# Expanding the toolbox of Baeyer Villiger and flavin monooxygenase biocatalysts for the enantiodivergent green synthesis of sulfoxides.

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## 1. General

Reagents and solvents were used as supplied from the vendor without further purification. Thin layer chromatography plates (Merk, silica gel 60 F254, aluminium backed) were viewed under UV light. MgSO<sub>4</sub> (Sigma Aldrich, anhydrous  $\geq$  98.0 %) was used as the drying agent. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel for flash chromatography (Sigma Aldrich, 40-63 µm particle size, 60 Å pore size). Microwave irradiations were conducted using a CEM Discover Synthesis Unit. Products were characterised by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra where applicable obtained from one of the following: a) Bruker (Germany) Ascend400 Spectrometer (dH 400 MHz, dC 101 MHz, dF 376 MHz) at 300 K; b) Bruker (Germany) Avance III 400 (dH 400 MHz, dC 101 MHz) at 300 K; c) Bruker (Germany) Avance Neo 500 (dH 500 MHz, dC 126 MHz) at 300 K. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to the reference peaks of the solvents: CDCl<sub>3</sub> (1H NMR 7.26 and 13C NMR 77.16) unless stated otherwise. Coupling constants (J) are reported in Hz, multiplicities are specified as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), doublet of doublet (dd), doublet of quartet (dq), doublet of doublet (ddd), triplet of doublet (td), multiplet (m). Chiral HPLC analysis was carried out using one of the following: a) Agilent series 1100 LC system coupled with UV detector at 254 nm; b) Agilent series 1250 UPLC system coupled with UV detector at 254 nm. The columns used were Chiralpak IC® (0.5µm, 4.6mm X 250mm), Chiralpak IG® (5µm, 4.6mm X 250mm), Chiralpak ID® (0.5µm, 4.6mm X 250mm), and Chiracel OD-H (0.5µm, 4.6mm X 250mm) supplied by Daicel. Hexane, isopropanol (IPA) and ethanol (EtOH) were used as an isocratic mobile phase system for all columns. Normal phase HPLC analysis was carried out using Agilent Eclipse Plus C18 column and Kromasil C18 column. H2O and ACN were used as mobile phase components. Mass spectra were acquired in positive mode scanning over the mass range of 50 - 1500. The following ion source parameters were used: drying gas flow, 12 mL/min; nebulize pressure, 35 psi; and drying gas temperature, 350 °C.

## 2. Main protein sequences used in this work

For information about enzyme sequence, please contact Prof. Thomas S. Moody at Almac, tom.moody@almacgroup.com.

## 3. Expression of BVMOs and FMOs

Plasmids containing the BVMO and FMO genes cloned into pET28(a) were transformed into *E.coli* expression strain BL21 (DE3). 2  $\mu$ L of the BVMO/FMO plasmid was added to 8  $\mu$ L of *E.coli* BL21 (DE3) cells and incubated on ice for 30 mins. Following incubation the cells were heat shocked at 42 °C for 30 secs and then back on ice for 2 mins. 200  $\mu$ L of SOC media was added and incubated for 1 hour at 37 °C. After the incubation, the cells were plated on to agar plates containing LB agar supplemented with X  $\mu$ g/mL of kanamycin and incubated overnight at 37 °C or until colonies are formed.

For protein expression, a primary culture was prepared by selecting a single colony from the agar plate to inoculate 10 mL of LB broth with kanamycin. The primary culture was incubated overnight at 37 °C with shaking at 200 rpm and then the primary culture was used to inoculate 1 L of LB broth in a 2 L shake flask. The shake flask was again incubated at 37 °C until an OD<sub>600nm</sub> of 0.6-0.8 is obtained and then temperature was reduced to 25 °C. Protein expression was induced by the addition of 0.1 mM IPTG to the shake flask followed by overnight incubation at induction temperature of 25 °C. The following day the culture was harvested by centrifugation at 4000rpm for 15 mins. The supernatant was discarded and the cell pellet was disrupted by sonication (10 sec on, 10 sec off, 6 cycles). The lysate was clarified by centrifugation and supernatant retained for lyophilisation.

