to the flask, followed by addition of pyridine-2-carboxaldehyde (341.51 mg, 3.18 mmol, 0.05 eq) under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The reaction mixture was heated to 60 °C and stirred for 6 h, then cooled to 35 °C and stirred for 4 days. The mixture was cooled to 20 °C. The resulting solid product was collected by filtration and the filter cake was washed with cold toluene (250 mL (10V) × 2). The solid was dried under



vacuum at 25 °C overnight to afford **(S)-A1.5-NADL** as a white solid in 68% yield (30.6 g, 100% ee, 80 wt% purity by HPLC).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-d6)**: δ 8.02 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 4.52 – 4.37 (m, 1H), 4.18 (q, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.65 – 1.57 (m, 1H), 1.47 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.88 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d6): δ 174.9, 169.6, 163.3 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz), 162.9, 161.7 (d, *J* = 13.4 Hz), 143.9, 143.6 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 140.2, 128.7, 119.7, 112.9 (dd, *J* = 19.7, 4.6 Hz), 102.1 (t, *J* = 25.7 Hz), 55.9, 50.9, 42.5, 40.8, 24.8, 23.4, 22.8, 21.9.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -110.9.

Melting Point:164 °C

**IR (ATR, DCM)** v<sub>max</sub> = 3360, 3030, 3060, 1590, 1490, 1120, 1000, 830.

**Diastereomeric excess (***de***)**: 100%, desired (SFC)

**Specific rotation**:  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +64.4 \text{ (deg·mL·g^{-1}·dm^{-1}) (measured in MeOH (10mg/mL) at 20 °C under 589nm)$ 



Figure 3.2.6. Representative pictures of scale-up synthesis of (S)-A1.5-NADL on 10 g scale

Synthesis of Frag A



(S)-A1.5-NADL (10 g, 12.2 mmol, 1 eq, 80 wt% purity) and water (50 mL, 5V) were charged to a 250 mL three-necked round bottom flask equipped with overhead stirrer under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.



To this slurry aq. NaOH (16 mmol, 630 mg, 1.3 eq in 30 mL water, 3V) was added at 20 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h. After 1 h, the solid obtained was filtered and dried under vacuum at 25 °C for overnight to afford white free amine **Frag A** (5.5 g, 96% isolated yield, 97% wt% by HPLC).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl**<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 12.5, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 13.5, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (s, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 162.9 (dd, *J* = 248.3, 12.9 Hz), 162.5 (s), 142.6 (s), 142.4 (t, *J* = 9.1 Hz), 140.5 (s), 128.1 (s), 118.9 (s), 112.2 (dd, *J* = 19.6, 5.1 Hz), 102.1 (t, *J* = 25.3 Hz), 56.0, 43.6.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (565 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -110.2.

Melting Point:114° C

**IR (ATR, DCM) v**<sub>max</sub> = 3360, 3030, 3060, 1623, 1453, 1123, 998, 857.

Enantiomeric excess (ee): 100% (SFC)

**Optical rotation**:  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +91.19 \text{ (deg·mL·g}^{-1} \cdot \text{dm}^{-1}) \text{ (measured in MeOH (10mg/mL) at 20 °C under 589nm)}$ 



Figure 3.2.7. Isolated enantiopure free amine (S)-A1.5



### 3.3 Copies of NMR spectra and analytical reports



























Figure 3.3.10 HPLC wt% analysis for isolated alcohol A4.3



















































## 4 Appendix

- 4.1 Synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a (Milestone 4 in LenA 4)
- 4.1.1 Optimization of the synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a
- 4.1.1.1 2.2.1.1 Synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl alcohol A4.3

3,5-Difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a, an alkylating reagent in the A4.11 synthesis, was expensive and one of the cost drivers in LenA 4 route. To achieve a more cost-effective route for Frag A, we developed a two-step route to synthesize 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride from commercially available 3,5-difluorobenzoic acid A4.2 (Scheme 4.1.1). The key transformation was NaBH<sub>4</sub>/I<sub>2</sub>-based carboxylic acid reduction to afford alcohol A4.3 and the subsequent



chlorination with SOCl<sub>2</sub>/DMF. Herein, we describe detailed results of the synthesis of 3,5difluorobenzyl chloride.



Scheme 4.1.1 Two-step approach for synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride (A4.4a)

The synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl alcohol (A4.3) is imperative to access A4.4a. Our initial efforts to make A4.3 focused on the reaction of 1-bromo-3,5-difluorobenzene (A1.1) with paraformaldehyde. Commencing from the halo-exchange reaction of A1.1 (1 eq) and Mg (5 eq) in THF, the resulting Grignard reagent reacted with paraformaldehyde (3.3 eq) to afford A4.3 in 40 A% (LCAP, 210 nm), and debromination was the major side-product (Table 4.1.1, Entry 1). Attempts to improve the yield failed. We envisioned that reduction of 3,5-difluorobenzoic acid would provide an effective way to access A4.3. The reduction proceeded smoothly with NaAlH<sub>4</sub> as the reducing reagent. The reaction of A4.2 with NaAlH<sub>4</sub> (1.1 eq) in THF (10V) at 0 °C afforded A4.3 in 99 A% (LCAP, 210 nm) (Table 4.1.1, Entry 2). Unexpectedly, the cost of NaAlH<sub>4</sub> increased dramatically in recent years due to its low market volumes. Thus, we screened other cheap reducing reagent for the reduction. Red-Al was tried but only 74 A% (LCAP, 210 nm) of A4.3 was obtained (Table 4.1.1, Entry 3). To our delight, initial results showed that A4.3 was obtained in 86 A% (LCAP, 210 nm) with NaBH<sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq)  $/I_2$  (0.5 eq)<sup>21</sup> as the reducing reagent in THF (60V) at 25 °C (Table 2.2.1, Entry 4). Thus, NaBH<sub>4</sub>(1.2 eq)/ $I_2$ (0.5 eq) was chosen for further optimization to improve the yield at scale. Concentration of the reaction mixture and the reaction temperature were critical to afford a full conversion of the reaction. Increase of the reaction temperature to 65 °C enabled the formation of A4.3 up to 96 A% (LCAP, 210 nm) in THF (5V) (Table 4.1.1, Entry 5). Among various solvent screening, it was found that the solvent volume from 5V to 15V afforded a similar yield of A4.3 (93-96 A%) when the reactions were carried out at 65 °C (Table 4.1.1, Entries 6-8). It should be noted that an exotherm was observed in the reaction with 5V of THF as solvent during the addition of NaBH<sub>4</sub>. No obvious exotherm was observed in a more dilute reaction medium (i.e. THF (10V)).

