### Supporting Information

# Synthesis and application of chiral *cis*-2,5-disubstituted pyrrolidine organocatalysts

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#### 1. General information

All the reagents and catalysts were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, TCI, Avra, SRL, BLD pharm and used without further purification unless otherwise mentioned. All the solvents were purchased from Merck or SD Fine and used for the purification of products. Thin-layer chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, TLC) was performed on Merck TLC silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> visualized by ultraviolet irradiation, KMnO<sub>4</sub> solution. Column chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel 100-200 using standard flash chromatographic methods. The NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Advance III (500 MHz) spectrometer and were referenced against the residual solvent peaks [CDCl<sub>3</sub>:  $\delta$  7.26 ppm (<sup>1</sup>H NMR) and 77.16 ppm (<sup>13</sup>C NMR). Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, bs = broad singlet), coupling constant, and integration. Infrared spectra were recorded on Perkin Elmer Spectrum Two FT-IR spectrometer. Selected absorption bands are reported in wave numbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>). The HRMS data for all the compounds were recorded (in positive ion mode/negative ion mode) with Waters Synapt-G2S ESI-Q-TOF Mass instrument. Chiral HPLC analysis was performed using an Agilent 1200 series, Shimadzu Nexera Semi-Preparative system, and Daicel Chiralpak IC, AS-H, IG, and IA columns (Chiral Technologies Eur., 25 cm × 4.6 mm I.D.) with isopropanol/hexane as the solvent. Specific rotations were measured with a Rudolph Polarimeter 341 at 589 nm and were reported as  $[\alpha]_{D}^{t}(c \text{ in g per } 100 \text{ mL, solvent, } ee)$ . Racemic products were synthesized by using the *racemic*-diphenylprolinol trimethylsilyl ether. The melting point (M.P.) of solid compounds was recorded on Labindia MR-VIS instrument using glass capillaries. The cinnamaldehyde derivatives were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, TCI, BLD pharm and used without further purification. The cinnamaldehyde derivatives 9e,<sup>1</sup> 9j,<sup>1</sup>  $9n^{1}$  and  $9o^{1}$  were prepared according to the reported procedure. The spectral data are consistent with those reported in the literature. Rotational isomers were observed for the compounds 4a, and 4b.

#### 2. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of imide 2<sup>2</sup>



To a stirred solution of lactam 1 (5.0 g, 35.0 mmol, 1 equiv) in anhydrous THF (100 mL) at -78 °C was added LiHMDS (35 mL of 1 M solution in THF, 35.0 mmol, 1 equiv) dropwise, and the solution was stirred at the same temperature for 30 minutes, then benzyl chloroformate (10 mL of 50% solution in toluene, 35.0 mmol, 1 equiv) was also added dropwise at the same temperature. Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (30 mL), and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 50 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product which was purified using flash column chromatography.

#### 1-benzyl 2-methyl (S)-5-oxopyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (2)



Following experimental procedure, lactam 1 (5.0 g, 35.0 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **2**, which was purified as a viscous light-yellow oil (7.64 g, 79% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (65:35)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.3 [hexane/EtOAc (50/50)].  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -43.4$  (c = 1.0, EtOH for **2**), lit.<sup>3</sup>  $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -44.2$  (c = 0.95, EtOH for **2**). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39-7.32 (m, 5H), 5.33 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (dd, J = 9.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.69-2.61 (m, 1H), 2.54-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.39-2.30 (m,1H), 2.10-2.05 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.0, 171.6, 151.1, 135.1, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 68.5, 58.8, 52.8, 31.1, 22.0. IR (neat)  $\nu$  2956, 1794, 1744, 1717, 1524, 1456, 1439, 1381, 1300, 1257, 1212, 1181, 1044, 741, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 300.0842, found 300.0854.

#### 1-benzyl 2-methyl (R)-5-oxopyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (ent-2)

Following experimental procedure, lactam *ent-***1** (5.0 g, 35.0 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product *ent-***2** which was purified as a viscous light-yellow oil (7.5 g, 77% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (65:35)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.3 [hexane/EtOAc (50/50)].  $[\alpha]_{D}^{27} = +32.8$  (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-**2**).

#### 3. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of compound 3



To a stirred solution of imide 2 (1.0 g, 3.61 mmol, 1 equiv) in anhydrous THF (25 mL) at -20  $^{\circ}$ C was added a solution of R(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>MgBr (1 M solution in THF, 10.8 mmol, 3 equiv) [freshly prepared from alkyl bromide (13.16 mmol), magnesium turnings (390 mg, 15.8 mmol), dibromoethane (0.2 mL, 2.63 mmol) in anhydrous THF (14 mL) at reflux], and then the reaction mixture was stirred for 2.5 h at -20  $^{\circ}$ C. After completion of the reaction (monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR), the reaction mass was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (25 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 30 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product which was purified using flash column chromatography.

#### Methyl (S)-8-(benzyloxy)-2-(((benzyloxy) carbonyl)amino)-5-oxooctanoate (3a)



Following experimental procedure, imide **2** (1.0 g, 3.61 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **3a**, which was purified as a light-yellow oil (772 mg, 50% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, (hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.3 [hexane/EtOAc (70/30)].  $[\alpha]_{D^{24}} = -6.1$  (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **3a**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35-7.26 (m, 10H), 5.43 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 4.45 (s, 2H), 4.34-4.30 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 3.45 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 2.56-2.42 (m, 4H), 2.16-2.09 (m, 1H), 1.89-1.84 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  209.4, 172.6, 156.1, 138.4, 136.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.74, 127.68, 72.9, 69.3, 67.1, 53.4, 52.6, 39.6, 38.4, 26.4, 23.9. IR (neat)  $\nu$  3353, 2954, 2859, 1717, 1526, 1454, 1213, 1099, 740, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 450.1887, found 450.1899.

#### Methyl (R)-8-(benzyloxy)-2-(((benzyloxy) carbonyl)amino)-5-oxooctanoate (ent-3a)



Following experimental procedure, imide *ent-2* (5.0 g, 18.03 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product *ent-3a* which was purified as a light-yellow oil (3.9 g, 51% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, (hexane/EtOAc (80:20)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.3$  [hexane/EtOAc (70/30)].  $[\alpha]_{\mathbf{D}}^{25} = +4.0$  (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-3a).

#### (S)-2-(((benzyloxy)carbonyl)amino)-5-oxo-8-phenyloctanoate (3b)



Following experimental procedure, imide **2** (500 mg, 1.81 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **3b**, which was purified as a light-yellow oil (360 mg, 50% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, (hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.7 [hexane/EtOAc (50/50)]. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>26</sup> = +16.4 (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **3b**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35-7.26 (m, 7H), 7.20-7.15 (m, 3H), 5.38 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (s, 2H), 4.36-4.31 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.60 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.54-2.37 (m, 4H), 2.17-2.11 (m, 1H), 1.94-1.86 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  209.5, 172.6, 156.1, 141.6, 136.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 126.1, 67.2, 53.5, 52.6, 42.1, 38.5, 35.2, 26.5, 25.2. IR (neat) v 3349, 3029, 2952, 1714, 1525, 1454, 1215, 1053, 748, 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 420.1781, found 420.1786.

#### 4. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of compound 4



BF<sub>3</sub>•Et<sub>2</sub>O (0.7 mL, 5.64 mmol, 4 equiv) was added to a solution of Ph<sub>3</sub>SiH (734 mg, 2.82 mmol, 2 equiv) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) at rt and stirred for 20 min at the same temperature. Then, the resultant mixture was added dropwise to a stirred solution of ketone **3** (1.41 mmol, 1 equiv) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (7 mL) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 30 min, and then at rt for 5 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL) at 0 °C and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 30 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product which was purified using flash column chromatography.