## 4. Molecular Docking

Models of the enzymes understudy were made resorting to the template assisted colabfold program.<sup>1</sup> The C4a-peroxyflavin was modelled. The peroxo electrophilic oxygen was considered the center of the grid-box for molecular docking. All substrates were geometry optimized and charges calculated according to the RESP method.

Molecular docking was performed using Autodock4.2<sup>2</sup> with the Lamarckian genetic algorithm (LGA) using a grid. A total of 1000 LGA runs were carried out per system. The population was 300, the GA elitism=1, the maximum number of generations was 27000 and the maximum number of energy evaluations was 2500000.

## 5. Molecular Dynamics Simulations

Molecular dynamics (MD) simulations of the enzyme:sulfide complexes were run to further assess the sulfides binding to the enzymes. The simulations were performed with the amber parm99SB<sup>3</sup> force field. Energy minimization was followed by equilibration to slowly heat the system from 0 to 310 K. Explicit solvent and Periodic boundary conditions (PBC) were used. For each enzyme 25 ns of production simulations were carried. The time step was set to 2 fs and constraints were applied to all bonds involving hydrogen atoms. The particle mesh Ewald (PME) method<sup>4</sup> was used to calculate electrostatic interactions.



Figure S1. Binding of sulfide 4d to BVMO145

#### 6. Screening of BVMOs and FMOs

20  $\mu$ L of 10 mg/mL stock solution in CH<sub>3</sub>CN of the substrate **1a** (0.2 g/L final concentration), was added to 980  $\mu$ L 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 8.0 containing NADP<sup>+</sup> (1.5 mg), GDH (2 mg), glucose (3 mg) and 8.4 mg BVMO or FMO to initiate the reaction. The reaction was shaken at 30 °C for 18-24 h. Upon completion, the reaction was extracted by EtOAc (250  $\mu$ L, 3 times). EtOAc fraction was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under vacuum, then resuspended to EtOH and analysed by normal phase HPLC using Chiralpak IC column to determine the enantiomeric excess and conversion.

Table S1. Screening of BVMO and FMO enzymes from Almac library						
		BVMO/FN 50 mM Tris	<b>IO (10 g/L)</b> s-HCl pH 8.0		+	0,_0
<sup>U</sup> N <sup>S</sup> 2.0 mM NADP <sup>+</sup> , 2.0 g/L GDH, <b>4a</b> 5.5 eq. Glucose, 2.0 %, CH <sub>3</sub> CN 30 °C, 18 h			( <i>R</i> or <i>S</i> ) ( <i>R</i> or <i>S</i> ) 5a	N	S 6a	
Entry	Enzyme	Code	Sulfoxide 5a conv. (%) <sup>a</sup>	Sulfone 6a conv. (%) <sup>a</sup>	Sulfoxide 5a ee (%) <sup>b</sup>	Enantiomer
1	BVMO	113	36	-	32	(S)
2	BVMO	114	67	6	54	(S)
3	BVMO	128	48	-	6	(S)
4	BVMO	129	24	53	3	(S)
5	BVMO	138	66	14	54	(S)
6	BVMO	141	10	70	39	(S)
7	BVMO	145	75	-	>99	<b>(S)</b>
8	BVMO	148	49	2	75	(S)
9	BVMO	149	63	3	72	(S)
10	FMO	102	99	n.d. <sup>c</sup>	53	(S)
11	FMO	103	70	n.d. <sup>c</sup>	9	(S)
12	FMO	104	80	n.d.°	41	(S)
13	FMO	105	76	n.d.°	61	(S)
14	FMO	402	53	n.d.°	40	(S)
15	FMO	404	99	n.d.°	47	(S)
16	FMO	401	99	n.d. <sup>c</sup>	65	( <i>R</i> )
17	FMO	301	99	n.d.°	9	(S)

<sup>a</sup>Determined by reversed phase HPLC using a Kromasil C18 column, monitored at 254 nm. <sup>b</sup>Determined by chiral HPLC using Chiralpak IC column, monitored at 254 nm. <sup>c</sup>n.d. = not determined.