Table 4.1.1 Initial screen of synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl alcohol A4.3



F COOH	reduction	F OH	Mg formaldehyde	F Br
A4.2		A4.3		A1.1

Entry <sup>1</sup>	SM (g)	Condition	<b>A4.3</b> (A%) <sup>2</sup>
1	A1.1 (40)	Mg (5 eq), HCHO (3.3 eq), THF (10V), 25 °C, 8 h	40
2	<b>A4.2</b> (2)	Red Al (60% in toluene, 1 eq), THF (10V), 0 °C to 25 °C, 1 h	74
3	A4.2 (50)	NaAlH <sub>4</sub> (1.1 eq), THF (10V) 0 °C to 25 °C, 2 h	99
4	<b>A4.2</b> (1)	NaBH <sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq), I <sub>2</sub> (0.5 eq), THF (60V), 0 to 25 °C, 21 h	86
5	<b>A4.2</b> (2)	NaBH <sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq), $I_2$ (0.5 eq), THF (5V), 0 °C to 65 °C, 18 h	96
6	<b>A4.2</b> (2)	NaBH <sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq), $I_2$ (0.5 eq), THF (7.5V), 0 °C to 65 °C, 18 h	93
7	<b>A4.2</b> (2)	NaBH <sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq), I <sub>2</sub> (0.5 eq), THF (10V), 0 °C to 65 °C, 15 h	94
8	<b>A4.2</b> (2)	NaBH <sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq), I <sub>2</sub> (0.5 eq), THF (15V), 0 °C to 65 °C, 16 h	94
9	A4.2 (25)	NaBH <sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq), I <sub>2</sub> (0.5 eq), THF (10V), 0 °C to 65 °C, 17 h	91

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Typical reduction with NaBH<sub>4</sub>/I<sub>2</sub>: reactions conducted with A4.2 (1 eq), NaBH<sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq), I<sub>2</sub> (0.5 eq) at 0 °C then heated to 65 °C in THF under conditions as shown in the table unless otherwise stated. <sup>2</sup>A% of A4.3 was obtained by HPLC (210 nm).

Optimal reduction conditions were identified as: NaBH<sub>4</sub> (1.2 eq),  $I_2$  (0.5 eq), THF (10V), 0 °C to 65 °C, 15-18 h. This optimized condition was verified with a 25g-scale reaction, and 91 A% (LCAP, 210 nm) of A4.3 was obtained (Table 4.1.1, Entry 9).

#### 4.1.1.2 Synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a

To complete the synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride (A4.4a), alcohol A4.3 was subject to the traditional chlorination condition [oxalyl chloride (COCl)<sub>2</sub>, cat. DMF].<sup>22</sup> Unexpectedly, the reaction of A4.3 with (COCl)<sub>2</sub> resulted in a complex mixture and no significant amount of A4.4a was observed (Table 4.1.2, Entry 1). The chlorination of A4.3 with conc HCl afforded A4.4a in 63 A% (LCAP) and main starting material A4.3 remained (26 A%) (Table 4.1.2, Entry 2). Chlorination with conc. HCl provided a cleaner reaction profile compared to (COCl)<sub>2</sub>, unfortunately, further attempts (increase temperature, increase eq of conc. HCl, elongation of reaction time, etc.) to improve the yield resulted in poorer reaction profiles. To our delight, chlorination with thionyl chloride <sup>23</sup> afforded better conversion and cleaner reaction profiles. Initially, the reaction of the alcohol A4.3 with thionyl chloride without DMF afforded



incompletion of the chlorination. The addition of catalytic amount of DMF (5 mol%) is critical to afford a full conversion of the chlorination. For example, **A4.3** with thionyl chloride (1.5 eq) and DMF (0.05 eq) in DCM (6V) at 25 °C afforded **A4.4a** in 100 A% (LCAP) (Table 4.1.2, Entry 3). The screen of equivalents of thionyl chloride showed that the chlorination proceeded smoothly with thionyl chloride from 1.2 eq to 1.5 eq (Table 4.1.2, Entries 4-5). Thus, 1.2 eq of thionyl chloride was used for scale-up in this chlorination. The condition was verified with a 29g-scale reaction and the conversion was >98 A%, however A% of **A4.4a** in the crude was 82 A% (LCAP). After distillation (80 °C/42 mmHg) the product **A4.4a** was obtained in 59% isolated yield with 81wt% (HPLC) (Table 4.1.2, Entry 6).<sup>s</sup>