#### 1-Benzyl 2-methyl (2S,5R)-5-(3-(benzyloxy) propyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (4a)



Following experimental procedure, ketone **3a** (560 mg, 1.41 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **4a** which was purified as a light-yellow oil (493 mg, 85% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, (hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.4 [hexane/EtOAc (70/30)].  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -14.4$  (c = 1.33, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **4a**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.34-7.25 (m, 10H), 5.18-5.04 (m, 2H), 4.50 (s, 1.07H), 4.44 (s, 0.86H), 4.40 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 0.47H), 4.34 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.54H), 4.00-3.97 (m, 0.54H), 3.96-3.93 (m, 0.44H), 3.74

(s, 1.30H), 3.60 (s, 1.54H), 3.55-3.40 (m, 2H), 2.24-2.19 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.90-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.53 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.6, 173.5, 155.2, 154.4, 138.7, 138.6, 136.7, 136.6, 128.54, 128.47, 128.4, 128.1, 128.01, 127.96, 127.74, 127.70, 127.6, 72.9, 70.5, 70.3, 67.3, 67.0, 60.1, 59.8, 59.2, 58.6, 52.3, 52.1, 31.4, 30.7, 30.3, 29.5, 29.2, 28.2, 26.8. **IR** (neat) *v* 2951, 2926, 2855, 1750, 1700, 1408, 1350, 1201, 1173, 1100, 736, 697 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 412.2118, found 412.2125.

1-Benzyl 2-methyl (2R,5S)-5-(3-(benzyloxy) propyl)pyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (ent-4a)

Following experimental procedure, ketone *ent-3a* (3.6 g, 8.56 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product *ent-4a* which was purified as a light-yellow oil (3.1 g, 82% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, (hexane/EtOAc (80:20)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.4$  [hexane/EtOAc (70/30)].  $[\alpha]_{\mathbf{p}^{26}} = +15.2$  (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-4a).

#### 1-Benzyl 2-methyl (2S,5S)-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrrolidine-1,2 dicarboxylate (4b)



Following experimental procedure, ketone **3b** (326 mg, 0.82 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **4b**, which was purified as a light-yellow oil (280 mg, 90% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, (hexane/EtOAc (85:15)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.4 [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)].  $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -27.4$  (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **4b**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35-7.25 (m, 7H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 3H), 5.16-5.05 (m, 2H), 4.39 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.45H), 4.34 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 0.55H), 4.05-3.99 (m, 0.56H), 3.95-3.90 (m, 0.48H), 3.73 (s, 1.33H), 3.60 (s, 1.61H), 2.70-2.56 (m, 2H), 2.23-2.18 (m, 1H), 2.07-1.89 (m, 3H), 1.72-1.61 (m, 3H), 1.54-1.48 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  173.7, 173.5, 155.2, 154.4, 142.7, 142.5, 136.8, 136.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.44, 128.38, 128.1, 128.04, 127.99, 127.8, 125.82, 125.77, 67.3, 67.0, 60.2, 59.8, 59.3, 58.7, 52.3, 52.2, 36.1, 35.9, 34.5, 34.0, 30.3, 29.6, 29.2, 28.6, 28.3. IR (neat) v 3028, 2949, 1752, 1705, 1497, 1454, 1409, 1352, 1203, 1173, 1113, 750, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>23H27</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 404.1832, found 404.1840.

#### 5. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of compounds 5a, ent-5a, 5b, and 5c



To a solution of ester 4 (1.19 mmol, 1 equiv) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) at 0 °C was added a solution of ArMgBr (1 M solution in THF, 12.0 mmol, 10 equiv) [freshly prepared from aryl bromide (12.0 mmol) magnesium turnings (350 mg, 14.4 mmol) and dibromoethane (0.2 mL, 2.4 mmol) in anhydrous THF (12 mL) at reflux], and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and then 18 h at rt. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (15 mL) and extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 30$  mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product which was purified using flash column chromatography.

#### Benzyl (2*R*,5*S*)-2-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-5-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)pyrrolidine-1carboxylate (5a)



Following experimental procedure, ester **4a** (491 mg, 1.19 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **5a** which was purified as a light-yellow oil (447 mg, 70% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (90:10)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.5$  [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)].  $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -58.6$  (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **5a**). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.42-7.21 (m, 20H), 5.15 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (dd, J = 9.0, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 3.74-3.71 (m, 1H), 3.29-3.23 (m, 2H), 2.12-2.09 (m, 1H), 2.09-1.99 (m, 1H), 1.78-1.74 (m, 2H), 1.31-1.28 (m, 2H), 0.90-0.86 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.2, 146.6, 143.6, 138.7, 136.4, 128.7, 128.64, 128.60, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.71, 127.70, 127.64, 127.56, 127.3, 127.2, 127.1, 81.2, 72.9, 70.4, 68.0, 67.8, 60.6, 32.0, 30.2, 28.6, 27.0. IR (neat)  $\nu$  3376, 3032, 2925, 2855, 1663, 1448, 1407, 1323, 1103, 1029, 752 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>37</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 558.2615, found 558.2619.

## Benzyl (2*S*,5*R*)-2-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-5-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (*ent*-5a)



ent-5a

Following experimental procedure, ester *ent*-4a (2.9 g, 7.04 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product *ent*-5a which was purified as a light-yellow oil (2.53 g, 67% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (90:10)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.5$  [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)].  $[\alpha]_{\mathbf{D}}^{27} = +52.0$  (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-5a).

Benzyl (2*S*,5*S*)-2-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (5b)



5b

Following experimental procedure, ester **4b** (180 mg, 0.47 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **5b**, which was purified as a light-yellow oil (171 mg, 71% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (90:10)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.5$  [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)].  $[\mathbf{a}]_{\mathbf{D}}^{22} = -55.4$  (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **5b**). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39-7.36 (m, 4H),7.33-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 10H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 5.15 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 4.98-4.95 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.69 (m, 1H), 2.47-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.39-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.08 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.96 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.70 (m, 1H), 1.61 (bs, 1H), 1.31-1.25 (m, 2H), 0.85-0.75 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.3, 146.6, 143.5, 142.5, 136.4, 128.7, 128.6, 128.40, 128.35, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 127.5, 127.24, 127.17, 126.6, 125.8, 81.2, 68.0, 67.8, 60.6, 35.9, 35.1, 30.1, 28.60, 28.56. **IR** (neat) v 3363, 2925, 2855, 1661, 1448, 1406, 1322, 1260, 1098, 1028, 799, 751 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>35</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 528.2509, found 528.2520.

### Benzyl (2*R*,5*S*)-2-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-5-(hydroxydi(naphthalen-2-yl)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (5c)



5c

Following experimental procedure, ester **4a** (300 mg, 0.73 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **5c**, which was purified as a light-yellow oil (325 mg, 70% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (80:20)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.6 [hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (50/50)]. [ $\alpha$ ] $_{D}^{20}$  = -65.4 (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **5c**). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.00 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.73-7.62 (m, 6H), 7.44-7.35 (m, 6H), 7.27-7.16 (m, 10H), 5.14-5.07 (m, 2H), 4.85 (bs, 1H), 4.20 (s, 2H), 3.69-3.66 (m, 1H), 2.92- 2.85 (m, 2H), 2.19-2.07 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.66 (m, 1H), 1.52-1.47 (m, 2H), 1.08 (bs, 2H), 0.74 (bs, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.3, 142.7,139.7, 137.5, 135.2, 131.7, 131.6, 131.51, 131.49, 127.5, 127.43, 127.35, 127.31, 127.29, 127.0, 126.9, 126.70, 126.66, 126.6, 126.5, 126.43, 126.40, 126.1, 125.94, 125.85, 125.7, 125.0, 124.9, 124.1, 80.2, 71.7, 69.0, 67.1, 66.7, 59.4, 30.9, 29.1, 27.5, 25.8. **IR** (neat) v 3302, 3058, 2926, 2855, 1661, 1455, 1406, 1321, 1100, 859, 820, 746, 698, 477 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>41</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 658.2928, found 658.2936. 6. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of benzyl (2R,5S)-2-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-5-(bis(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)(hydroxy)methyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (5d)