#### 7. General procedure of enzymatic sulfoxidation using BVMO 145 or FMO D9



14  $\mu$ L of a 250 mM stock solution in CH<sub>3</sub>CN of the relevant sulfide substrate **4a-o** (5.0 mM final concentration), was added to 686  $\mu$ L 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 9.0 containing NADP<sup>+</sup> (0.25 mM, 0.05 eq.), GDH (1.0 g/L), glucose (50 mM, 10 eq.) and appropriate enzyme (10 g/L) to initiate the reaction. The reaction was shaken at 37 °C for 24 h. Upon completion, a 70  $\mu$ L aliquot was extracted with EtOAc (3x50  $\mu$ L), centrifuged (12500 rpm, 10 min) and the collected organic layers were analysed by normal phase HPLC using chiral columns to determine the enantiomeric excess (see HPLC analysis and traces for conditions). The remaining reaction mixture was quenched with 700  $\mu$ L of CH<sub>3</sub>CN and 12.6  $\mu$ L of 250 mM internal standard in CH<sub>3</sub>CN was added into the reaction mixture. The conversion was calculated by reversed phase HPLC using Agilent Eclipse Plus C18 column.

#### 8. Procedure for preparative enzymatic sulfoxidation of 4a with BVMO 145

400  $\mu$ L of a 250 mM stock solution in CH<sub>3</sub>CN of the relevant sulfide substrate **4a** (5.0 mM final concentration), was added to 19.6 mL 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 9.0 containing NADP<sup>+</sup> (0.25 mM, 0.05 eq.), GDH (1.0 g/L), glucose (50 mM, 10 eq.) and BVMO145 (10 g/L) to initiate the reaction. The reaction was shaken at 37 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (8x5 mL) after completion. Organic layer was collected and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under vacuum. Crude product were purified by flash column chromatography using an appropriate eluent mixture of DCM and MeOH to afford the resulting 12.4 mg pure enantioenriched sulfoxide (68% isolated yield).

#### 9. Procedure for preparative enzymatic sulfoxidation of 4c with FMO401

400  $\mu$ L of a 250 mM stock solution in CH<sub>3</sub>CN of the relevant sulfide substrate **4c** (5.0 mM final concentration), was added to 19.6 mL 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 9.0 containing NADP<sup>+</sup> (0.25 mM, 0.05 eq.), GDH (1.0 g/L), glucose (50 mM, 10 eq.) and FMO401 (10 g/L) to initiate the reaction. The reaction was shaken at 37 °C for 24 h. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (8x5 mL) after completion. Organic layer was collected and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under vacuum. Crude product were purified by flash column chromatography using an appropriate eluent mixture of DCM and MeOH to afford the resulting 12.9 mg pure enantioenriched sulfoxide (65% isolated yield).

#### 10. General procedure for the synthesis of sulfides 4a-f and 4h

$$\mathsf{R}_{\textup{M}_{n}}\mathsf{SH}_{+} \mathsf{Ar}_{\textup{M}_{m}} \overset{\mathsf{NaH}}{\longrightarrow} \mathsf{Ar}_{\textup{M}_{m}} \mathsf{S}_{\textup{M}_{n}} \mathsf{R}$$

The appropriate thiol (3.0 mmol) and NaH (6.0 mmol) were stirred in anhydrous DMF under  $N_2$  for 20 min in an ice bath. Then, an appropriate alkyl halide (3.6 mmol) was added to the mixture and the reaction was stirred until completion was observed on TLC. The reaction was quenched with water, extracted with EtOAc and the combined organic layers were washed with 10 folds of H<sub>2</sub>O to ensure the full removal of DMF from the crude. The collected organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated

under vacuum. Crude sulfides were purified by flash column chromatography using an appropriate eluent mixture of EtOAc and hexane to afford the resulting pure sulfide.