Table 4.1.2 Synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a



Entry <sup>1</sup> Input (A4.3)		Constitution	IPC $(A\%)^2$		
		Condition	A4.3	A4.4a	Comment
1	1.0 g	(COCl) <sub>2</sub> (1.5 eq), DMF (0.05 eq), DCM (2V), 25 °C, 4 h	-	-	Decomposition was observed
2	0.5 g	conc. HCl (12V), 110 °C, 4 h	26 %	63 %	Low conversion
3	1.0 g	SOCl <sub>2</sub> (1.5 eq), DMF (0.05 eq), DCM (6V), 17 h, 25 °C	-	100 %	-
4	1.0 g	SOCl <sub>2</sub> (1.3 eq), DMF (0.05 eq), DCM (6V), 17 h, 25 °C	-	100 %	-
5	1.0 g	SOCl <sub>2</sub> (1.2 eq), DMF (0.05 eq), DCM (6V), 17 h, 25 °C	-	100 %	-
6	29 g	SOCl <sub>2</sub> (1.2 eq), DMF (0.05 eq), DCM (6V), 17 h, 25 °C	2 %	82 %	output <sup>2</sup> : 24 g, 82 wt% <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>All reactions conducted with **A4.3** (1 eq) under conditions as shown in the table unless otherwise stated; <sup>2</sup>HPLC A% measured at 210 nm; <sup>3</sup>Product **A4.4a** was isolated using distillation at 80 °C with 42 mmHg; <sup>4</sup>Purity measured by HPLC wt% compared to a known standard.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm s}$  The chlorination with  ${\rm SOCl}_2$  was used for scale-up without further optimization due to the limited timeline of the project.



# 4.1.2 Scale-up of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a4.1.2.1 Scaleup synthesis of alcohol A4.3

The optimized condition of reduction of 3,5-difluorobenzoic acid A4.2 to afford alcohol A4.3 was conducted on 100 g-scale (Table 4.1.3). Firstly, NaBH<sub>4</sub> was dissolved in THF (4V), 3,5-difluorobenzoic acid A4.2 was dissolved in THF (3V) and iodine was dissolved in THF (3V). The solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> was then added to the solution of A4.2 at 0° C followed by addition of the iodine solution. The reaction mixture was heated at 65 °C for 18h and the IPC showed 97 A% A4.3 (LCAP, 210 nm). After workup (see experimental section for details section 3.), A4.3 was obtained in 90% isolated yield with 94 wt% (HPLC). The obtained alcohol A4.3 was used for next step without further purification.

Table 4.1.3 Scale up synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl alcohol A4.3



Entry <sup>1</sup>	Input	$IPC^2$	Output after purification <sup>1</sup>		
	(A4.2)	A4.3 (A%)	Yield <sup>3</sup>	mass	wt%
1	100 g	97 %	90 %	87 g	94

<sup>1</sup>See experimental section for details; <sup>2</sup>A% was obtained by LCAP (210 nm); wt% with reference to known standard; <sup>2</sup>Corrected yield based on HPLC wt% purity; <sup>3</sup>Corrected yield based on wt%; <sup>4</sup>Wt% was measured by HPLC (210 nm) with a known standard.

#### 4.1.2.2 Scale-up synthesis of chloride A4.4a

The scale-up of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride **A4.4a** was demonstrated on a 40 g-scale of 3,5difluorobenzyl alcohol **A4.3** under the optimized condition (Table 4.1.4). The reaction of alcohol **A4.3** and thionyl chloride with a catalytic amount of DMF (5 mol%) afforded **A4.4a** in 99 A% (LCAP, 210 nm). After distillation 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride **A4.4a** was obtained in 71% isolated yield with >99 wt% purity (HPLC, 210 nm).

Table 4.1.4 Scale-up of 3,5-difluorobenzyl chloride A4.4a





Entry	Input (A4.3)	Output (A4.4a)	Wt% <sup>1</sup>	Yield <sup>2</sup>	
1	40 g	33 g	>99	71 %	
<sup>1</sup> Wt% was obtained by HPLC (210 nm): <sup>2</sup> Corrected yield based on HPLC purity.					

#### 4.1.3 Synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide A4.4

Similarly, 3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide A4.4 was also prepared by bromination of 3,5difluorobenzyl alcohol A4.3. To identify a reliable bromination, various conditions such as TMSBr,<sup>24</sup> aq. HBr/acetic acid,<sup>25</sup> aq. HBr/H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and PBr<sub>3</sub> <sup>26</sup> were investigated (Table 4.1.5).

Table 4.1.5 Synthesis of 3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide A4.4



Entry $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}(\mathbf{a})$	Condition	IPC $(A\%)^2$		
Enuy	<b>A4.3</b> (g)	Condition	A4.3	A4.4
1	0.25	TMSBr (1 eq), CHCl <sub>3</sub> (2V), 45 °C, 16 h	10	90
2	0.25	48% HBr (1.2 eq) / acetic acid (1.2V), 100 °C, 6 h	<5	>95
3	0.45	48% HBr (2.0 eq) / H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (3.5 eq), 33 °C, 24 h	42	58
4	0.2	PBr <sub>3</sub> (0.7 eq), THF, 0 °C to rt, 24 h	50	50
5 <sup>3</sup>	42	48% HBr (3 eq) / acetic acid (1.2V), 100 °C, 6 h	<5	>95

<sup>1</sup>The bromination was conducted with: A4.3 (1 eq), brominating reagent under the condition as shown in the table unless otherwise stated; <sup>2</sup>A% was obtained by HPLC (210 nm); <sup>3</sup>3,5-difluorobenzyl bromide A4.4 (52.8 g) was obtained after purification in 87% isolated yield with ~80 wt% purity (HPLC).

Among all these screened conditions, bromination with 48% HBr (1.2 eq) in acetic acid (1.2V) afforded A4.4 in >95 A% (HPLC). This approach was chosen for bromination and it was verified with a 42 g-scale of A4.3. Thus, the reaction of A4.3 with 48% HBr (3 eq) afforded A4.4 in 87% isolated yield with ~80 wt% purity (HPLC).<sup>t</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>t</sup> It was found that excess (3 eq) of 48% HBr was required to afford a full conversion of the **A4.3**. It should be noted that **A4.4** is extremely lachrymatory and all the bromination must be done in fume-hood with proper PPE.