To a solution of 1-bromo-3.5-bis(trifluoromethyl)benzene (460 µL, 2.63 mmol, 4 equiv) in anhydrous THF (3 mL), the isopropylmagnesium(II) bromide (2.6 mL of 1 M solution in THF, 2.63 mmol, 4 equiv) [freshly prepared from 2-bromopropane (760 µL, 8.13 mmol), magnesium turnings (240 mg, 9.75 mmol) and dibromoethane (140 µL, 1.62 mmol) in anhydrous THF (8 mL) at reflux] was added dropwise at 0 °C under argon atmosphere and then the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 45 min. Then, ester 4a (270 mg, 0.66 mmol, 1 equiv) in anhydrous THF (1 mL) was added dropwise at the same temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (15 mL) and extracted with EtOAc  $(3 \times 30 \text{ mL})$ . The organic phases were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product 5d, which was purified as a light-vellow oil (350 mg, 66% vield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (92:08)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.6$  [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)].  $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -32.4$  (c = 1.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) for 5d). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.90 (s, 2H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.83 (s, 3H), 7.34-7.23 (m, 10H), 6.73 (bs, 1H), 5.13 (d, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.93-4.91 (m, 1H), 4.41 (s, 2H), 3.81-3.78 (m, 1H), 3.26 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.11-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.89-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.60 (m, 1H), 1.37-1.31 (m, 2H), 0.88-0.75 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.6, 147.6, 145.1, 138.4, 135.7, 131.8 (q, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 33.3 Hz), 131.5 (q, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>C-F</sub> = 33.3 Hz), 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.82, 127.75, 127.7, 123.3 (q,  ${}^{1}J_{C-F} = 271.3 \text{ Hz}$ ), 123.3 (q,  ${}^{1}J_{C-F} = 271.3 \text{ Hz}$ ) Hz), 122.1, 122.0, 80.2, 73.2, 69.8, 68.6, 68.4, 60.7, 32.3, 29.9, 28.6, 27.0. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -62.7 (s), -62.8 (s). IR (neat) v 3331, 2927, 2858, 1667, 1370, 1278, 1173, 1133, 901, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{39}H_{34}F_{12}NO_4^+$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 808.2291, found 808.2292.

#### 7. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of compounds 6a, ent-6a, 6c, and 6d



To a solution of **5** (0.75 mmol, 1 equiv) in 6 N aqueous HCl (8 mL) in ethanol (40 mL) was added Pd/C 10% (160 mg, 0.15 mmol, 0.2 equiv), and the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred in the presence of hydrogen at atmospheric pressure for 16 h at rt. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was filtered through Celite bed and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product as the hydrochloride salt. To this hydrochloride salt triturated in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL), saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) was added and stirred for 30 min at rt. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was separated, and the aqueous solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> ( $3 \times 20$  mL). The organic phases were combined, dried

over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product as a light-yellow oil which was used for the next step without further purification.

To a stirred solution of crude product in dry  $CH_2Cl_2$  (7.6 mL), 2,6-lutidine (1.10 mL, 9.0 mmol, 12 equiv) was added dropwise at 0 °C, stirred for 15 minutes and then TBSOTf (1.10 mL, 4.50 mmol, 6 equiv) was added slowly at the same temperature. Then, the reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at rt. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction was quenched by the careful addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (20 mL) and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 × 25 mL). The organic phases were combined and washed with a solution of KOH (30 mL of 1 M solution) and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product which was purified using flash column chromatography.

### (2S,5R)-2-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)diphenylmethyl)-5-(3((tertbutyldimethylsilyl) oxy)propyl)pyrrolidine (6a)



Following experimental procedure, compound **5a** (400 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **6a**, which was purified as a colorless liquid (267 mg, 66% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (97:03) + 0.5% Et<sub>3</sub>N]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.7 [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)]. [**a**] $_{D}^{24}$  = -20.9 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **6a**). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56-7.54 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.34 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 6H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.57-3.51 (m, 2H), 3.03-3.00 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.60-1.50 (m, 3H), 1.49-1.41 (m, 2H), 1.35-1.30 (m, 1H), 1.18-1.16 (m, 1H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.44 (bs, 1H), 0.02 (s, 6H), -0.25 (s, 3H), -0.45 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  146.5, 145.1, 129.7, 128.8, 127.7, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 83.1, 65.1, 63.6, 59.8, 32.5, 31.0, 30.9, 27.6, 26.5, 26.1, 19.2, 18.5, -2.6, -3.1, -5.1. **IR** (neat) *v* 3088, 3060, 3025, 2955, 2929, 2886, 2857, 1472, 1446, 1254, 1098, 1067, 834, 774, 702 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>54</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 540.3688 found 540.3699.

### (2R,5S)-2-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)diphenylmethyl)-5-(3((tertbutyldimethylsilyl) oxy)propyl)pyrrolidine (ent-6a)



Following experimental procedure, compound *ent*-5a (688 mg, 1.28 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was transformed into product *ent*-6a, which was purified as a colorless liquid (479 mg, 69% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (97:03) + 0.5% Et<sub>3</sub>N].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.7$  [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)].  $[\alpha]_{\mathbf{D}}^{26} = +16.6$  (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-6a).

di(naphthalen-2-yl)methyl)-5-(3-

(2S,5R)-2-(((tertbutyldimethylsilyl) oxy) ((tertbutyldimethylsilyl)oxy)propyl)pyrrolidine (6c)



Following experimental procedure, compound **5c** (250 mg, 0.39 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **6c**, which was purified as a colorless liquid (170 mg, 68% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (97:03) + 0.5% Et<sub>3</sub>N]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.7 [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)]. [**a**]<sub>**p**</sub><sup>25</sup> = -0.4 (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **6c**). <sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.22 (s, 1H), 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.85-7.80 (m, 4H), 7.68 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (dd, J = 9.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.31 (dd, J = 9.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.55-3.49 (m, 2H), 3.12-3.09 (m, 1H), 1.82-1.78 (m, 1H), 1.78-1.66 (m, 2H), 1.49-1.32 (m, 5H), 1.02 (s, 9H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 0.51-0.45 (m, 1H), 0.01 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 6H), -0.21 (s, 3H), -0.44 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  143.8, 142.6, 132.9,132.64, 132.61, 128.7, 128.61, 128.56, 128.0, 127.7, 127.60, 127.56, 127.3, 126.9, 126.1, 126.0, 125.9, 125.8, 83.3, 65.2, 63.5, 59.9, 32.5, 31.1, 30.9, 27.7, 26.6, 26.1, 19.3, 18.5, -2.4, -2.8, -5.1. IR (neat) *v* 3057, 2954, 2929, 2856, 1506, 1472, 1360, 1252, 1097, 835, 775, 745, 674, 478 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>58</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 640.4001 found 640.4005.

## (2S,5R)-2-(bis(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-5-(3-((tert-butyl dimethylsilyl)oxy)propyl)pyrrolidine (6d)



Following experimental procedure, compound **5d** (260 mg, 0.32 mmol, 1 equiv) was transformed into product **6d**, which was purified as a colorless liquid (130 mg, 50% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (99:01) + 0.5% Et<sub>3</sub>N]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.8 [hexane/EtOAc (90/10)]. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>0</sub><sup>24</sup> = -14.4 (*c* = 1, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **6d**). <sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.10 (s, 2H), 7.87 (s, 2H), 7.73 (s, 2H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.49 (m, 2H), 3.15-3.11 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.50 (m, 3H), 1.45-1.35 (m, 2H), 1.20-1.14 (m, 2H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 0.02 (s, 6H), -0.24 (s, 3H), -0.46 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>**H**} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  147.4, 145.5, 131.8 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 32.5 Hz), 130.3 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 33.2 Hz), 129.7, 129.2, 126.2, 125.8, 123.6 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 271.3 Hz), 123.3 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 271.3 Hz), 122.0, 122.0 82.7, 63.4, 63.1, 59.6, 32.5, 30.7, 30.7, 27.4, 26.1, 26.0, 18.9, 18.5, -2.7, -3.3, -5.3. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -62.8 (s), -63.0 (s). **IR** (neat) *v* 3102, 2957, 2933, 2861, 1473, 1373, 1278, 1175, 1137, 837, 776, 682 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>50</sub>F<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 812.3183 found 812.3188.

8. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of (2S,5S)-2-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)diphenylmethyl)-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrrolidine (6b)



To a solution of **5a** (147 mg, 0.29 mmol, 1 equiv) in 6 N aqueous HCl (3 mL) in ethanol (15 mL) was added Pd/C 10% (32 mg, 0.03 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred in the presence of hydrogen at atmospheric pressure for 16 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was filtered through Celite bed and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude residue as the hydrochloride salt. To this hydrochloride salt triturated in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (15 mL), saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL) was added and stirred for 30 min at rt. The  $CH_2Cl_2$  layer was separated, and the aqueous solution was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 × 15 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude pressure to get the crude product as a light-yellow oil which was used for the next step without further purification.

To a stirred solution of crude product in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL), 2,6-lutidine (0.2 mL, 1.74 mmol, 6.0 equiv) was added dropwise at 0 °C, stirred for 15 minutes, and then TBSOTf (0.2 mL, 0.87 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added slowly at the same temperature. Then, the reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at rt. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction was quenched by the careful addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (15 mL) and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 × 15 mL). The organic phases were combined and washed with a solution of KOH (30 mL of 1 M solution) and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product 6b, which was purified as a colorless liquid (80 mg, 57% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (97:03) + 0.5% Et<sub>3</sub>N].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.7$  [hexane/EtOAc (80/20)].  $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -31.2$  (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **6b**). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.54-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 8H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 3H,), 4.05 (t, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 3.05-3.00 (m, 1H), 2.54 (t, J = 10 Hz Hz, 2H), 1.70-1.48 (m, 6H), 1.39-1.30 (m, 1H), 1.21-1.12 (m, 1H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.46-0.38 (m, 1H), -0.25 (s, 3H), -0.46 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 146.4, 145.0, 142.8, 129.6, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 127.1, 126.93, 126.86, 125.7, 83.1, 65.0, 59.8, 36.2, 35.8, 31.0, 29.3, 27.6, 26.5 19.1, -2.6, -3.1. **IR** (neat) v 3060, 3026, 2928, 2855, 1698, 1602, 1446, 1252, 1065, 871, 834, 774, 748, 699 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{32}H_{44}NOSi^+$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 486.3187, found 486.3192.

### 9. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of 3-((2*R*,5*S*)-5-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-1-tosylpyrrolidin-2-yl)propan-1-ol (7a)



To a solution of *cis*-5-benzyloxypropyl diphenylprolinol **5a** (50 mg, 0.09 mmol, 1 equiv) in 6 N aqueous HCl (1 mL) in ethanol (5 mL) was added Pd/C 10% (20 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.2 equiv), and the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred in the presence of hydrogen at atmospheric pressure for 16 h at rt. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was filtered through Celite bed and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product as the hydrochloride salt. To the hydrochloride salt triturated in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL), saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) was added, and stirred for 30 min at rt. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was separated and the aqueous solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 10 mL). The organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product as a light-yellow oil which was used for the next step without further purification.

To the crude product in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) was added Et<sub>3</sub>N (140 µL, 0.93 mmol, 10 equiv) and TsCl (21 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1.2 equiv) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at rt. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was quenched with water and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 15 mL). The organic phases were combined, and washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get crude product **7a**, which was purified as white solid (31 mg, 71% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (65:35)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.3 [hexane/EtOAc (50:50)]. **M.P.** 75-78 °C.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{21}$  = -26.0 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **7a**). <sup>1</sup>**H** NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.73 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.27 (m, 10H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.72 (q, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.46 (m, 3H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.93-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.76-1.60 (m, 3H), 1.42-1.26 (m, 3H), 1.01-0.93 (m, 1H), 0.63-0.57 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  146.4, 144.3, 143.8, 133.9, 130.0, 128.9, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 127.6, 127.42, 127.39, 79.3, 68.9, 63.3, 62.7, 32.5, 30.2, 29.7, 29.0, 21.7. **IR** (neat) *v* 3460, 2926, 1598, 1494, 1448, 1337, 1153, 1090, 1043, 990, 816, 760, 702, 672, 590, 553 cm<sup>-1</sup>. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>SNa<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 488.1866 found 488.1889.

#### 10. Reaction optimization for the synthesis of y-nitroalcohol 9a

To a solution of organocatalyst **6a–d** (0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in EtOH (400  $\mu$ L, 0.5 M), cinnamaldehyde **8a** (25  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214  $\mu$ L, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) were added at the temperature mentioned in Table 1 (in manuscript) and stirred under argon atmosphere for the given time. After completion of the reaction (monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR), to a cooled solution (-5 °C) of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (7 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1 equiv) in EtOH (1.6 mL), a solution of the reaction mixture diluted with EtOH (0.8 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred for 15 min at -5 °C and 1 h at 0 °C. Then the reaction mass was quenched with pieces of ice, distilled the ethanol over the rota evaporator, washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product **9a**, which was further purified by flash column chromatography.

#### 11. Experimental procedure for gram-scale synthesis of *y*-nitroalcohol 9a



To a solution of organocatalyst **6a** (326 mg, 0.6 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (148 mg, 1.21 mmol, 0.2 equiv), cinnamaldehyde **8a** (0.76 mL, 6.0 mmol, 1 equiv) in EtOH (12 mL, 0.5 M), CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (6.4 mL, 120.0 mmol, 20 equiv) were added dropwise at 0 °C and stirred under argon atmosphere for 48 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR), to a cooled solution (-5 °C) of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (1.15 g, 30.0 mmol, 5 equiv) in EtOH (50 mL), a solution of the reaction mixture diluted with EtOH (10 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred for 15 min at -5 °C and 1.5 h at 0 °C. Then the reaction mass was quenched with ice, distilled the ethanol over the rota evaporator, washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (60 mL), and extracted with EtOAc (4 × 50 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product, which was purified by flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (75:25)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.2 [hexane /EtOAc (70:30)] to provide product **9a** as a yellow liquid (1.05 g, 89% yield).

#### 12. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of y-nitroalcohols 9a-k



To a solution of organocatalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in EtOH (400  $\mu$ L, 0.5 M),  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde **8** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214  $\mu$ L, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) were added at 0 °C and stirred under argon atmosphere for the given time mentioned in Scheme 3 (in manuscript). After completion of the reaction (monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR), to a cooled solution (-5 °C) of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (7 mg, 0.18 mmol, 1 equiv) in EtOH (1.6 mL), a solution of the reaction mixture diluted with EtOH (0.8 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred for 15 min at -5 °C and 1 h at 0 °C. Then the reaction mass was quenched with pieces of ice, distilled the ethanol over the rota evaporator, washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and

concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product 9, which was further purified by flash column chromatography.