## 2-((Propylthio)methyl)pyridine (4a)



Synthesised from 2-(bromomethyl)pyridine hydrobromide and propanethiol. Pale yellow oil (62% yield).  $v_{max}/cm^{-1}$ : 2960, 1590, 1433. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.44 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (s, 2H), 2.43 – 2.35 (m, 2H), 1.58 – 1.42 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.00, 149.05, 136.61, 122.96, 121.74, 38.05, 33.68, 22.52, 13.38 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ON<sup>32</sup>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 168.08415; found 168.0840.

## 2-((Ethylthio)methyl)pyridine (4b)<sup>5</sup>



Synthesised from 2-(bromomethyl)pyridine hydrobromide and ethanethiol. Orange oil (642 mg, 64% yield).  $v_{max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2925, 1590, 1433. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.52 (ddd, J = 5.0, 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.71 – 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.42 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, J = 7.5, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (s, 2H), 2.51 (q, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.06, 149.02, 137.07, 123.26, 122.02, 37.78, 25.79, 14.56 ppm.

## 2-((Isobutylthio)methyl)pyridine (4c)



Synthesised from 2-(bromomethyl)pyridine hydrobromide and 1-bromo-2-methylpropane. Yellow oil (512.9 mg, 94% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.52 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (s, 2H), 2.38 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.83 – 1.70 (m, 1H), 0.94 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.24, 149.33, 136.76, 123.16, 121.93, 41.00, 38.86, 28.42, 22.14 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sup>32</sup>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 182.09252; found 182.0997.

## 2-((Benzylthio)methyl)pyridine (4d)<sup>6</sup>

Yellow oil (297.1 mg, 46% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.43 (ddd, J = 4.9, 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (td, J = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 7.13 – 7.07 (m, 1H), 7.01 (ddd, J = 7.5, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (s, 2H), 3.57 (s, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  158.50, 149.13, 137.95, 136.50, 128.93, 128.34, 126.87, 122.99, 121.73, 37.38, 35.81 ppm.

#### 2-(Propylthio)pyridine (4e)<sup>7</sup>



Synthesised from 2-bromopyridine and propanethiol. Pale yellow oil (285 mg, 62% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.44 – 8.39 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.98 – 6.92 (m, 1H), 3.14 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.79 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.71, 149.56, 135.92, 122.30, 119.30, 32.21, 22.89, 13.69 ppm.

#### 4-Methyl-2-(propylthio)pyridine (4f)<sup>8</sup>



Synthesised from 2-bromo-4-methlypyridine and propanethiol. Pale yellow oil (151 mg, 30% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.27 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 1.79 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  159.41, 149.20, 147.09, 122.81, 120.78, 32.21, 22.94, 20.99, 13.69 ppm.

#### Benzyl(ethyl)sulfane (4h)<sup>9</sup>



Synthesised from benzylmercaptan and bromoethane. Yellow oil (476 mg, 95% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35 – 7.26 (m, 4H), 7.27 – 7.20 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 2.44 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  138.75, 128.95, 128.59, 127.00, 36.02, 25.35, 14.50 ppm.

#### Synthesis of 1-methyl-2-(propylthio)-1H-imidazole (4g)



Methimazole (3.0 mmol) and NaCO<sub>3</sub> (6 mmol) were stirred in acetone for 20 min at room temperature. Then, 1-bromopropane (3.6 mmol) was added to the mixture and the reaction was stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc and the combined organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and brine. The collected organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under vacuum. The crude product was then purified by flash column chromatography using hexane:EtOAc 6:4 eluent system to afford 1-methyl-2-(propylthio)-1H-imidazole as transparent oil (76.7 mg, 37% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.05 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.03 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.75 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  142.20, 129.37, 122.10, 36.43, 33.33, 23.27, 13.38 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>32</sup>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 157.07212; found 157.0791.