#### 4.2 Route scouting of LenA 1

LenA 1 is a 7-step approach to prepare **Frag** A.<sup>27</sup> The key step in the sequence is the Weinreb amide-based ketone synthesis, which provides an alternative entry point to the core structural component. Starting from the inexpensive 2-(3,5-difluorophenyl)acetic acid, the Weinreb amide synthesis and the followed nucleophilic substitution afford the ketone in 47% yield. The subsequent functional group manipulation delivers the racemic amine which was then resolved with N-acetyl-D-leucine (NADL) under the DKR approach as discussed in section 2.3. This synthetic route was demonstrated on decagram scale and affords the enantiopure amine in an overall isolated yield of 15-20% (Scheme 4.2.1).<sup>u</sup>



Scheme 4.2.1. Route LenA 1 for the synthesis of LenA

To initiate the synthesis of LenA 1, effort was focused on the ketone A1.4 synthesis. The reaction of 3,5-difluorophenylacetonitrile (A1.2a) with A1.3 with different organometallic reagents failed to generate the desired product (Table 4.2.1, Entries 1-4). We assumed that the lower pKa (~19)<sup>28</sup> of A1.2a mainly caused the protonation of Grignard reagent (quenching) rather than addition to nitrile. We envisioned that decreased acidity of the benzylic C-H bonds of the electrophile might mitigate deprotonation and thus favor the addition reaction. In this regard, the reaction of A1.3-Mg with ester A1.2b (pKa ~ 22 -23)<sup>28</sup> afforded the desired product in 15% isolated yield (Table 4.2.1, Entry 5). The positive results inspired us to investigate other electrophiles. Weinreb amide A1.2c (pKa ~ 26) was identified as the optimal electrophile to afford ketone A1.4 (Table 4.2.1, Entry 6). Among all condition tested for Weinreb amide, the condition using 1 eq of each Knochel-Hauser base and Weinreb amide A1.2c °C delivered the best

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>u</sup> This route was not chosen for scale-up because of its high RMC.



result of ketone A1.4 (Table 4.2.1, Entries 7-8). The protocol was demonstrated on a 30 g scale, affording A1.4 in 50% of isolated yield with 93% purity (qNMR) after a process of an extractive workup and subsequent trituration (Table 4.2.1, Entry 9). Weinreb amide A1.2c was readily synthesized from commercial acid A1.1 in a one-pot process as shown in Error! Reference source n ot found.

Table 4.2.1 Optimizations for the synthesis of ketone A1.4



	Organometallic reagent (eq)	Electrophile (eq)	Temp (°C)	GC-MS analysis (TIC A%) <sup>2</sup>			
Entry <sup>1</sup>					A1.2a/		
				A1.4	A1.2 <i>b</i> /	A1.3	
					A1.2c		
1	TMPMgCl·LiCl (1.5)	<b>A1.2a</b> (1.5)	-20	ND	50	45	
2	TMPMgCl·LiCl (2.5) / ZnCl <sub>2</sub> (1.1)	<b>A1.2a</b> (1.1)	-20	ND	30	60	
33	LDA (1.0) / HMPA (10%)	<b>A1.2a</b> (1.2)	-40	ND	57	2	
4	LiHMDS (1.0) / HMPA (10%)	<b>A1.2a</b> (1.2)	-40	ND	31	50	
54	TMPMgCl·LiCl (1.5)	<b>A1.2b</b> (1.5)	-20	20	31	30	
6	TMPMgCl·LiCl (1.1)	<b>A1.2c</b> (1.1)	-10	51	-	40	
7	TMPMgCl·LiCl (1.0)	<b>A1.2c</b> (1.1)	-20	67	-	25	
8	TMPMgCl·LiCl (1.1)	<b>A1.2c</b> (1.1)	-20	85	-	10	
9 <sup>5</sup>	TMPMgCl·LiCl (1.1)	A1.2c (1.1)	-20	68 <sup>6</sup>	5	10	

<sup>1</sup>All reactions were carried out with A1.3 (0.25 g, 1 eq) and organometallic reagent in THF (10V) for 30 min, followed by addition of electrophile and stirring at the same temperature for 2 h under the condition shown in the table unless otherwise stated, solvent volume (V) = mL/g of A1.3; <sup>2</sup>All these data were IPC of crude reaction mixtures obtained



by GC-MS total ion chromatogram (TIC) and reported as A% unless otherwise stated; <sup>3</sup>Impurity with m/z 179 was observed in 42A%; <sup>4</sup>4 h <sup>5</sup>Reaction was conducted on 30 g scale; <sup>6</sup>Extractive workup and sub sequential trituration for purification, 50% yield of the product was obtained with 93% purity (qNMR) after trituration from 5% ethyl acetate in heptane. ND: the desired product was not detected.



With ketone A1.4 in hand, our effort was shifted to the synthesis of racemic amine A1.5. Leuckart amination of A1.4 with NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>2</sub> was conducted,<sup>29</sup> but resulted in decomposition. Other amines, such as Boc-NH<sub>2</sub><sup>30</sup>/*t*-BuS(O)NH<sub>2</sub><sup>31</sup> also failed to react with ketone A1.4. Ultimately, the reduction of ketone A1.4, mesylation of the incipient alcohol, then amination of mesylate A1.7 successfully afforded A1.5 in overall ~51% yield over 3 steps with 99% purity (Scheme 4.2.3).



Scheme 4.2.3. Synthesis racemic amine A1.5 from A1.4

To finish up the synthesis of **Frag A**, the obtained racemic amine **A1.5** was then subject to DKR with N-Acetyl-D-Leucine in the presence of 2-PyCHO (5 mol%) and ZnO (10 mol%), and the salt of the desired Frag A enantiomer with N-Acetyl-D-Leucine was obtained in 70-80% isolated yield. The treatment of the salt with aq NaOH afforded the free enantiopure amine in >97% isolated yield. In summary, this strategy (LenA 1) featured ketone synthesis, nucleophilic amination and dynamic kinetic resolution as key steps. These findings provide an efficient approach to make ketone **A1.4** from inexpensive raw materials. This route also provides an alternative way to prepare enantiopure amine (*S*)-4 in the synthesis of lenacapavir. However, two steps with ~50% yield (synthesis of **A1.4** and **A1.5**) resulted in a high RMC of LenA 1 and make this route less



competitive compared to the route LenA 4. Thus, this route was not considered for further scaleup.