#### (S)-4-Nitro-3-phenylbutan-1-ol (9a)



Following the experimental procedure, cinnamaldehyde **8a** (25 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9a** which was purified as a colorless liquid (36 mg, 91% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (75:25)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.2 [hexane /EtOAc (70:30)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 16.5 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 19.4 min, >99% *ee*. **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>22</sup> = -18.0 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for **9a** of >99% *ee*), lit.<sup>4</sup> **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -13.7 (*c* = 0.5, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for **9a** of 96% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 7.35-7.20 (m, 5H), 4.67-4.57 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.61-3.56 (m, 1H), 3.48-3.44 (m, 1H), 1.99-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.75 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>**C** {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 139.0, 129.2, 127.9, 127.7, 80.7, 59.9, 41.2, 35.7. **IR** (neat) *v* 3374, 2922, 1548, 1455, 1380, 1047, 765, 701. *NMR data of 9a match with that reported in the literature.*<sup>5</sup>

#### (S)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9b)



Following the experimental procedure, *trans*-4-chlorocinnamaldehyde **8b** (33 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9b** which was purified as a colorless liquid (37 mg, 80% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (75:25)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.3 [hexane /EtOAc (70:30)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 8.7 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 9.6 min, 99% *ee*. [**a**]<sub>D</sub><sup>26</sup> = -26.2 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **9b** of 99% *ee*), lit.<sup>6</sup> [**a**]<sub>D</sub><sup>18</sup> = +23.0 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-**9b** of 95% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.67-4.55 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.62-3.58 (m, 1H), 3.47-3.42 (m, 1H), 1.98-1.91 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.71 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>**C** {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 137.5, 133.7, 129.3,

129.1, 80.5, 59.7, 40.5, 35.6. **IR** (neat) *v* 3369, 2938, 1550, 1493, 1380, 1094, 1048, 1015, 828. *NMR data of 9b match with that reported in the literature.*<sup>5</sup>

(S)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9c)

Following the experimental procedure, *trans*-4-fluorocinnamaldehyde **8c** (26 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9c** which was purified as a colorless liquid (32 mg, 75% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (75:25)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.4 [hexane /EtOAc (50:50)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 15.6 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 18.3 min, 99% *ee*. **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>26</sup> = -25.8 (*c* = 0.5, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for **9c** of 99% *ee*) lit.<sup>7</sup> **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -10.0 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for **9c** of 94% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.21-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.67-4.55 (m, 2H), 3.74-3.68 (m, 1H), 3.64-3.59 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.44 (m, 1H), 1.98-1.83- (m, 2H), 1.63 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 162.3 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 245.0 Hz), 134.7 (d, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 2.5 Hz), 129.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8.8 Hz), 116.1 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 21.3 Hz), 80.7, 59.8, 40.5, 35.7. <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : -114.4. **IR** (neat) *v* 3370, 2941, 1605, 1549, 1511, 1381, 1225, 1048, 836, 552. *NMR data of* **9c** match with that reported in the literature.<sup>7</sup>

(S)-4-nitro-3-(4-nitrophenyl)butan-1-ol (9d)



Following the experimental procedure, *trans*-4-nitrocinnamaldehyde **8d** (35 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9d** which was purified as a colorless liquid (39 mg, 82% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (55:45)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.3 [hexane /EtOAc (50:50)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 80:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 44.7 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 48.9 min, 99% *ee*. **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>30</sup> = -5.7 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **9d** of 99% *ee*), lit.<sup>6</sup> **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>18</sup> = +7.0 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-**9d** of 95% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 8.18 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.78-4.64 (m, 2H), 3.91-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.67-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.48-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.05-2.01 (m, 1H), 2.00-1.87 (m, 1H), 1.81 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>**C** {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 147.5, 146.9, 128.8, 124.3, 79.8, 59.4, 40.9, 35.4. **IR** (neat) *v* 3383, 2926, 1600, 1549, 1518, 1346, 1047, 858, 700. *NMR data of 9d match with that reported in the literature.<sup>5</sup>* 

#### (S)-4-(4-hydroxy-1-nitrobutan-2-yl)benzonitrile (9e)



Following the experimental procedure, *trans*-4-cyanocinnamaldehyde **8e** (31 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9e** which was purified as a colorless liquid (23 mg, 52% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (65:35)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.5 [hexane /EtOAc (30:70)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 20.4 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 21.8 min, 99% *ee*.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{24}$  = -5.5 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **9e** of 99% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.75-4.61 (m, 2H), 3.86-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.67-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.49-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.97 (m, 1H), 1.92-1.86 (m, 1H), 1.57 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz, CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 144.8, 132.9, 128.7, 118.5, 111.9, 79.9, 59.5, 41.1, 35.4. **IR** (neat) *v* 3408, 2950, 2231, 1551, 1436, 1380, 1049, 838, 570. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 219.0775, found 219.0774.

#### (S)- 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9f)



Following the experimental procedure, *trans*-4-methoxycinnamaldehyde **8f** (32 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9f** which was purified as a colorless liquid (33 mg, 74% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (73:27)]. **R**<sub>*f*</sub> = 0.4 [hexane /EtOAc (50:50)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 90:20, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 15.5 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 18.0 min, 99% *ee*. [**a**]**b**<sup>22</sup> = -23.3 (*c* = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for **9f** of 99% *ee*), lit.<sup>5</sup> [**a**]**b**<sup>25</sup> = -22.8 (*c* = 0.5, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for **9f** of 96% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 4.63-4.52 (m, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.66-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.49-3.44 (m, 1H), 1.96-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.73 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 159.1, 130.8, 128.7, 114.5, 81.0, 60.0, 55.4, 40.5, 35.8. **IR** (neat) *v* 3382, 2938, 1612, 1548, 1514, 1381, 1249, 1181, 1031, 832. *NMR data of 9f match with that reported in the literature*.<sup>5</sup>

#### (S)-4-nitro-3-(m-tolyl)butan-1-ol (9g)



Following the experimental procedure, *trans*-3-methylcinnamaldehyde **8g** (29 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9g** which was purified as a colorless liquid (23 mg, 78% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (77:23)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.5 [hexane /EtOAc (50:50)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 19.8 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 23.0 min, 99% *ee*.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23}$  = -20.1 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **9g** of 99% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.07 (m, 1H), 7.02-7.00 (m, 2H), 4.66-4.56 (m, 2H), 3.68-3.57 (m, 2H), 3.50-3.45 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.99-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.71 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 138.9, 138.8, 129.0, 128.7, 128.4, 124.6, 80.8, 60.0, 41.1, 35.7, 21.5. **IR** (neat) *v* 3368, 2924, 1549, 1434, 1380, 1048, 787, 706. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 208.0979, found 208.0996.

#### (S)-4-nitro-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-1-ol (9h)



Following the experimental procedure, *trans*-3-trifluoromethylcinnamaldehyde **8h** (32 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9h** which was purified as a colorless liquid (37 mg, 70% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (72:28)]. **R**<sub>*f*</sub> = 0.4 [hexane /EtOAc (50:50)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel AS-H, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 7.5 min, t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 10.4 min, 99% *ee*. **[a]** $\mathbf{p}^{24}$  = -12.1 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **9h** of 99% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.49-7.42 (m, 3H), 4.73-4.61 (m, 2H), 3.85-3.79 (m, 1H), 3.66-3.62 (m, 1H), 3.50-3.45 (m, 1H), 2.04-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.94-1.88 (m, 1H), 1.78 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 140.2, 131.5 (q, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 31.3 Hz), 131.2, 129.7, 124.9 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.8 Hz), 124.4 (q, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 3.8 Hz), 124.0 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 270.0 Hz), 80.2, 59.6, 40.9, 35.6. <sup>19</sup>**F NMR** (470 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : -62.6. **IR** (neat) *v* 3370, 2935, 1553, 1380, 1328, 1165, 1124, 1075, 806, 704. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>F<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> [M - H]<sup>-</sup> 262.0697, found 262.0697.

#### (S)-3-(2-bromophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9i)



Following the experimental procedure, *trans*-2-bromocinnamaldehyde **8i** (42 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9i** which was purified as a colorless liquid (44 mg, 81% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.4 [hexane /EtOAc (70:30)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 17.9 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 21.3 min, 99% *ee*. **[a]**p<sup>28</sup> = -4.4 (*c* = 0.5, MeOH for **9i** of 99% *ee*), lit.<sup>5</sup> **[a]**p<sup>25</sup> = -3.6 (*c* = 0.92, MeOH for **9i** of 82% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) &: 7.61-7.59 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 1H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.17-7.13 (m, 1H), 4.74-4.66 (m, 2H,), 4.32-4.26 (m, 1H), 3.66-3.55 (m, 2H), 2.06-1.98 (m, 2H), 1.68 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) &: 138.2, 133.8, 129.3, 128.2, 79.2, 60.0, 39.8, 35.1. **IR** (neat) *v* 3368, 2928, 1551, 1473, 1433, 1379, 1024, 757, 659. *NMR data of 9i match with that reported in the literature*.<sup>5</sup>

#### (S)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9j)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)acrylaldehyde **8j** (36 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9j** which was purified as a colorless liquid (41 mg, 83% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. **R**<sub>*f*</sub> = 0.4 [hexane /EtOAc (50:50)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 18.2 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 19.5 min, 99% *ee*. **[\alpha]**<sub>D</sub><sup>27</sup> = -18.7 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **9j** of 99% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.83-7.78 (m, 3H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.49-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.31 (m, 1H), 4.73-4.65 (m, 2H), 3.87-3.84 (m, 1H), 3.61-3.57 (m, 1H), 3.48-3.44 (m, 1H), 2.02-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.59 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 136.3, 133.5, 132.9, 129.1, 127.9, 127.8, 127.1, 126.6, 126.3, 125.0, 80.7, 59.9, 41.3, 35.6. **IR** (neat) *v* 3372, 2953, 1549, 1379, 1048, 821, 751, 479. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na<sup>+</sup> [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 268.0944, found 268.0944.