#### Synthesis of (4-bromophenyl)(ethyl)sulfane (4i)<sup>10</sup>



Bromoethane (3.6 mmol) and 4-bromothiophenol (3.0 mmol) were added to a microwave (MW) vial and dissolved in water (10 mL). K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4.5 mmol) and NaI (0.3 mmol) were then added to the vial and the resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 140 °C in intervals of 5 minutes until completion was observed on TLC under microwave irradiation. The reaction was then extracted with EtOAc and the collected organic layers were washed with water and brine. The collected organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under vacuum. The crude product was then purified by flash column chromatography using hexane : EtOAc 85:5 eluent system to afford pale yellow oil (470 mg, 97% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.68 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.50 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 2.88 (dq, *J* = 13.3, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  142.62, 132.46, 125.90, 125.45, 50.36, 5.89 ppm.

The sulfides 4j, 4k, 4l, 4m, 4n, 4o were commercially available.

#### 11. General procedure for the synthesis of racemic sulfoxides 5a-k, 5n and 5o



The appropriate sulfide (2.0 mmol) was dissolved in DCM and stirred at 0 °C. *m*CPBA (2.0 mmol) in DCM was added dropwise and the reaction was monitored by TLC for 1 - 24 h until completion. The reaction was dried under reduced pressure and purified by flash column chromatography using an appropriate eluent mixture of EtOAc and hexane to afford the resulting sulfoxide.

#### 2-((Propylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5a)



Yellow oil (128.3 mg, 35% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.60 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 4.18 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.75 – 2.58 (m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.05 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.99, 149.88, 137.09, 125.53, 123.21, 59.66, 53.71, 16.38, 13.49 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ON<sup>32</sup>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 184.07906; found 184.0793.

2-((Ethylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5b)<sup>11</sup>

Colourless oil (242 mg, 81% yield).  $v_{max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup>: 2970, 2930, 1433, 1041. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.59 (ddd, J = 4.9, 1.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.40 – 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.30 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dq, J = 13.2, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dq, J = 13.2, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.34 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.98, 149.91, 137.07, 125.48, 123.18, 58.94, 45.04, 6.84 ppm.

#### 2-((Isobutylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5c)



Pale yellow oil (236.8 mg ,60% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.61 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 7.74 – 7.67 (m, 1H), 7.37 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 4.17 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, J = 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd, J = 12.9, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dd, J = 12.9, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.27 – 2.15 (m, 1H), 1.08 – 1.03 (m, 6H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  151.06, 150.06, 136.96, 125.51, 123.18, 61.24, 60.39, 24.03, 23.03, 21.77 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ON<sup>32</sup>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 198.08743; found 198.0947.

#### 2-((Benzylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5d)



Red-brown solid (402.1 mg, yield 87%); mp: 71 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.59 (ddd, J = 5.0, 1.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (td, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.26 (m, 6H), 7.22 (ddd, J = 7.6, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (dd, J = 12.9, 9.3 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (dd, J = 12.9, 8.5 Hz, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.94, 149.83, 136.74, 130.43, 129.90, 128.84, 128.28, 125.60, 122.98, 57.82, 57.25 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ON<sup>32</sup>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 232.07178; found 232.0799.

## 2-(Propylsulfinyl)pyridine (5e)<sup>12</sup>



Pale yellow oil (203.1 mg, 61% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.61 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.02 – 7.96 (m, 1H), 7.96 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.39 – 7.31 (m, 1H), 3.12 – 3.00 (m, 1H), 2.91 – 2.82 (m, 1H), 1.99 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.71 – 1.55 (m, 1H), 1.04 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  165.00, 149.66, 138.00, 124.53, 120.08, 56.45, 15.63, 13.34 ppm.