#### 4.3 Route scouting of LenA 3

LenA 3 involves a 4-5-step route to **Frag A** (Scheme 4.3.1). The proposed sequence commences with formylation of **A1.3** with TMPMgCl·LiCl/DMF. The resulting aldehyde **A3.2** is subject to asymmetric epoxidation to form epoxide **A3.3**. Alternatively, **A3.2** can be converted to olefin **A3.3a** through a Wittig reaction, followed by epoxidation to afford **A3.3**. The epoxide **A3.3** reacts with 3,5-difluorophenylmagnesium bromide then MsCl to give **A3.4**. Finally, amination of **A3.4** affords **Frag A**. The key step is the asymmetric synthesis of epoxide **A3.3**. There are two possible pathways to prepare the epoxide: 1) asymmetric Corey-Chaykovsky epoxidation <sup>32</sup> of aldehyde **A3.2** or 2) asymmetric- or biocatalytic-epoxidation of olefin.<sup>33</sup>



Scheme 4.3.1. Epoxide approach to Frag A

Initially, in accord with the literature,<sup>13</sup> aldehyde A3.2 was prepared by formylation of 2,3dibromopyridine A1.3 (1.0 eq) with TMPMgCl.LiCl (1.5 eq) and DMF (4.8 eq) in 45% yield (Error! Reference source not found.).





Scheme 4.3.2 Synthesis of aldehyde A3.2

With aldehyde A3.2 in hand, Corey-Chaykovsky epoxidation was first tried to obtain racemic epoxide *rac*-A3.3 (Scheme 4.3.3). Under a typical Corey-Chaykovsky condition, the reaction of A3.2 with trimethylsulfoxonium iodide (1.1 eq) in the presence of NaH (1.1 eq) afforded the epoxide *rac*-A3.3 in < 17% yield. Attempts to improve the yield failed. With the *rac*-A3.3 in hand, the ring-opening reaction with 3,5-difluorophenylmagnesium bromide was tried and it failed to produce any desired product.



We also tried the alternative two-step route to access A3.3 (from aldehyde to olefin then epoxide). It turned out the methylenation of aldehyde A3.2 was problematic. The Witting reaction with various bases such as *n*-BuLi, LiHMDS or *t*-BuOK failed to afford olefin A3.3a (Error! R eference source not found.).





All the failed results indicated the challenges for the LenA 3 route. Considering the limited timeline of the project, this approach was abandoned and our focus turned to LenA 4.



# 4.4 Acquisition Methods, Retention Times, Chromatograms, and Spectra





0.5	60	40					
10	10	90					
25	10	90					
Post-run equili	ibration: 4	minutes					
		]	Retention Times				
	A4.4a Starting Material Step 1 (210 nm)						
Сотрог	und	Time (min)	Relative RF (mg/mL)*	Relative RF (M)*			
A4.2		4.4	0.93	1.0			
Undesired	A4.3	6.3	1.1	1.1			
A4.3		7.8	1.0	1.0			
		A4.4a Starti	ng Material Step 2 (210 nm	l)			
Undesired	A4.3	6.3	1.1	1.1			
A4.3		7.8	0.83	0.73			
A4.4a	a	11.7	1.0	1.0			
			Step 1 (210 nm)				
A4 6		7.4	_	_			
1110		8.4					
A4.5		11.9	-	-			
		Ś	Step 2 (210 mm)				
A4.7		2.1	0.05	0.01			
A4 6		7.4	_	_			
1110		8.4					
A4.8		8.0	1.0	1.0			
Step 3 (225 nm)							
A4.8		8.0	1.0	0.61			
A4.9		10.5	0.25	0.11			
A4.10	)	14.9	1.0	1.0			
Step 4 (225 nm)							
A4.4a	a	11.7	0.61	0.18			
A4.10		14.9	1.3	1.0			
























#### 4.4.2 LenA-4 (SFC, Chiral)







### 4.4.3 GC Solvents (GC-MS)

Instrument Type: Agilent 6890 gas chromatograph (GC) with a 5977 mass spectrometer detector (MSD)
Conditions:
Column: HP-1; 30M X 0.320 mm; 5 μM film

Inlet Pressure: 4.8 psi	Split Ratio: 50:1	Split Flow: 39.439 mL/min
Column flow: 0.787 mL/min	Injection Temp: 260 °C	Injection volume: 1 µL
Solvent Delay: 3 min	Runtime: 20 min	



### Temperature Program:

Time (min)	Temp	Ramp	Hold
Time (min)	(°C)	(°C/min)	(min)
0	50	0	5
20	235	20	5.75

Transfer Line	250
Temp (°C)	230
Source Temp (°C)	230
Quad Temp (°C)	150
Electron Energy	70
(eV)	70

MS Parameters:

Sample preparation: Prepare samples at 5-10 mg/mL in acetonitrile or other suitable solvent.











# 4.5 Single X-ray crystal structure of Frag A

Figure 4.5.1 Single-crystal X-ray structure of **Frag A** ((*S*)-A1.5) with thermal ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability.