#### (R)-3-(furan-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9k)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-3-(furan-2-yl)acrylaldehyde **8k** (24 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **9k** which was purified as a colorless liquid (28 mg, 75% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (70:30)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.4 [hexane /EtOAc (50:50)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 15.1 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 16.9 min, 98% *ee*. **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>24</sup> = -5.5 (*c* = 1.0, MeOH for **9k** of 98% *ee*), lit.<sup>5</sup> **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -5.7 (*c* = 0.55, MeOH for **9k** of 84% *ee*). **<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) &: 7.35 (q, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.69-4.60 (m, 2H), 3.88-3.82 (m, 1H), 3.70-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.59-3.54 (m, 1H), 2.02-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.68 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) &: 152.1, 142.5, 110.5, 107.6, 78.4, 59.9, 35.0, 33.7. **IR** (neat) *v* 3367, 2951, 1552, 1379, 1048, 1012, 740. *NMR data of 9k match with that reported in the literature*.<sup>5</sup>

#### 13. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of y-nitroesters 10l-o



To a solution of organocatalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in MeOH (400  $\mu$ L, 0.5 M),  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde **8** (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214  $\mu$ L, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) were added at rt and stirred under argon atmosphere for the given time mentioned in figure 3 (in manuscript). After completion of the reaction (monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR), to a cooled (0 °C) solution of the reaction mixture, N-Bromosuccinimide (NBS) (53 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The reaction was stirred at 0 °C for 24 h. Then MeOH was evaporated over the rota evaporator and reaction mass was directly purified by flash column chromatography to get the product **10**.

#### (*R*)-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (10l)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-hex-2-enal **81** (23 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **101** which was purified as a colourless liquid (19 mg, 50% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (90:10)]. **R**<sub>*f*</sub> = 0.5 [hexane /EtOAc (90:10)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel AS-H, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 97:03, 1.0 mL/min, RID detector), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 14.2 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 17.5 min, 96% *ee*. **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = -1.6 (*c* = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **101** of 96% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 4.52-4.42 (m, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.66-2.61(m, 1H), 2.45 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.39-1.38 (m, 4H), 0.94-0.91 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>**C** {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 172.1, 78.6, 51.9, 35.7, 34.0, 33.6, 19.7, 13.9. **IR** (**cm**<sup>-1</sup>) *v* 2958, 2925, 2871, 1736, 1546, 1432, 1378, 1172. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 190.1074, found 190.1077.

#### (R)-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)dodecanoate (10m)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-dodec-2-enal **8m** (43 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **10m** which was purified as a colourless liquid (32 mg, 58% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (90:10)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.4 [hexane /EtOAc (90:10)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel AS-H, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, RID detector), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 9.1 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 10.3 min, 95% *ee*. **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>28</sup> = -0.6 (*c* = 2.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **10m** of 95% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 4.52-4.42 (m, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.64-2.59 (m, 1H), 2.45 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.41-1.38 (m, 2H), 1.29-1.25 (m, 14H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>**C** {<sup>1</sup>**H**} **NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 172.1, 78.6, 51.9, 35.7, 34.3, 31.9, 31.5, 29.6, 29.5, 29.3, 26.5, 22.7, 14.2. **IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>)** *v* 2927, 2857, 1733, 1550, 1433, 1374, 1197, 1168. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>28</sub>NO4<sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 274.2013, found 274.2004.

#### (R)-methyl-5-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (10n)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-5-methylhex-2-enal **8n** (27 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **10n** which was purified as a colourless liquid (20 mg, 49% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (90:10)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.5 [hexane/EtOAc (95:05)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IG column, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 99:1, 1.0 mL/min, RID detector), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 19.8 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 16.8 min, 96% *ee*. **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>28</sup> = -6.6 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **10n** of 96% *ee*), lit.<sup>10</sup> **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -7.2 (*c* = 1.31, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **10n** of 79% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 4.52-4.42 (m, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.70-2.65 (m, 1H), 2.44 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.66-1.62 (m, 1H), 1.27-1.24 (m, 2H), 0.93-0.90 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C **{**<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 172.1, 78.8, 51.9, 40.6, 35.8, 32.2, 25.1, 22.6, 22.3. **IR (cm**<sup>-1</sup>) *v* 2962, 2923, 2872, 2850, 1737, 1551, 1467, 1383, 1175. *NMR data of 9a match with that reported in the literature.*<sup>10</sup>

#### (R)-methyl-4-cyclohexyl-3-(nitromethyl)butanoate (10o)



Following the experimental procedure, (*E*)-5-cyclohexylpent-2-enal **80** (37 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) in the presence of the catalyst **6a** (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv) were transformed into the product **100** which was purified as a colourless liquid (28 mg, 55% yield) from the crude reaction mixture using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (95:5)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.4 [hexane /EtOAc (95:05)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IA, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 99:01, 1.0 mL/min, RID detector), t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 13.3 min, t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 14.5 min, 97% *ee*. **[a]**<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> = -3.8 (*c* = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for **100** of 97% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 4.51-4.42 (m, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 2.59-2.56 (m, 1H), 2.44 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.68-1.61 (m, 5H), 1.42-1.40 (m, 2H), 1.23-1.16 (m, 6H), 0.87-0.80 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} **NMR** (126 MHz; CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 172.1, 78.6, 51.9, 37.6, 35.7, 34.5, 34.1, 33.3, 33.3, 28.8, 26.6, 26.3. **IR (cm**<sup>-1</sup>) *v* 2918, 2851, 1739, 1549, 1438, 1371, 1197, 1169. **HRMS** (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 258.1700, found 258.1696.

### 14. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of (R)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-nitrobutanal (ent-11b)



To a solution of organocatalyst *ent-6a* (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in EtOH (400 µL, 0.5 M), *trans*-4-chlorocinnamaldehyde **8b** (33 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4.0 mmol, 20 equiv) were added at 0 °C and stirred under argon atmosphere for 32 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR), EtOH was concentrated under reduced pressure, washed with saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product *ent-*11b, which was further purified by flash column chromatography using [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.4 [hexane/EtOAc (70:30)] as colourless liquid (42 mg, 92% yield). [ $\alpha$ ] $_{D}^{19}$  = +4.6 (*c* = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), lit.<sup>8</sup> [ $\alpha$ ] $_{D}^{26}$  = +20.3 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-11b of 90% *ee*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 9.71 (t, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 4.69-4.57 (m, 2H), 4.09-4.04 (m, 1H), 2.94 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 1.0 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 198.5, 136.8, 134.1, 129.5, 128.9, 79.2, 46.4, 37.4. **IR** (neat) *v* 2924, 2853, 2739, 1721, 1548, 1494, 1378, 1094, 1014, 829, 535. *NMR data of ent-11b match with that reported in the literature*.<sup>9</sup>

#### (R)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (ent-9b)



The product *ent*-11b (11 mg, 0.05 mmol, 1 equiv) in EtOH (1 mL) was added dropwise in cooled solution (-5 °C) of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (6 mg, 0.15 mmol, 3 equiv) in EtOH (1mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at -5 °C and 1 h at 0 °C. Then the reaction mass was quenched with pieces of ice, concentrated under reduced pressure, washed with saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product *ent*-9b, which was further purified as colourless liquid (10 mg, 88% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (75:25)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.3 [hexane /EtOAc (70:30)]. **HPLC** analysis Daicel Chiralcel IC, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 9.8 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 8.8 min, 99% *ee*. [**a**]**b**<sup>20</sup> = +9.6 (*c* = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-9**b** of 99% *ee*), lit.<sup>6</sup> [**a**]**b**<sup>18</sup> = +23.0 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (+)-9**b** of 95% *ee*).