#### 4-Methyl-2-(propylsulfinyl)pyridine (5f)



Pale yellow oil (208.6 mg, 57% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.46 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 3.11 – 3.01 (m, 1H), 2.90 – 2.80 (m, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.99 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.69 – 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.05 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  164.60, 149.90, 149.45, 125.49, 120.66, 56.43, 21.46, 15.68, 13.36 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>ON<sup>32</sup>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 184.07178; found 184.0792.

#### 1-Methyl-2-(propylsulfinyl)-1H-imidazole (5g)



Pale yellow oil (213.4 mg, 62% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.14 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.47 – 3.37 (m, 1H), 3.31 – 3.22 (m, 1H), 1.87 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  145.10, 129.69, 125.04, 54.49, 33.82, 16.32, 13.36 ppm. HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd. for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>13</sub>ON<sub>2</sub><sup>32</sup>S<sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 173.06703; found 173.0744.

## ((Ethylsulfinyl)methyl)benzene (5h)<sup>13,14</sup>



White solid (198 mg, 66% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.31 – 7.27 (m, 2H), 4.02 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (d, *J* = 13.0 Hz, 1H), 2.72 – 2.49 (m, 2H), 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  130.18, 130.11, 129.14, 128.47, 57.85, 44.26, 6.71 ppm.

# 1-Bromo-4-(ethylsulfinyl)benzene (5i)<sup>15</sup>



Colourless oil (275 mg, 92% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.39 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.91 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  135.99, 131.86, 130.43, 119.48, 27.70, 14.29 ppm.

## 1-Chloro-3-(methylsulfinyl)benzene (5j)<sup>14</sup>



Pale yellow oil (362 mg, 99% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.68 – 7.66 (m, 1H), 7.52 – 7.45 (m, 3H), 2.74 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 148.06, 135.89, 131.34, 130.73, 123.81, 121.75, 44.18 ppm.

## 1-Fluoro-4-(methylsulfinyl)benzene (5k)<sup>16</sup>



Colourless oil (102 mg, 92% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.70 – 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 2.71 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.73, 163.23, 141.31, 126.03, 125.94, 116.95, 116.72, 44.31, 44.30 ppm. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -108.62 ppm.

# 1-Chloro-4-(methylsulfinyl)benzene (5n)<sup>17</sup>



White solid (359 mg, 99% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.62 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 2.72 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 144.1, 137.1, 129.5, 124.8, 43.9 ppm.

# 1-Chloro-2-(methylsulfinyl)benzene (50)<sup>18</sup>



Pale yellow oil (125 mg, 57% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.97 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (td, J = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (td, J = 7.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  143.8, 132.1, 130.0, 129.9, 128.3, 125.5, 41.8 ppm.

The sulfoxides **5I**, **5m** were all commercially available.

#### 12. General procedure for the synthesis of sulfones 6



The appropriate sulfide 4 (2.0 mmol) was dissolved in DCM and stirred at 0 °C. *m*CPBA (4.0 mmol) in DCM was added dropwise and the reaction was monitored by TLC for 1 - 24 h until completion. The reaction was dried under reduced pressure and purified by flash column chromatography using an appropriate eluent mixture of EtOAc and hexane to afford the resulting sulfone **6**.

#### 2-((propylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine (6a)<sup>19</sup>



Colourless oil (271 mg, 68% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.63 – 8.57 (m, 1H), 7.76 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 3.00 – 2.92 (m, 2H), 1.96 – 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.04 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.83, 149.71, 137.50, 126.20, 123.78, 61.47, 53.82, 15.75, 13.24 ppm.

#### 2-((ethylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine (6b)<sup>19</sup>



White solid (260 mg, 70% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.59 (ddd, J = 4.9, 1.8, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (td, J = 7.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dt, J = 7.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (ddd, J = 7.6, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 3.01 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.99, 149.75, 137.36, 126.11, 123.73, 60.73, 46.53, 6.65 ppm.