Table 4.5.1 Crystal data for Frag A



Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0198 A	h=1.54184	
Cell:	a=4.4017(1) alpha=90	b=35.5653(6) beta=90	c=17.0644(3) gamma=90
Temperature:	100 K		-
	Calculated	Reported	L
Volume	2671.39(9)	2671.39(	9)
Space group	P 21 21 21	P 21 21	21
Hall group	P 2ac 2ab	P 2ac 2a	b
Moiety formula	C13 H10 Br2 F2 N2	2(C13 H1	0 Br2 F2 N2)
Sum formula	C13 H10 Br2 F2 N2	C26 H20	Br4 F4 N4
Mr	392.03	784.10	
Dx,g cm-3	1.949	1.950	
Z	8	4	
Mu (mm-1)	7.821	7.821	
F000	1520.0	1520.0	
F000′	1512.60		
h,k,lmax	5,43,21	5,43,21	
Nref	5292[ 3130]	5256	
Tmin,Tmax	0.363,0.661	0.561,1.	000
Tmin'	0.059		
Correction metho AbsCorr = MULTI-	od= # Reported T Li -SCAN	mits: Tmin=0.561 T	max=1.000
Data completenes	ss= 1.68/0.99	Theta(max) = 72.0	98
R(reflections)=	0.0685( 5139)		wR2(reflections)=
S = 1.092	Npar= 35	56	0.1000( 0200)

Table 4.5.2 Fractional Atomic Coordinates (×10<sup>4</sup>) and Equivalent Isotropic Displacement Parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>×10<sup>3</sup>) for **Frag A**.  $U_{eq}$  is defined as 1/3 of the trace of the orthogonalised  $U_{ij}$ .

Atom	X	у	Ζ	Ueq
Br4	-3974(4)	6224.0(4)	7983.6(8)	27.4(4)
Br3	4037(4)	7330.6(4)	5787.7(9)	28.8(4)
Br1	11689(4)	5449.6(4)	-1180.9(9)	29.9(4)
Br2	18148(4)	4703.9(4)	1857.5(9)	35.0(4)
F2	11650(20)	7277(2)	1758(5)	33(2)
F4	7390(20)	6901(2)	2715(5)	35(2)
F1	6550(20)	7011(2)	-591(5)	34(2)
F3	6150(30)	5601(2)	3035(6)	44(2)
N1	14750(30)	5222(3)	1059(7)	23(3)
N2	10530(30)	5767(4)	1448(8)	27(3)
N3	-270(30)	6406(3)	6752(7)	22(2)
N4	3950(40)	6050(3)	5778(7)	29(3)



Atom	X	У	Z	Ueq
C23	5540(40)	5959(4)	3274(8)	26(3)
C1	13350(30)	5382(4)	447(8)	23(3)
C6	11560(30)	5742(4)	624(7)	21(3)
C20	1130(30)	6456(4)	4861(7)	24(3)
C19	3080(40)	6437(4)	5616(7)	22(3)
C10	8570(40)	6907(4)	-19(9)	30(3)
C25	6130(40)	6606(4)	3109(9)	28(3)
C13	12500(30)	6696(4)	1127(8)	25(3)
C12	11060(40)	7034(4)	1148(7)	23(3)
C14	1480(30)	6632(4)	6289(7)	19(3)
C17	-1260(40)	6931(4)	7599(8)	26(3)
C18	-1600(40)	6561(4)	7371(9)	30(3)
C22	3680(40)	6011(4)	3912(8)	27(3)
C24	6830(40)	6248(4)	2840(7)	25(3)
C2	13560(30)	5228(4)	-303(8)	26(3)
C11	9020(40)	7155(4)	585(8)	24(3)
C15	1790(30)	7007(4)	6456(8)	24(3)
C3	15360(30)	4904(4)	-411(9)	28(3)
C21	3030(30)	6377(4)	4148(7)	21(3)
C8	12000(40)	6456(4)	504(9)	25(3)
C26	4310(30)	6682(4)	3734(8)	24(3)
C7	13630(30)	6080(4)	439(9)	27(3)
C9	9990(30)	6565(4)	-88(9)	24(3)
C4	16730(40)	4734(4)	223(8)	27(3)
C16	430(40)	7161(4)	7120(8)	28(3)
C5	16310(40)	4909(4)	948(9)	32(4)

Table 0.3 Anisotropic Displacement Parameters (×10<sup>4</sup>) **Frag A**. The anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form:  $-2\Box^2[h^2a^{*2} \times U_{1l} + ... + 2hka^* \times b^* \times U_{12}]$ 

Atom	<b>U</b> 11	<b>U</b> 22	<b>U</b> 33	<b>U</b> 23	<b>U</b> 13	$\overline{U}_{12}$
Br4	30.9(8)	32.1(7)	19.2(7)	0.5(5)	1.5(7)	-2.3(7)
Br3	33.2(9)	27.1(7)	26.0(7)	3.2(6)	1.6(7)	-0.9(7)
Br1	31.1(9)	36.7(8)	22.0(7)	1.8(6)	-0.7(7)	-1.2(7)
Br2	43.7(10)	33.7(8)	27.5(8)	5.5(6)	0.9(8)	11.8(7)
F2	44(5)	33(4)	22(4)	-9(3)	-9(4)	-3(4)
F4	46(6)	36(5)	22(4)	1(4)	10(4)	-2(4)
F1	39(5)	36(5)	28(4)	4(3)	-7(4)	12(4)
F3	69(7)	24(4)	39(5)	-7(4)	9(6)	11(5)
N1	24(6)	25(6)	19(6)	1(5)	5(5)	-2(5)
N2	21(7)	29(6)	30(7)	-3(5)	1(6)	-3(5)
N3	18(6)	32(6)	15(5)	-3(5)	-1(5)	-2(5)
N4	39(8)	28(6)	20(6)	-4(5)	-7(6)	8(6)
C23	43(9)	25(7)	10(6)	-4(5)	-7(6)	6(6)
C1	23(7)	21(6)	25(7)	0(5)	-1(6)	2(6)
C6	20(7)	28(7)	16(6)	-3(5)	0(6)	1(6)
C20	21(7)	33(7)	17(6)	-2(5)	6(6)	-2(6)
C19	24(7)	29(7)	14(6)	-2(5)	4(6)	1(6)
C10	37(9)	23(7)	30(8)	6(6)	-5(8)	4(7)
C25	27(8)	29(7)	28(7)	2(6)	-6(7)	-3(6)