### 15. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of (S)-5-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanal (*ent*-11n)



To a solution of organocatalyst *ent-6b* (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv), and benzoic acid (5 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.2 equiv), in MeOH (400 µL, 0.5 M), (*E*)-5-methylhex-2-enal **8n** (27 µL, 0.2 mmol, 1 equiv) and CH<sub>3</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (214 µL, 4 mmol, 20 equiv) were added at rt and stirred under argon atmosphere for 32 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR), MeOH was concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product *ent-*11n, which was further purified as colourless liquid (18 mg, 51% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (85:15)]. **R**<sub>f</sub> = 0.2 [hexane/EtOAc (95:05)]. [ $\alpha$ ] $_{D}^{23}$  = +3.2 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub> *ent-*11n), lit.<sup>9</sup> [ $\alpha$ ] $_{D}^{28}$  = -3.7 (*c* = 1.3, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for (-)*-ent-*11n). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 9.78 (s, 1H), 4.48-4.41 (m, 2H), 2.79-2.70 (m, 1H), 2.69-2.55 (m, 2H), 1.66-1.59 (m, 1H), 1.29-1.25 (m, 2H), 0.94-0.90 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 200.0, 78.6, 45.6, 40.7, 30.0, 25.2, 22.5. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>) v 2959, 2876, 1734, 1548, 1434, 1380, 1177. *NMR data of ent-11n match with that reported in the literature*.<sup>9</sup>

(S)-methyl-5-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (ent-10n)



The product *ent*-11n (12 mg, 0.07 mmol, 1 equiv) in MeOH (1 mL) was cooled to 0 °C and NBS (19 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 24 h. Then MeOH was concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product *ent*-10n, which was further purified as colourless liquid (12 mg, 85% yield) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/Et<sub>2</sub>O (90:10)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.5$  [hexane/EtOAc (95:05)]. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IG column, 4.6 mm × 250 mm (hex/IPA = 99:01, 1.0 mL/min, RID detector), t<sub>R</sub> (minor) = 17.1 min, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 19.3 min, 96% *ee*. [ $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ ] $\mathbf{p}^{24} = +7.6$  (c = 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for (+)-*ent*-10n of 96% *ee*), lit<sup>11</sup> [ $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ ] $\mathbf{p}^{20} = -9.2$  (c = 0.66, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> for (-)-*ent*-10n of 98% *ee*).

#### 16. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of compound 14



To a solution of catalyst 6a (11 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.2 equiv) and 2-F-PhCO<sub>2</sub>H (3 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.2 equiv) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (500  $\mu$ L, 0.2 M) in a 2 mL vial was added 2,4-hexadienal 12 (22  $\mu$ L, 0.2 mmol, 2 equiv) and stirred at rt for 5 min. Later, nitrostyrene 13 (15 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv) was added to the reaction mixture and stirred at 55 °C for 72 h. After completion of the reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mixture was cooled to rt and diluted with EtOH (0.5 mL) and added dropwise into a solution of NaBH<sub>4</sub> (6 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in EtOH (1.5 mL) at -5 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at -5 °C and 1 h at 0 °C. Then, the reaction mass was quenched with cold water, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) was added, and extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 20$ mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (15 mL), dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , and concentrated under reduced pressure to get the crude product 14 (as an inseparable diastereomeric mixture), which was purified as a light-yellow liquid (10 mg, 40% yield, 5:1 dr, determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (80:20)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.4$  [hexane /EtOAc (70:30)]. For the characterization of the diastereomeric mixture of 14, \* represents the minor diastereomer, while no mark represents the major diastereomer. HPLC analysis Daicel Chiralcel IA, 4.6 mm  $\times$  250 mm (hex/IPA = 97:03, 1.0 mL/min, 210 nm),  $t_R$  (minor) = 39.1 min,  $t_R$  (major) = 49.7 min, 94% ee and  $t_R$ (minor) = 42.3 min<sup>\*</sup>, t<sub>R</sub> (major) = 62.6 min<sup>\*</sup>, 45% ee<sup>\*</sup>.  $[\alpha]_D^{22}$  = +31.2 (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for 14 of 5:1 dr and 94% ee, and 45% ee\*). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 7.33-7.21 (m, 5H), 7.33-7.21\* (m, 5H), 5.85-5.81 (m, 1H), 5.85-5.81\* (m, 2H), 5.72-5.69 (m, 1H), 5.16\* (dd, J = 5.5, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 4.82 (dd, J = 10.0, 11.5 Hz, 1H), 3.80-3.69 (m, 2H), 3.80-3.69\* (m, 2H), 3.52-3.47\* (m, 1H), 3.43-3.38 (m, 1H), 3.18-3.12 (m, 1H), 3.09-3.05\* (m, 1H), 2.60-2.55\* (m, 1H), 2.53-2.46 (m, 1H), 2.42-2.34 (m, 1H). 2.31-2.24\* (m, 1H), 1.81-1.76 (m, 1H), 1.74-1.65\* (m, 2H), 1.71-1.65 (m, 1H), 1.42\* (bs, 1H), 1.42 (bs, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 141.5\*, 139.7, 128.98\*, 128.96, 127.9, 127.6, 127.4\*, 127.24\*, 127.17, 127.0\*, 126.51, 126.48\*, 93.2, 89.5\*, 60.2\*, 59.7, 45.5, 39.3\*, 39.2, 35.0\*, 34.8, 34.0\*, 33.8\*, 33.7. IR (neat) v 3376, 3032, 2923, 1548, 1372, 1052, 757, 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for  $C_{14}H_{17}NO_3Na^+$  [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 270.1101, found 270.1111.

#### 17. Experimental procedure for the synthesis of carbamate 15



To a solution of compound 14 (21 mg, 0.08 mmol, 1 equiv) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (500 µL, 0.2 M) was added NEt<sub>3</sub> (11 µL, 0.08 mmol, 1 equiv) and 4-chlorophenyl isocyanate (18 mg, 0.12 mmol, 1.5 equiv) at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 18 h. After the completion of reaction (monitored by TLC), the reaction mass was quenched with water and extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 10$  mL). The organic phases were combined, and washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to get crude product 15, which was purified as white solid (24 mg, 70% yield, 5:1 dr, determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis) using flash column chromatography [Silica gel, hexane/EtOAc (95:05)].  $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.7$  [hexane/EtOAc (80:20)]. For the characterization of the diastereomeric mixture of 15, \* represents the minor diastereomer, while no mark represents the major diastereomer. M.P. 143–145 °C.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{21} =$ +8.8 (c = 0.75, CHCl<sub>3</sub> for 15). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 7.33-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.33-7.30\* (m, 4H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.25\* (m, 1H), 7.21-7.19 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.19\* (m, 4H), 6.77 (bs, 1H),  $6.73^*$  (bs, 1H), 5.86-5.83 (m, 1H),  $5.86-5.83^*$  (m, 2H), 5.67 (d, J = 10.3 Hz, 1H), 5.16\* (dd, J = 5.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (t, J = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 4.34-4.21 (m, 2H), 4.34-4.21\* (m, 2H), 3.52-3.47\* (m, 1H), 3.42-3.37 (m, 1H), 3.16-3.13 (m, 1H), 2.98\* (bs, 1H), 2.61-2.55\* (m, 2H), 2.52-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.41-2.35 (m, 1H), 2.31-2.25\* (m, 1H), 1.97-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.85-1.81\* (m, 2H), 1.78-1.70 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 153.3, 141.2\*, 139.4, 136.5, 129.21\*, 129.16, 129.0, 128.6\*, 127.9, 127.53, 127.47\*, 127.2\*, 127.11\*, 127.05, 126.5, 126.3, 120.1, 116.4\*, 93.0, 89.3\*, 62.6\*, 61.9, 45.5, 39.3\*, 39.1, 35.1\*, 33.63\*, 33.57, 31.4, 30.5\*. **IR** (neat) v 3324, 3001, 2922, 2848, 1711, 1599, 1548, 1494, 1405, 1308, 1221, 1093, 1057, 829, 758, 700, 507 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