#### ((ethylsulfonyl)methyl)benzene (6h)<sup>19</sup>



White solid (268 mg, 73% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.45 – 7.36 (m, 5H), 4.22 (s, 2H), 2.85 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  130.64, 129.25, 129.19, 128.26, 58.93, 45.54, 6.58 ppm.

#### 1-methyl-3-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (6m)<sup>20</sup>

Colourless oil (221 mg, 65% yield). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.78 – 7.73 (m, 2H), 7.49 – 7.42 (m, 2H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  140.60, 139.82, 134.59, 129.37, 127.81, 124.58, 44.64, 21.47 ppm.

# 2-((propylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine 1-oxide



From the **4a** oxidation procedure for synthesising sulfone **6a**, the corresponding over-oxidized product 2-((propylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine 1-oxide was obtained with 15% yield as white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.32 – 8.26 (m, 1H), 7.62 – 7.53 (m, 1H), 7.41 – 7.28 (m, 2H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 3.19 – 3.10 (m, 2H), 1.99 – 1.85 (m, 2H), 1.06 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  140.93, 139.62, 129.66, 126.38, 126.31, 57.30, 54.09, 15.84, 13.29 ppm.

## 13. Blank Experiments

A set of blank experiments with empty pET28a vector *E. coli* CFE were carried out on different substrates. The experiments clearly demonstrates that the biotransformation are catalysed by the BVMO/FMO enzymes.

Table S2. Control experiments with empty pET28a vector E. coli CFE				
	R <sup>S</sup> R <sup>1</sup> Empty pET 4	28a vector CFE	$\begin{array}{ccc} O^{-} & O^{-} \\ \mathbf{I} & \vdots^{+} \\ R^{\mathbf{S}^{+}} R^{1} \text{ or } R^{\mathbf{S}^{+}} R^{1} \\ \mathbf{(S)-5} & (R)-5 \end{array}$	
	Gluconolactone - GDH 1 50 mM Tris 2.0% CH <sub>3</sub> 4-24h	NADP <sup>+</sup> Glucose I.0 g/L s-HCl buffer CN, 37 °C, 220 rom		
Subs	trate	Conv. % <sup>a</sup>	ee	
4a	SS	<1	n.d. <sup>b</sup>	
4h	S	<1	n.d. <sup>b</sup>	
4j	CI S	<1	n.d. <sup>b</sup>	
4m	S_	<1	n.d. <sup>b</sup>	
<sup>a</sup> Dete	ermined by HPLC using ar	n Agilent Eclipse l	Plus C18 column,	

monitored at 254 nm. <sup>b</sup>n.d. = not determined.

# 14. Copies of NMR spectra





# 2-((Ethylthio)methyl)pyridine (4b)



# 2-((Isobutylthio)methyl)pyridine (4c)



260 250 240 230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -2( f1 (ppm)

# 2-((Benzylthio)methyl)pyridine (4d)





2-(Propylthio)pyridine (4e)



260 250 240 230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -2( f1 (ppm)

# 4-Methyl-2-(propylthio)pyridine (4f)



260 250 240 230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -2( f1 (ppm)

# 1-Methyl-2-(propylthio)-1H-imidazole (4g)



# Benzyl(ethyl)sulfane (4h)



# (4-Bromophenyl)(ethyl)sulfane (4i)



# 2-((Propylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5a)



# 2-((Ethylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5b)



# 2-((Isobutylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5c)



# 2-((Benzylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5d)



230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)

# 2-(Propylsulfinyl)pyridine (5e)



# 4-Methyl-2-(propylsulfinyl)pyridine (5f)



# 1-Methyl-2-(propylsulfinyl)-1H-imidazole (5g)



# ((Ethylsulfinyl)methyl)benzene (5h)



# Ethyl (4-bromo)phenyl sulfoxide (5i)















1-Chloro-2-(methylsulfinyl)benzene (5n)







# 2-((Propylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine (6a)



# 2-((Ethylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine (6b)



((Ethylsulfonyl)methyl)benzene (6h)