Atom	<b>U</b> 11	$U_{22}$	<i>U</i> 33	U23	$U_{13}$	$U_{12}$
C13	31(8)	31(7)	15(6)	1(5)	-6(6)	-4(6)
C12	37(8)	27(7)	6(5)	-7(5)	-1(6)	-10(6)
C14	8(6)	37(7)	11(6)	3(5)	8(5)	7(5)
C17	34(9)	31(7)	13(6)	0(5)	7(7)	1(7)
C18	37(9)	25(7)	27(7)	-2(6)	-4(7)	4(7)
C22	36(9)	20(6)	25(7)	0(5)	-10(7)	-1(6)
C24	27(7)	37(7)	11(6)	-4(5)	-2(6)	6(7)
C2	23(7)	22(7)	32(8)	0(5)	11(7)	-2(6)
C11	22(7)	23(6)	28(7)	-2(5)	4(6)	0(6)
C15	15(7)	29(7)	27(7)	0(5)	-9(6)	6(6)
C3	23(8)	29(7)	31(8)	-4(6)	8(7)	-3(6)
C21	18(6)	41(8)	3(5)	-1(5)	-4(5)	1(6)
C8	26(7)	18(6)	31(8)	0(5)	-4(7)	-4(6)
C26	27(7)	27(7)	16(6)	-1(5)	6(6)	1(6)
C7	19(7)	23(7)	39(8)	0(6)	13(7)	1(6)
C9	27(8)	23(7)	22(7)	2(5)	-3(6)	-2(6)
C4	31(8)	20(6)	29(7)	-2(5)	0(7)	3(6)
C16	35(9)	25(7)	24(7)	-4(6)	-4(7)	1(6)
C5	38(9)	18(6)	40(9)	-1(6)	4(8)	-1(7)

Table 0.4 Bond Lengths in Å for Frag A.

		0			0
Atom	Atom	Length/A	Atom	Atom	Length/A
Br4	C18	1.904(16)	C20	C21	1.503(18)
Br3	C15	1.897(15)	C19	C14	1.515(17)
Br1	C2	1.884(15)	C10	C11	1.37(2)
Br2	C5	1.896(16)	C10	C9	1.38(2)
F2	C12	1.375(14)	C25	C24	1.387(19)
F4	C25	1.367(16)	C25	C26	1.36(2)
F1	C10	1.371(18)	C13	C12	1.36(2)
F3	C23	1.367(15)	C13	C8	1.383(19)
N1	C1	1.340(18)	C12	C11	1.38(2)
N1	C5	1.323(19)	C14	C15	1.371(19)
N2	C6	1.481(18)	C17	C18	1.379(19)
N3	C14	1.367(17)	C17	C16	1.38(2)
N3	C18	1.329(19)	C22	C21	1.391(18)
N4	C19	1.455(17)	C2	C3	1.41(2)
C23	C22	1.37(2)	C15	C16	1.39(2)
C23	C24	1.39(2)	C3	C4	1.38(2)
C1	C6	1.534(18)	C21	C26	1.410(19)
C1	C2	1.395(19)	C8	C7	1.519(18)
C6	C7	1.541(18)	C8	C9	1.40(2)
C20	C19	1.550(19)	C4	C5	1.40(2)
		. /			

#### Table 0.5 Bond Angles for Frag A.



Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°	Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°
C5	N1	C1	118.9(12)	C16	C17	C18	117.3(13)
C18	N3	C14	117.6(12)	N3	C18	Br4	114.6(10)
F3	C23	C22	118.7(13)	N3	C18	C17	125.0(15)
F3	C23	C24	116.8(13)	C17	C18	Br4	120.4(11)
C22	C23	C24	124.5(13)	C23	C22	C21	118.6(13)
N1	C1	C6	115.9(11)	C25	C24	C23	114.3(13)
N1	C1	C2	121.1(12)	C1	C2	Br1	122.3(10)
C2	C1	C6	122.9(12)	C1	C2	C3	118.6(14)
N2	C6	C1	113.3(11)	C3	C2	Br1	119.0(11)
N2	C6	C7	109.2(11)	C10	C11	C12	114.8(13)
C1	C6	C7	107.9(11)	C14	C15	Br3	121.0(10)
C21	C20	C19	110.8(12)	C14	C15	C16	120.7(13)
N4	C19	C20	110.2(11)	C16	C15	Br3	118.3(11)
N4	C19	C14	114.3(11)	C4	C3	C2	120.1(14)
C14	C19	C20	110.6(12)	C22	C21	C20	121.6(13)
F1	C10	C9	118.2(13)	C22	C21	C26	119.4(13)
C11	C10	F1	117.2(13)	C26	C21	C20	119.0(12)
C11	C10	С9	124.6(15)	C13	C8	C7	121.5(14)
F4	C25	C24	116.8(13)	C13	C8	C9	119.1(13)
C26	C25	F4	118.3(12)	C9	C8	C7	119.4(13)
C26	C25	C24	124.9(14)	C25	C26	C21	118.3(13)
C12	C13	C8	119.5(13)	C8	C7	C6	113.0(12)
F2	C12	C11	117.0(12)	C10	C9	C8	118.1(14)
C13	C12	F2	119.1(13)	C3	C4	C5	116.1(13)
C13	C12	C11	123.9(12)	C17	C16	C15	118.8(13)
N3	C14	C19	115.5(12)	N1	C5	Br2	115.3(11)
N3	C14	C15	120.5(12)	N1	C5	C4	124.9(14)
C15	C14	C19	123.9(12)	C4	C5	Br2	119.7(11)

Table 0.6 Torsion Angles in  $^\circ$  for  $Frag \, A.$ 

Atom	Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°
Br3	C15	C16	C17	178.6(12)
Br1	C2	C3	C4	-179.2(11)
F2	C12	C11	C10	178.4(13)
F4	C25	C24	C23	178.6(13)
F4	C25	C26	C21	-179.2(13)
F1	C10	C11	C12	179.5(13)
F1	C10	C9	C8	-178.7(13)
F3	C23	C22	C21	-179.3(13)
F3	C23	C24	C25	-179.9(13)
N1	C1	C6	N2	-25.3(18)
N1	C1	C6	C7	95.7(14)
N1	C1	C2	Br1	-178.8(11)
N1	C1	C2	C3	-2(2)
N2	C6	C7	C8	-62.9(16)
N3	C14	C15	Br3	-176.6(10)
N3	C14	C15	C16	3(2)
N4	C19	C14	N3	-32.3(18)
81				



Atom	Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°
N4	C19	C14	C15	145.8(14)
C23	C22	C21	C20	-177.4(13)
C23	C22	C21	C26	-1(2)
C1	N1	C5	Br2	-179.1(11)
C1	N1	C5	C4	2(2)
C1	C6	C7	C8	173.5(12)
C1	C2	C3	C4	4(2)
C6	C1	C2	Br1	1(2)
C6	C1	C2	C3	177.5(13)
C20	C19	C14	N3	92.8(14)
C20	C19	C14	C15	-89.1(16)
C20	C21	C26	C25	177.3(13)
C19	C20	C21	C22	82.8(16)
C19	C20	C21	C26	-94.0(15)
C19	C14	C15	Br3	5.4(19)
C19	C14	C15	C16	-175.1(14)
C13	C12	C11	C10	-1(2)
C13	C8	C7	C6	105.9(16)
C13	C8	C9	C10	-1(2)
C12	C13	C8	C7	178.0(14)
C12	C13	C8	C9	-1(2)
C14	N3	C18	Br4	-179.6(10)
C14	N3	C18	C17	-3(2)
C14	C15	C16	C17	-1(2)
C18	N3	C14	C19	177.0(13)
C18	N3	C14	C15	-1.1(19)
C18	C17	C16	C15	-3(2)
C22	C23	C24	C25	1(2)
C22	C21	C26	C25	0(2)
C24	C23	C22	C21	0(2)
C24	C25	C26	C21	0(2)
C2	C1	C6	N2	155.2(14)
C2	C1	C6	C7	-83.8(17)
C2	C3	C4	C5	-2(2)
C11	C10	C9	C8	1(2)
C3	C4	C5	Br2	-179.0(11)
C3	C4	C5	N1	-1(2)
C21	C20	C19	N4	-70.6(15)
C21	C20	C19	C14	162.0(12)
C8	C13	C12	F2	-177.9(13)
C8	C13	C12	C11	2(2)
C26	C25	C24	C23	-1(2)
C7	C8	C9	C10	-179.3(14)
C9	C10	C11	C12	0(2)
C9	C8	C7	C6	-75.5(17)
C16	C17	C18	Br4	-178.7(12)
C16	C17	C18	N3	5(3)
C5	NI	Cl	C6	179.4(13)
C5	NI	Cl	C2	-1(2)

Table 0.7 Hydrogen Fractional Atomic Coordinates (×10<sup>4</sup>) and Equivalent Isotropic Displacement Parameters (Å<sup>2</sup>×10<sup>3</sup>) for **Frag A**.  $U_{eq}$  is defined as 1/3 of the trace of the orthogonalised  $U_{ij}$ .



Atom	X	У	Z	Ueq	
H2A	9200(400)	5600(40)	1590(100)	32	
H2B	12300(400)	5740(50)	1610(100)	32	
H4A	2300(200)	5930(40)	5970(90)	35	
H4B	5500(300)	6040(40)	6140(80)	35	
H6	9743.24	5752.07	272.4	26	
H20A	-535.47	6269.19	4894.13	28	
H20B	204.56	6708.71	4814.77	28	
H19	4993.19	6580.01	5509.57	26	
H13	13843.05	6625.29	1537.56	31	
H17	-2153.94	7022.65	8068.15	31	
H22	2862.84	5802.33	4186.33	32	
H24	8084.32	6204.81	2397.05	30	
H11	8011.72	7390.43	614.59	29	
H3	15636.04	4803.24	-921.82	33	
H26	3904.33	6933.64	3887.73	28	
H7A	15373.23	6078.99	805.29	33	
H7B	14440.41	6052.62	-99.01	33	
H9	9616.24	6406.4	-526.59	29	
H4	17892.63	4509.8	170.82	32	
H16	669.76	7420.49	7239.61	34	

4.6 Acronyms	
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ART	antiretroviral therapy
ATR	attenuated total reflection
A%	area percent
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
DCM	dichloromethane
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
DMF	Dimethyl formamide
ESI	electrospray ionization
FDΔ	food and drug administration
FID	flame-ionization detector
GCMS-TIC	gas chromatography-mass spectrometry total ion chromatogram
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HRMS	high-resolution mass spectrometry
i-PrMgCl·LiCl	isopropyl magnesium chloride lithium chloride complex
<i>i</i> -PrOAc	isopropyl acetate
IR	infrared spectroscopy
LiHMDS	lithium hexamethyldisilazide (Lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide)
LCMS	liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry
LiTMP	Lithium 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidide



M4ALL	Medicines for All Institute
MS-EI	mass spectrometry – electron ionization
NADL	N-Acetyl-D-Leucine
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
OPT	scale-up optimization
RMC	raw material cost
SRS	synthetic route scouting
SFC	Supercritical fluid chromatography
TE	techno-economic
THF	tetrahydrofuran
TMP	2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine
TMP-MgCl·LiCl	2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidinylmagnesium chloride lithium chloride complex solution
TMS	tetramethylsilane
UV	ultraviolet
max	wavenumber
qNMR	quantitative Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

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