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# 19. X-ray single-crystal structure data for the 3-((2*R*,5*S*)-5-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-1-tosylpyrrolidin-2-yl)propan-1-ol (7a)

**Experimental:** Colourless crystals of **7a** (C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>31</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S) were obtained by crystallization in Ethyl Acetate and Hexane (1:1 v/v) at ambient conditions. Single crystal diffraction data for the **7a** was collected at 273K on a Bruker Kappa APEX-II diffractometer with CCD PHOTON 2.0 detector equipped with I $\mu$ S 3.0 Mo K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) source. X-ray diffraction intensities were collected integrated and scaled with the APEX3 suite. The crystal structure was solved by the SHELXT structure solution program using Intrinsic Phasing and refined with the SHELXL refinement package using Least Squares minimisation. The details of the crystal data collections and data refinement parameters are given in Table S1.



Figure S1. Asymmetric unit of 7a; thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level.

Identification code	2309956
Empirical formula	C27 H31 N O4 S
Formula weight	465.59
Temperature	273(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	P 21 21 21
Unit cell dimensions	a = 6.2369(3)  Å alpha = 90 deg;
	b = 10.0180(5)  Å beta = 90 deg;
	c = 39.109(2)  Å gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	2443.6(2) Å <sup>3</sup>
Ζ	4
Calculated density	$1.266 \text{ Mg/m}^3$
Absorption coefficient	0.166 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	992
Crystal size	0.73 x 0.35 x 0.24 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.08 to 22.59 deg.
Index ranges	-6<=h<=6, -10<=k<=10, -42<=l<=42
Reflections collected	54504
Independent reflections	3228 [R(int) = 0.0636]
Reflections observed	$I > 2\sigma(I)$
Data Completeness	99.8%
Absorption correction	multi-scan
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	3228 / 0 / 299
Goodness - of - fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.289
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0462, wR2 = 0.1435
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0481, WR2 = 0.1453
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.280 and -0.356 e. Å <sup>-3</sup>
Flack parameter	0.05(3)

Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement for 7a

### 20. X-ray single-crystal structure data for the 2-((1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-2-nitro-1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)ethyl (4-chlorophenyl)carbamate (15)

**Experimental:** Colourless crystals of **15** ( $C_{21}H_{21}CIN_2O_4$ ) were obtained by crystallization in IPA/EtOAc/hexane (1:2:4  $\nu/\nu$ ) at ambient conditions. Single crystal diffraction data for the **15** was collected at 294K on a Bruker Kappa APEX-II diffractometer with CCD PHOTON 2.0 detector equipped with IµS 3.0 Mo K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) source. X-ray diffraction intensities were collected integrated and scaled with the APEX3 suite. The crystal structure was solved by the SHELXT structure solution program using Intrinsic Phasing and refined with the SHELXL refinement package using Least Squares minimisation. The details of the crystal data collections and data refinement parameters are given in Table S2.



Figure S2. Asymmetric unit of 15; thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level.

Identification code	2372580
Empirical formula	C21 H21 C1 N2 O4
Formula weight	400.85 g/mol
Temperature	294(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	orthorhombic
Space group	P 21 21 21
Unit cell dimensions	a = 5.1998(8)  Å alpha = 90 deg;
	b = 15.781(3)  Å beta = 90 deg;
	c = 24.305(5)  Å gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	1994.4(6) Å <sup>3</sup>
Ζ	4
Calculated density	1.325 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	0.219 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	832
Crystal size	0.094 x 0.151 x 0.184 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.12 to 28.34 deg.
Index ranges	-6<=h<=6, -21<=k<=21, -32<=l<=32
Reflections collected	56769
Independent reflections	4957 [R(int) = 0.0721]
Reflections observed	$I > 2\sigma(I)$
Data Completeness	99.9 %
Absorption correction	multi-scan
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	4957 / 0 / 256
Goodness - of - fit on $F_2$	0.994
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0427, wR2 = 0.1270
R indices (all data)	$R1 = \overline{0.0627, wR2} = 0.1444$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.163 and -0.268 eÅ <sup>3</sup>
Flack parameter	-0.01(3)

### Table S2 Crystal data and structure refinement for 15

#### 21. NMR and HPLC data 1-benzyl 2-methyl (S)-5-oxopyrrolidine-1,2-dicarboxylate (2)























#### 1-benzyl 2-methyl (2S,5S)-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrrolidine-1,2 dicarboxylate (4b)


Benzyl (2*R*,5*S*)-2-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-5-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (5a)





Benzyl (2*S*,5*S*)-2-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (5b)



# Benzyl (2*R*,5*S*)-2-(3-(benzyloxy)propyl)-5-(hydroxydi(naphthalen-2-yl)methyl) pyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (5c)













(2S,5R)-2-(((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)diphenylmethyl)-5-(3((tertbutyldimethylsilyl) oxy)propyl)pyrrolidine (6a)





Diphenyl((2S,5S)-5-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)methanol (6b)





(2S,5R)-2-(((tertbutyldimethylsilyl) oxy) di(naphthalen-2-yl)methyl)-5-(3-((tertbutyl dimethylsilyl)oxy)propyl)pyrrolidine (6c)





(2S,5R)-2-(bis(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-5-(3-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)propyl)pyrrolidine (6d)













#### (S)-4-Nitro-3-phenylbutan-1-ol (9a)



#### (S)-4-Nitro-3-phenylbutan-1-ol (9a)









(S)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9b)

(R)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (ent-9b)





(S)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9c)









(S)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9c)







#### (S)-4-nitro-3-(4-nitrophenyl)butan-1-ol (9d)



# (S)-4-(4-hydroxy-1-nitrobutan-2-yl)benzonitrile (9e)







(S)-4-(4-hydroxy-1-nitrobutan-2-yl)benzonitrile (9e)

### (S)- 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9f)







(S)- 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9f)



# (S)-4-nitro-3-(m-tolyl)butan-1-ol (9g)



#### (S)-4-nitro-3-(m-tolyl)butan-1-ol (9g)





**S61** 

# (S)-4-nitro-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-1-ol (9h)







(S)-4-nitro-3-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)butan-1-ol (9h)





(S)-3-(2-bromophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9i)





(S)-3-(2-bromophenyl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9i)





(S)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9j)





(S)-3-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9j)





(R)-3-(furan-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9k)





(R)-3-(furan-2-yl)-4-nitrobutan-1-ol (9k)





(*R*)-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (10l)





(R)-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (10l)





# (R)-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)dodecanoate (10m)




#### (R)-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)dodecanoate (10m)



**S73** 



# (R)-methyl-5-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (10n)



#### <Chromatogram>



(R)-methyl-5-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (10n)



# (S)-methyl-5-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanoate (ent-10n)

#### <Chromatogram>





**S76** 

# (R)-methyl-4-cyclohexyl-3-(nitromethyl)butanoate (10o)





Vial #

#### (R)-methyl-4-cyclohexyl-3-(nitromethyl)butanoate (10o)





#### <Chromatogram>

# (R)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-4-nitrobutanal (ent-11b)



# (S)-5-methyl-3-(nitromethyl)hexanal (ent-11n)





#### 2-((1*S*,2*R*,3*S*)-2-nitro-1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)ethan-1-ol (14)





COSY spectrum of  ${\bf 14},$  CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz









NOESY spectrum of 14, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz











