## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

# Total Synthesis of $N^{14}$ -Desacetoxytubulysin H.

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Experimental procedures and spectral data for all new compounds, including copies of  $^1\mathrm{H}$  and  $^{13}\mathrm{C}$  NMR spectra.

General: All reactions involving moisture sensitive reagents were conducted in oven-dried glassware under a nitrogen or argon atmosphere. Anhydrous solvents were obtained through standard laboratory protocols. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was preformed on SiO<sub>2</sub> 60 F-254 plates available from Merck. Visualization was accomplished by UV irradiation at 254 nm, or by staining with any one of the following reagents: iodine, 5% phosphomolybdic acid hydrate in ethanol, ninhydrin (0.3% w/v in glacial acetic acid/n-butyl alcohol 3:97), Vaughn's reagent (4.8 g of (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>6</sub>Mo<sub>7</sub>O<sub>24</sub>•4H<sub>2</sub>O and 0.2 g of Ce(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>•4H<sub>2</sub>O in 10 mL of conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and 90 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O), or *para*-anisaldehyde (7.5 mL of *para*-anisaldehyde, 25 mL of conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and 7.5 mL of acetic acid in 675 mL of 95% ethanol). Flash column chromatography was performed using SiO<sub>2</sub> 60 (particle size 0.040-0.055 mm, 230-400 mesh, EM science distributed by Fisher Scientific).

Melting points were obtained on a Meltemp II<sup>TM</sup> capillary melting point apparatus fitted with a Fluke 51<sup>TM</sup> digital thermometer and are not corrected. Specific rotations of chiral compounds were obtained at the designated concentration and temperature on a Perkin Elmer 241 polarimeter using a 1 dm cell. Infrared spectra were collected on a Nicolet Avatar<sup>TM</sup> 360 FT–IR spectrometer from thin films deposited onto NaCl plates. Proton and carbon NMR spectra were obtained on Bruker Avance<sup>TM</sup> 300 and 500 MHz NMR spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported as δ values in parts per million (ppm) as referenced to residual solvent. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are tabulated as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, bs = broad singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), number of protons, and coupling constant(s). Mass spectra were obtained at the University of Pittsburgh Mass Spectrometry facility. A Varian HPLC system

equipped with Gilson 215 Liquid Handler and fraction collector was used for preparative HPLC purification. A Varian Dynamax Microsorb C18 column (250 mm  $\times$  10 mm, or 250 mm  $\times$  21.4 mm, 60 Å) was used. LC-MS analysis was performed on an Agilent 1100 instrument, using an analytical C18 column (Waters Xterra MS 100  $\times$  4.6 mm, 3.5  $\mu$ m, 0.4 mL/min).

(R)-Methyl 3-(benzyloxycarbonylamino)-4-methylpentanoate (4). To a solution of Cbz-Val-OH (1.0 g, 4.1 mmol) and triethylamine (0.60 mL, 4.3 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 mL) cooled to -20 °C was added isobutyl chloroformate (0.66 mL, 5.1 mmol) dropwise over 5 min, and the resulting white suspension was stirred further for 30 min. A diazomethane solution (~16.9 mmol) in ether (50 mL), which was prepared from Diazald (5.1 g, 24.0 mmol) using an Aldrich MiniDiazald apparatus and dried over potassium hydroxide (pellets) prior to use, was then introduced into the reaction mixture via cannula. The mixture was stirred further overnight, allowing the temperature to gradually rise to room temperature. Acetic acid was then added dropwise until there was no effervescence, and the mixture was diluted in ether (50 mL), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes, 1:3) to give the diazoketone (0.96 g, 84%) as a yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 7.38-7.35 (m, 5 H), 5.41-5.38 (m, 2 H), 5.11 (s, 2 H), 4.15-4.14 (m, 1 H), 2.10 (octet, 1 H, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.00 (d, 3 H, J = 6.8Hz), 0.90 (d, 3 H, J = 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  193.2, 156.3, 136.2, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 67.0, 62.8, 54.6, 31.0, 19.3, 17.2; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3324, 2965, 2107, 1713, 1632, 1525, 1366, 1232.

To a solution of the above diazoketone (0.91 g, 3.3 mmol) in anhydrous methanol (15 mL) cooled at -35 °C was added a solution of silver benzoate (80 mg, 0.35 mmol) in freshly distilled (over CaH<sub>2</sub>) triethylamine (1 mL). The reaction flask was wrapped with aluminum foil to keep it dark, and the mixture was stirred overnight, during which time it gradually warmed up to room temperature. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (60 mL), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes, 1:3) to give **4** (0.77 g, 83%; or 70% for three steps) as a white solid: Mp 44.5-45.5 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  -22.7 (*c* 2.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.37-7.30 (m, 5 H), 5.16 (d, 1 H, J = 8.7 Hz), 5.10 (s, 2 H), 3.88-3.79 (m, 1 H), 3.66 (s, 3 H), 2.55-2.52 (m, 2 H), 1.85 (octet, 1 H, J = 6.8 Hz), 0.93 (d, 6 H, J = 6.8 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  172.2, 156.0, 136.5, 128.5, 128.0, 66.6, 53.6, 51.7, 36.8, 31.6, 19.3, 18.5; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3338, 2961, 1731, 1531, 1239; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> 279.1471, found 279.1478.