# 1-Methyl-3-(methylsulfonyl)benzene (6m)



# 2-((propylsulfonyl)methyl)pyridine 1-oxide



15. Copies of HRMS spectra for new compounds

## 2-((Propylthio)methyl)pyridine (4a)



#### 2-((Isobutylthio)methyl)pyridine (4c)





NL: 1.33E10 JW432NBVMO1C #97 RT: 0.60 AV: 1 NL: 1.25E10 T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [120.0000-1600.0000]



2-((Propylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5a)



2-((Isobutylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5c)



2-((Benzylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5d)



4-Methyl-2-(propylsulfinyl)pyridine (5f)

NL: 5.07E9 JW432BVMO2C #95 RT: 0.55 AV: 1 NL: 4.84E9 T: FTMS + p ESI Full lock ms [120.0000-1600.0000]

NL: 8.27E9 JW432BVMO2D #79 RT: 0.47 AV: 1 NL: 7.79E9 T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [120.0000-1600.0000]



1-Methyl-2-(propylsulfinyl)-1H-imidazole (5g)



NL: 3.09E9 JW432BVMO2G #84 RT: 0.48 AV: 1 NL: 3.30E9 T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [120.0000-1600.0000]

#### 16. HPLC analysis and traces

The enantiomeric excess of the sulfoxides have been determined by HPLC using Daicel Chiralpak chiral columns IC (0.46 cm x 25 cm) and IG (0.46 cm x 25 cm) in normal phase. All the methods described ran at 1.0 mL/min, 25  $^{\circ}$ C with an isocratic eluent. Detection wavelength were set at 254 nm for all compounds.

Compd	Column	Eluent system	Optical data $\alpha_D^{20}$ for new compounds
5a	IC	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	( <b><i>R</i></b> )-5a -4.0 (ee 64%, c 1, in CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> )
		7:3	(S)-5a +12.1 (ee >99%, c 1, in CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> )
<b>5b</b> <sup>11</sup>	IC	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	
		6:4	
5c	IG	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	( <b><i>R</i></b> )-5c -5.6 (ee >99%, c 1, in CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> )
		6:4	(S)-5c +27.1 (ee >99%, c 1, in CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> )
<b>5e</b> <sup>12</sup>	OD-H	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	
		9:1	
5g IG	IG	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	$(S)_{-5g} + 101$ (ee 76% c 1 in CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> )
	Ю	6:4	$(5)-5g + 10.1 (cc + 0.00, c + 1, m cm_2cm_2)$
<b>5h</b> <sup>11</sup> I	IC	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	
	ic	8:2	
<b>5;</b> <sup>11</sup>	IC	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	
01	ie	8:2	
<b>5j</b> <sup>11</sup> IC	<sup>11</sup> IC	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	
	8:2		
5k <sup>11</sup>	IC	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	
JK IC		8:2	
<b>51</b> <sup>11</sup>	IC	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	
	10	8:2	
<b>5m</b> <sup>11</sup>	IG and	<i>n</i> -hexane:IPA	
511	IC	8:2	

<sup>a</sup>Absolute configurations were determined by comparison with literature.<sup>11</sup>

## 2-((Propylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5a)







# 2-((Ethylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5b)



# 2-((isobutylsulfinyl)methyl)pyridine (5c)



## 2-(propylsulfinyl)pyridine (5e)



# 1-methyl-2-(propylsulfinyl)-1H-imidazole (5g)



#### ((Ethyl sulfinyl)methyl)benzene (5h)





# 1-Bromo-4-(ethylsulfinyl)benzene (5i)



# 1-Chloro-3-(methylsulfinyl)benzene (5j)





## 1-Fluoro-4-(methylsulfinyl)benzene (5k)



# (Methylsulfinyl)benzene (5l)



# 1-Methyl-3-(methylsulfinyl)benzene (5m)

Analysed using Chiralpak IG column.



Analysed using Chiralpak IC column.





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