(*R*)-Benzyl 1-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4-methylpentan-3-ylcarbamate (5).<sup>2</sup> To an ice-cooled solution of 4 (0.66 g, 2.4 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added dropwise lithium borohydride (2.0 M solution in THF, 1.8 mL, 3.6 mmol) over 5 min. A solution of methanol (0.20 mL, 4.8 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) was then added over

10 min, and the mixture was stirred further overnight, allowing the temperature to rise to room temperature. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (70 mL), washed with hydrochloric acid (1 N, 20 mL x 2), saturated sodium bicarbonate (20 mL), and brine (20 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:1) to give the desired alcohol (0.42 g, 71%) as a white solid: Mp 52.0-53.0 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  +12.1 (c 4.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $^1$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.38-7.37 (m, 5 H), 5.16, 5.10 (d<sub>AB</sub>, 2 H, J = 12.1 Hz), 4.63 (d, 1 H, J = 8.8 Hz), 3.74-3.56 (m, 3 H), 2.95 (bs, 1 H), 1.90-1.70 (m, 2 H), 1.41-1.30 (m, 1 H), 0.96 (d, 3 H, J = 6.9 Hz), 0.93 (d, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  157.4, 136.3, 128.4, 128.0, 127.9, 66.7, 58.9, 52.9, 35.2, 32.0, 19.1, 17.9; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3324, 2959, 2875, 1693, 1537, 1251, 1048.

To a solution of the alcohol (0.34 g, 1.4 mmol) and imidazole (0.18 g, 2.4 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL) was added a solution of *tert*-butyldimethylchlorosilane (0.32 g, 2.1 mmol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL). The mixture was stirred further overnight, diluted in water (10 mL), and extracted with ether (20 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were washed with hydrochloric acid (1 N, 20 mL), saturated sodium bicarbonate (20 mL), and brine (20 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes, 1:7) to give **5** (0.49 g, 99%) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  +6.6 (c 5.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.36-7.35 (m, 5 H), 5.13, 5.07 (d<sub>AB</sub>, 2 H, J = 12.4 Hz), 5.01 (d, 1 H, J = 9.4 Hz), 3.74-3.60 (m, 3 H), 1.89-1.72 (m, 2 H), 1.61-1.49 (m, 1 H), 0.95-0.90 (m, 6 H), 0.90 (s, 9 H), 0.06 (s, 3 H), 0.05 (s, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  156.2, 136.8, 128.4, 127.8, 66.3, 60.6, 54.2, 34.5, 31.8, 25.8,

18.8, 18.1, 18.0, -5.5; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3333, 2958, 2858, 1699, 1537, 1255, 1096, 836, 776; MS (APCI) *m/z* 366 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

(R)-Benzyl 1-hydrox-4-methylpentan-3-yl(methyl)carbamate (6). To an ice-cooled solution of 5 (0.40 g, 1.1 mmol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL) was added a solution of NaHMDS (0.28 g, 1.5 mmol) in THF (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min before iodomethane (0.1 mL, 1.6 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred overnight, while the temperature was allowed to rise to room temperature. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (60 mL), washed with hydrochloric acid (1 N, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated under vacuum, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes, 1:8) to give the methylated product (0.40 g, 96%) as a colorless oil:  $\left[\alpha\right]_{D}^{23}$  +5.2 (c 2.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); NMR analysis (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) showed a mixture of rotamers at room temperature;  $^{1}H$  NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 338 K, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.34-7.33 (m, 5 H), 5.09, 5.04 ( $d_{AB}$ , 2 H, J = 12.6 Hz), 3.69 (dt, 1 H, J = 10.0, 4.0 Hz), 3.51-3.44 (m, 2 H), 2.70 (s, 3 H), 1.80-1.62 (m, 3 H), 0.89 (d, 3 H, J = 6.6 Hz), 0.85 (s, 9 H), 0.77 (d, 3 H, J = 6.7Hz), 0.00 (s, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 338 K, 75 MHz) δ 155.6, 137.3, 127.8, 127.2, 126.8, 65.6, 59.8, 58.7, 31.9, 29.7, 28.8, 25.4, 19.5, 19.1, 17.4, -5.9; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2957, 2857, 1701, 1471, 1252, 1098, 835; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>37</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Si 379.2543, found 379.2536.

To a solution of the above methylated product (0.40 g, 0.28 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added tetrabutylammonium fluoride (1.0 M solution in THF, 0.34 mL, 0.34 mmol).

The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h, diluted with ethyl acetate (40 mL), washed with brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:1) to give **6** (0.27 g, 96%) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  -13.1 (*c* 2.8, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); NMR analysis (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) showed a mixture of rotamers at room temperature; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 333 K, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.35-7.30 (m, 5 H), 5.08 (s, 2 H), 4.10 (bs, 1 H), 3.68 (dt, 1 H, J = 10.2, 3.5 Hz), 3.47-3.25 (m, 2 H), 2.70 (s, 3 H), 1.78-1.55 (m, 3 H), 0.89 (d, 3 H, J = 6.3 Hz), 0.77 (d, 3 H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 333 K, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  155.8, 137.1, 127.9, 127.2, 126.8, 65.6, 58.9, 58.2, 32.1, 29.7, 28.6, 19.6, 19.2; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3466, 2961, 2875, 1694, 1682, 1455, 1338; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> 265.1678, found 265.1677.

(*R*)-3-((*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)methyl)amino-4-methylpentanal (7). A mixture of 6 (0.73 g, 2.7 mmol), di-*tert*-butyldicarbonate (0.72 g, 3.2 mmol), and palladium on activated carbon (5% Pd, 78 mg) in methanol (15 mL) was stirred under a hydrogen balloon at room temperature overnight. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:1) to give the Bocprotected amino alcohol (0.58 g, 92%) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  -22.3 (*c* 3.2, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). Major rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  3.87-3.79 (m, 1 H), 3.61-3.51 (m, 1 H), 3.42-3.31 (m, 1 H), 2.61 (s, 3 H), 2.03-1.84 (m, 1 H), 1.73-1.61 (m, 1 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H), 1.39-1.25 (m, 1 H), 0.96 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.88 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  158.0, 79.9, 58.9, 57.4, 31.8, 30.0, 28.4, 20.1. Characteristic signals

of the minor rotamer:  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  59.8, 32.2, 30.6, 27.9; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3454, 2968, 1694, 1393, 1177, 1047; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{12}H_{25}NO_3$  231.1834, found 231.1830.

To a mixture of Dess-Martin periodinane (1.19 g, 2.8 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (6 mL) was added dropwise a solution of the above Boc-protected amino alcohol (0.57 g, 2.4 mmol) in dichloromethane (8 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The solvent was removed, and the residue was dissolved in ether (70 mL), washed with a mixture of sodium hydroxide (1.0 N, 10 mL) and sodium thiosulfate (1.0 M, 10 mL), saturated sodium bicarbonate (10 mL), and brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated under vacuum, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes, 1:2) to give 7 (0.50 g, 89%) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  -75.9 (c 2.8, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 1.2:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  9.67 (bs, 1 H), 4.32 (dt, 1 H, J = 10.6, 4.3 Hz), 2.66 (s, 3 H), 2.62-2.43 (m, 2 H), 1.83-1.72 (m, 1 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 0.96 (d, 3 H, J =6.4 Hz), 0.90 (d, 3 H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  201.6, 156.1, 79.6, 56.7, 44.9, 30.4, 29.1, 28.3, 20.0, 19.2. Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(CDCl_3, 300 \text{ MHz}) \delta 9.65 \text{ (s, 1 H)}, 4.10 \text{ (dt, 1 H, } J = 10.0, 4.9 \text{ Hz)}, 2.72 \text{ (s, 3 H)}, 1.47 \text{ (s, 1.47 to 1.47 to$ 9 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 200.8, 155.6, 80.0, 57.8, 30.8, 28.9, 28.4, 20.1, 19.4; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2971, 2726, 1726, 1688, 1366, 1153; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> 229.1678, found 229.1674; calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> (M-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>) 186.1130, found 186.1130.

Ethyl 2-bromothiazole-4-carboxylate. The procedure by Kelly et al.<sup>3</sup> was slightly modified. To a mixture of thiourea (6.60 g, 86.8 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) was added dropwise a solution of ethyl bromopyruvate (80-85% purity, 19.5 g, ~85.0 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL). The reaction mixture was heated slowly to 100 °C and kept at that temperature for 40 min to give a clear brown solution. Upon cooling to room temperature a yellow precipitate was formed, and dissolved in sulfuric acid (9 N, 400 mL). The solution was transferred into a 1000 mL three-necked bottle equipped with a mechanical stirrer, an addition funnel, and a gas outlet with an inverted wide-mouth funnel suspended just above a sodium hydroxide solution (4 N, 100 mL). The solution was cooled in an ice bath, and cupric sulfate pentahydrate (25.0 g, 0.10 mol) and sodium bromide (30.8 g, 0.30 mol) were added portionwise. A solution of sodium nitrite (8.8 g, 0.13 mol) in water (50 mL) was then added dropwise over 1 h. CAUTION: Red gas, presumably a mixture of Br2 and HBr, was formed once sodium nitrite was introduced. The reaction must be performed in a well-ventilated hood. Stirring was continued for 4 h, during which time the bath temperature gradually rose to room temperature. The mixture was diluted with water (200 mL) and extracted with ether (200 mL x 4). The combined organic layers were concentrated to about 300 mL, washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (100 mL x 2) and brine (100 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated under vacuum, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:8) to give the thiazole ester (10.2 g, 51% for two steps) as a yellow solid: Mp 68.2-69.5 °C (lit.3 68.5-69.2 °C); 1H NMR (CDCl3, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.12 (s, 1 H), 4.41 (q, 2 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.39 (t, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR

(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 160.1, 147.2, 136.8, 130.8, 61.8, 14.2; IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3090, 2986, 1717, 1488, 1478, 1431, 1329, 1224, 1121, 1011, 774; MS (ESI) *m/z* 260 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 258.

**2-Bromo-4-(**(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)thiazole (8). To an ice-cooled solution of ethyl 2-bromothiazole-4-carboxylate (10.2 g, 43.2 mmol) in anhydrous THF (50 mL) was added dropwise lithium borohydride (2.0 M solution in THF, 33.0 mL, 66.0 mmol) over 20 min. A solution of methanol (2.7 mL, 66.7 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was then added over 30 min, and the mixture was stirred further overnight, allowing the temperature to rise to room temperature. The solvent was concentrated under vacuum, and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (70 mL), washed with hydrochloric acid (1 N, 30 mL x 2), saturated sodium bicarbonate (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:3) to give the corresponding alcohol (6.3 g, 75%) as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.18 (t, 1 H, J = 0.9 Hz), 4.74 (d, 2 H, J = 0.9 Hz), 3.02 (s, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  156.7, 136.4, 118.6, 60.4; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3368, 2927, 1416, 1013.

To a solution of the above alcohol (6.3 g, 32.5 mmol) and imidazole (2.4 g, 40.0 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (30 mL) was added a solution of *tert*-butyldimethylchlorosilane (6.0 g, 40.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) over 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight, diluted with water (30 mL), and extracted with ether (50 mL x 4). The combined organic layers were washed with hydrochloric acid

(1 N, 30 mL), saturated sodium bicarbonate (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:10) to give **8** (8.0 g, 60% for two steps) as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.14 (t, 1 H, J = 1.4 Hz), 4.82 (d, 2 H, J = 1.4 Hz), 0.94 (s, 9 H), 0.11 (s, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  157.6, 135.5, 117.2, 62.0, 25.8, 18.3, -5.4; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2954, 2929, 2857, 1424, 1257, 1138, 1105, 1014, 838, 778.

tert-Butyl (15,3R)- and (1R,3R)-1-(4-((tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)thiazol-2-yl)-1-hydroxy-4-methylpentan-3-yl(methyl)carbamate (9a and 9b). To an ice-cooled solution of 8 (0.62 g, 2.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added dropwise sec-butylmagnesium chloride (1.7 M, 1.2 mL, 2.0 mmol) in THF. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min, treated dropwise over 10 min with a solution of 7 (0.23 g, 1.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL), and stirred overnight, while the temperature was allowed to gradually warm up to room temperature. The reaction was then quenched by the addition of saturated ammonium chloride (10 mL), and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL x 2). The combined organic layers were washed with hydrochloric acid (1 N, 10 mL), saturated sodium bicarbonate (10 mL), and brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated under vacuum, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (Et<sub>2</sub>O/hexanes, 1:3) to give 9a (90 mg, 20%) and 9b (0.18 g, 40%) as colorless oils.

(1S,3R)-Isomer **9a**:  $R_f = 0.32$  (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:3);  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -62.1 (c 1.2,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ).  $^1H$  NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 2.6:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 7.06 (s, 1 H), 5.04-4.92 (m, 1 H), 4.87-4.74 (m, 3 H), 3.83 (dt, 1 H, J = 10.5, 3.3 Hz), 2.41-2.19 (m, 2 H), 2.34 (s, 3 H), 1.80-1.68 (m, 1 H), 1.40 (s, 9 H), 1.00 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.94 (s, 9 H), 0.83 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.11 (s, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 176.5, 157.6, 156.8, 113.1, 80.1, 70.7, 62.3, 58.0, 35.7, 30.2, 28.5, 25.9, 20.3, 19.7, 18.4, -5.3, -5.4. Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 7.13 (s, 1 H), 2.56 (s, 3 H), 1.42 (s, 9 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 28.6; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3400, 2959, 2930, 2858, 1693, 1667, 1472, 1366, 1256, 1152, 1101, 839, 777; MS (ESI) m/z 481 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 459 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

(1R,3R)-Isomer **9b**:  $R_f = 0.53$  (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:3);  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  -12.0 (c 2.5,  $CH_2CI_2$ ). NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 6:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer:  $^1H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.11 (t, 1 H, J = 1.2 Hz), 4.98 (d, 1 H, J = 3.4 Hz), 4.82 (d, 2 H, J = 1.1 Hz), 4.67 (dt, 1 H, J = 10.8, 3.1 Hz), 3.95 (dt, 1 H, J = 11.2, 3.2 Hz), 2.72 (s, 3 H), 2.03 (dt, 1 H, J = 13.0, 2.7 Hz), 1.92 (dt, 1 H, J = 12.4, 3.5 Hz), 1.77-1.67 (m, 1 H), 1.46 (s, 9 H), 0.94 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.93 (s, 9 H), 0.90 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.10 (s, 6 H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  174.9, 158.4, 156.7, 113.1, 80.5, 69.1, 62.3, 57.7, 37.9, 29.7, 28.3, 28.1, 25.9, 20.1, 18.3, -5.4. Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer:  $^{1}H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  2.75 (s, 3 H), 1.50 (s, 9 H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  28.4, 20.2; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3400, 2959, 2930, 2858, 1693, 1662, 1472, 1366, 1256, 1136, 1102, 839, 778; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{22}H_{42}N_2O_4SSi$  458.2635, found 458.2638.

(1R,3R)-3-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl(methyl)amino)-1-(4-(hydroxymethyl)thiazol-2-yl)-4-methylpentyl acetate (10). To an ice-cooled solution of 9b (85 mg, 0.18 mmol) and triethylamine (0.10 mL, 0.72 mmol) in dichloromethane (4 mL) was added acetyl chloride (0.05 mL, 0.70 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h and allowed to gradually warm up to room temperature. The solution was diluted with ether (40 mL), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (10 mL x 2) and brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated to give the ester as a yellow oil which was used without further purification. A solution of this oil in THF (1 mL) was treated with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (1.0 M solution in THF, 1.0 mL, 1.0 mmol) at room temperature overnight, diluted with ethyl acetate (40 mL), washed with brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:1) to give **10** (45 mg, 63% for two steps) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  +15.1 (c 1.5, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 2:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer:  ${}^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.14 (s, 1 H), 5.83 (dd, 1 H, J = 11.6, 2.8 Hz), 4.74 (s, 2 H), 4.07 (dt, 1 H, J = 11.1, 3.6 Hz), 2.80 (bs, 1 H), 2.69 (s, 3 H), 2.33 (ddd, 1 H, J = 14.9, 11.5, 3.6 Hz), 2.14 (s, 3 H), 2.02 (ddd, 1 H, J = 14.7, 12.0, 2.8 Hz), 1.72-1.64 (m, 1 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 0.97 (d, 3 H, J = 6.6 Hz), 0.86 (d, 3 H, J = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 170.8, 170.2, 156.3, 156.2, 114.7, 79.3, 70.5, 69.3, 60.9, 56.3, 34.9, 30.4, 28.3, 28.0, 20.9, 19.9, 19.5. Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(CDCl_3, 300 \text{ MHz}) \delta 7.15 \text{ (s, 1 H)}, 5.91 \text{ (dd, 1 H, } J = 9.0, 3.9 \text{ Hz)}, 3.84-3.69 \text{ (m, 1 H)},$ 2.97 (bs. 1 H), 2.62 (s. 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 169.9, 169.5, 156.4, 115.0. 79.7, 60.8, 30.7, 28.4, 21.0, 20.2, 19.7; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3434, 2971, 1755, 1689, 1367, 1223, 1157; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>NaS (M+Na) 409.1773, found 409.1780.

#### 2-((1R,3R)-1-Acetoxy-3-(tert-butoxycarbonyl(methyl)amino)-4-methylpentyl)-

thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (11). Dess-Martin periodinane (48 mg, 0.11 mmol) was added to a solution of 10 (30 mg, 0.08 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h, diluted with ether (30 mL), washed with a mixture of sodium hydroxide (1.0 N, 5 mL) and sodium thiosulfate (1.0 M, 5 mL), saturated sodium bicarbonate (10 mL), and brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated under vacuum to give the crude aldehyde (29 mg, 99%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 2.5:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  9.99 (s, 1 H), 8.13 (s, 1 H), 5.87 (dd, 1 H, J = 11.6, 2.9 Hz), 4.14-4.04 (m, 1 H), 2.70 (s, 3 H), 2.41-2.31 (m, 1 H), 2.16 (s, 3 H), 2.13-2.07 (m, 1 H), 1.76-1.64 (m, 1 H), 1.43 (s, 9 H), 0.98 (d, 3 H, J = 6.6 Hz), 0.86 (d, 3 H, J = 6.6 Hz). Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  10.00 (s, 1 H), 8.14 (s, 1 H), 5.94 (dd, 1 H, J = 9.8, 2.9 Hz).

A solution of this crude aldehyde (29 mg, 0.08 mmol) in *tert*-butyl alcohol (2 mL) was treated with a solution of 2-methyl-2-butene in THF (2 M, 0.3 mL, 0.60 mmol), followed by the dropwise addition of a mixture of sodium chlorite (39 mg, 0.43 mmol) and sodium dihydrogenphosphate monohydrate (0.13 g, 0.97 mmol) in water (1.0 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred further at room temperature for 6 h, diluted with hydrochloric acid (0.1 *N*, 10 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL x 3). The combined organic layers were dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated under vacuum, and purified

by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH/AcOH, 95:5:0.5) to give **11** (28 mg, 90% for two steps) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  +5.0 (*c* 1.1, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 2:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.22 (bs, 1 H), 5.89 (d, 1 H, J = 10.4 Hz), 4.10 (t, 1 H, J = 10.8 Hz), 2.70 (s, 3 H), 2.32-2.23 (m, 1 H), 2.17 (s, 3 H), 1.71-1.66 (m, 1 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 0.97 (d, 3 H, J = 6.3 Hz), 0.86 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  171.5, 170.1, 163.4, 156.4, 146.9, 128.2, 79.5, 69.5, 65.8, 56.5, 34.8, 30.5, 28.4, 20.8, 20.6, 20.0, 19.5, 15.2; Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  5.98-5.95 (m, 1 H), 3.81-3.75 (m, 1 H), 2.64 (s, 3 H), 2.11 (s, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  175.9, 170.6, 169.4, 156.5, 80.0, 70.7, 30.7, 29.7, 28.5, 20.9, 20.3, 19.7; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3119, 2972, 1744, 1689, 1484, 1391, 1368, 1221, 1158; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>NaS (M+Na) 423.1566, found 423.1608.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{Ph} \\
\text{Boc}_2\text{N} \\
\end{array}$$

**Di-tert-butyl** (2*R*,4*S*)-5-hydroxy-4-methyl-1-phenylpentan-2-yliminodicarbonate (14). To a solution of 12<sup>4</sup> (1.0 g, 1.9 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 mL) cooled in a dry ice/acetone bath was added butyllithium (1.6 M solution in hexanes, 1.8 mL, 2.5 mmol) dropwise over 5 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min before a solution of di*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (0.75 g, 3.3 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) was introduced in one portion. The solution was stirred further overnight, and the temperature was allowed to gradually rise to room temperature. The reaction was quenched with saturated ammonium chloride (10 mL), and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL x 2). The

combined organic layers were washed with hydrochloric acid (1 N, 10 mL) and brine (10 mL x 2), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated under vacuum to give a colorless oil which was used without further purification.

A solution of this oil in THF (2 mL) was treated with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (1.0 M solution in THF, 4.0 mL, 4.0 mmol) at room temperature overnight. The mixture was then diluted with ethyl acetate (70 mL), washed with brine (10 mL x 2), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:1) to give **14** (0.44 g, 59% for two steps) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ -69.2 (c 1.5, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>);  $^1$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.28-7.15 (m, 5 H), 4.55-4.46 (m, 1 H), 3.56-3.44 (m, 2 H), 3.18 (dd, 1 H, J = 13.4 Hz, 9.7 Hz), 2.82 (dd, 1 H, J = 13.4, 5.9 Hz), 1.88-1.61 (m, 3 H), 1.40 (s, 18 H), 0.96 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  153.5, 139.0, 129.4, 128.2, 126.1, 81.9, 67.8, 57.5, 40.2, 36.3, 32.9, 27.9, 17.6; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3436, 2978, 2932, 1738, 1699, 1346, 1145; MS (ESI) m/z 416 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>); HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{22}H_{35}NO_5Na$  (M+Na) 416.2413, found 416.2435.

$$\begin{array}{c} Ph \\ Boc_2N \\ \hline \\ 15 \\ \end{array}$$

### (2S,4R)-Allyl 4-(bis(tert-butoxycarbonyl)amino)-2-methyl-5-phenylpentanoate (15).

Alcohol **14** (0.39 g, 1.0 mmol) was oxidized by the same two-step sequence as described for **10** to give the corresponding crude carboxylic acid (0.68 g) as a colorless oil. A solution of this oil in DMF (3 mL) was mixed with cesium carbonate (0.91 g, 2.8 mmol) and allyl bromide (1.0 mL, 11.5 mmol), stirred overnight, diluted in water (15 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL x 2). The combined organic layers were washed with

brine (15 mL x 2), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated under vacuum, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:7) to give **15** (0.36 g, 81% for three steps) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  -26.7 (c 1.0, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.27-7.17 (m, 5 H), 5.94-5.85 (m, 1 H), 5.32-5.18 (m, 2 H), 4.65-4.45 (m, 3 H), 3.16 (dd, 1 H, J = 13.4, 9.6 Hz), 2.83 (dd, 1 H, J = 13.5, 6.1 Hz), 2.54 (sextet, 1 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.05-2.00 (m, 2 H), 1.40 (s, 18 H), 1.20 (d, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  175.7, 153.1, 138.7, 132.5, 129.4, 128.2, 126.2, 117.8, 81.8, 65.0, 57.3, 40.0, 36.8, 36.3, 27.9, 18.3; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 2979, 2935, 1738, 1701, 1456, 1345, 1228, 1145; MS (ESI) m/z 470 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>37</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na (M+Na) 470.2519, found 470.2516.

**4-(2-((1R,3R)-1-acetoxy-3-(tert-butoxycarbonyl(methyl)amino)-4-methylpentyl)thiazole-4-carboxamido)-2-methyl-5-phenylpentanoate** (**16**). To a solution of **15** (0.20 g, 0.45 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (1 mL, 13 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h, diluted with ethyl acetate (60 mL), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (15 mL x 2), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated under vacuum to give the crude amine (0.13 g, 100%) as a colorless oil: MS (ESI) m/z 248 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

To a solution of **11** (82 mg, 0.21 mmol) and triethylamine (0.06 mL, 0.45 mmol) in anhydrous THF (4 mL) cooled to -20 °C was added dropwise isobutyl chloroformate (0.05 mL, 0.37 mmol), and the resulting white suspension was stirred further for 30 min. A solution of the above crude amine (0.13 g, 0.45 mmol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL) was

then added via cannula, and the mixture was stirred overnight, allowing the temperature to gradually rise to room temperature. The mixture was then diluted with ethyl acetate (70 mL), washed with brine (15 mL x 2), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:2) to give **16** (0.10 g, 76% for two steps) as a white solid: Mp 105.1-107.0 °C;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  +9.9 (c 0.81, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 3:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.05 (s, 1 H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 5 H), 7.16 (d, 1 H, J = 9.2 Hz), 5.99-5.89 (m, 1 H), 5.84 (dd, 1 H, J = 11.7 Hz, 3.0 Hz), 5.32 (d, 1 H, J = 17.4 Hz), 5.23 (d, 1 H, J = 10.2Hz), 4.59 (d, 2 H, J = 5.4 Hz), 4.50-4.43 (m, 1 H), 4.13 (dt, 1 H, J = 11.1, 3.9 Hz), 3.04-2.89 (m, 2 H), 2.76 (s, 3 H), 2.70 (m, 1 H), 2.38-2.29 (m, 1 H), 2.20 (s, 3 H), 2.12-2.01 (m, 2 H), 1.79-1.63 (m, 2 H), 1.49 (s, 9 H), 1.23 (d, 3 H, <math>J = 7.0 Hz), 1.05 (d, 3 H, J = 6.7)Hz), 0.93 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  175.7, 170.4, 170.1, 160.3, 156.2, 150.0, 137.6, 132.3, 129.5, 128.4, 126.5, 123.2, 117.8, 79.4, 70.8, 69.2, 65.1, 56.4, 48.4, 41.1, 37.7, 36.6, 35.0, 30.4, 28.4, 20.8, 20.0, 19.6, 17.7. Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 2.71 (s, 3 H), 2.21 (s, 3 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 169.4, 150.2, 137.7, 129.4, 123.1, 79.7, 48.5, 41.3, 37.8, 35.5, 30.6, 28.2, 20.9, 20.3, 19.7, 17.8; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3391, 3306, 2971, 2933, 1735, 1686, 1540, 1367, 1164; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>47</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>S 629.3135, found 629.3132.

**Fmoc-Ile-F**. To a solution of Fmoc-Ile-OH (3.5 g, 10.0 mmol) and pyridine (0.81 mL, 10.0 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (60 mL) was added via cannula a solution of

(diethylamino)sulfur trifluoride (1.6 mL, 12.1 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) over 10 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min, diluted with dichloromethane (40 mL), washed with ice-cold water (100 mL x 2), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, concentrated, and recrystallized from dichloromethane/hexanes to give the acyl fluoride (2.8 g, 80%) as a white solid: Mp 113.1-114.4 °C (lit. 5b 115-116 °C);  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  +15.9 (c 0.51, EtOAc) (lit. 5b  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  +15.6 (c 0.51, EtOAc)); H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.79 (d, 2 H, J = 7.6 Hz), 7.61 (d, 2 H, J = 7.2 Hz), 7.43 (t, 2 H, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.34 (dt, 2 H, J = 7.4, 1.1 Hz), 5.27 (d, 1 H, J = 8.7 Hz), 4.55 (dd, 1 H, J = 8.7, 4.5 Hz), 4.48 (d, 2 H, J = 6.8 Hz), 4.25 (t, 1 H, J = 6.7 Hz), 2.05-1.95 (m, 1 H), 1.55-1.44 (m, 1 H), 1.35-1.21 (m, 1 H), 1.04 (d, 3 H, J = 6.8 Hz), 0.99 (t, 3 H, J = 7.4 Hz);  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  162.3 (d, J = 372.1 Hz), 155.9, 143.6, 143.5, 141.3, 127.8, 127.1, 124.9, 120.0, 67.2, 57.5 (d, J = 57.2 Hz), 47.1, 37.1, 25.0, 15.4, 11.4;  $^{19}$ F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 282 MHz)  $\delta$  (CFCl<sub>3</sub> as the external standard) 34.8; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3324, 2968, 1843, 1705, 1520, 1451, 1256, 1082; MS (ESI) m/z 378 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>).

(2S,4R)-Allyl 4-(2-((5S,8R,10R)-5-sec-butyl-1-(9H-fluoren-9-yl)-8-isopropyl- 7-methyl-3,6,12-trioxo-2,11-dioxa-4,7-diazatridecan-10-yl)thiazole-4-carboxamido)-2-methyl-5-phenylpentanoate (17). To a solution of 16 (53 mg, 84 μmol) in dichloromethane (2 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (0.3 mL, 3.9 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 h, diluted with ethyl acetate (60 mL), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (15 mL x 2), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated

under vacuum to give the crude amine (56 mg) as a colorless oil: MS (ESI) m/z 552 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 530 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

A solution of this amine (56 mg, 84 µmol) in anhydrous DMF (0.5 mL) was treated with disopropylethylamine (0.05 mL, 0.28 mmol) and Fmoc-Ile-F (0.10 g, 0.28 mmol), stirred at room temperature for 18 h, diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (10 mL) and brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated under vacuum, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:1) to give 17 (58 mg, 80%) as a colorless syrup:  $[\alpha]_D^{23} + 0.29$  (c 0.70, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  8.02 (s, 1 H), 7.77 (d, 2 H, J = 7.4 Hz), 7.59 (d, 2 H, J = 6.8 Hz), 7.41 (t, 2 H, J =7.3 Hz), 7.34-7.22 (m, 7 H), 7.11 (d, 1 H, J = 9.2 Hz), 5.94-5.82 (m, 1 H), 5.65 (d, 1 H, J= 9.3 Hz), 5.44 (d, 1 H, J = 9.6 Hz), 5.28 (dd, 1 H, J = 17.2, 1.4 Hz), 5.20 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.44 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.44 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.45 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.45 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.46 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.46 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.47 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.48 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.48 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.49 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.49 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.49 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.40 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 5.40 (d, 1 H, J = 17.2), 6.40 (d, 1 H, 10.4 Hz), 4.58-4.54 (m, 3 H), 4.44-4.32 (m, 3 H), 4.14 (t, 1 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 3.00 (s, 3 H), 2.96-2.86 (m, 2 H), 2.70-2.60 (m, 1 H), 2.38-2.31 (m, 1 H), 2.19 (s, 3 H), 2.11-2.00 (m, 3 H), 1.77-1.61 (m, 3 H), 1.20 (d, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.04 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.00 (d, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.05 (d, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.05 (d, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.06 (d, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.07 (d, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.08 (d, 3 H, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.09 (d, 3 H, J = 7= 6.7 Hz), 0.94 (t, 3 H, J = 7.3 Hz), 0.83 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 75 MHz) δ 175.7, 173.6, 170.0, 169.9, 160.2, 156.3, 150.0, 143.9, 143.7, 141.3, 141.2, 137.5, 132.2, 129.6, 128.4, 127.6, 127.0, 126.5, 125.1, 125.0, 123.4, 119.9, 117.9, 69.5, 67.0, 65.1, 55.8, 48.3, 47.2, 41.0, 37.6, 37.3, 36.6, 34.6, 29.9, 29.6, 23.8, 20.8, 20.1, 19.5, 17.6, 16.0, 11.2; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3291, 2966, 2935, 1717, 1645, 1538, 1495, 1410, 1222; MS (ESI) m/z 887 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 865 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

 $N^{14}$ -Desacetoxytubulysin H trifluoroacetic acid salt (1). To a solution of 17 (17 mg, 20 µmol) in dichloromethane (0.5 mL) was added tris(2-aminoethyl)amine (0.05 mL, 0.33 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h, diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL), washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate (5 mL) and brine (5 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated under vacuum to give the crude amine (14 mg) as a colorless oil: MS (ESI) m/z 665 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 643 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

To a mixture of *N*-methyl-p-pipecolinic acid (9 mg, 63  $\mu$ mol) (prepared<sup>6</sup> from p-pipecolinic acid) and *N*,*N*'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (18 mg, 86  $\mu$ mol) in anhydrous DMF (0.4 mL) was added pentafluorophenol (12 mg, 65  $\mu$ mol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, filtered through a 0.2  $\mu$ m Millex micro-filter unit to give a clear solution, and added to the crude amine (14 mg, ~20  $\mu$ mol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (1:1 EtOAc/hexanes to wash out less polar impurities, followed by 2% MeOH in EtOAc to elute the product) to give the crude allyl ester of **1** (15 mg) as a yellow oil: MS (ESI) m/z 790 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 768 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

A solution of this allyl ester (15 mg, <20 μmol)), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (3 mg, 2.6 μmol) and dimedone (11 mg, 78 μmol) in THF (0.5 mL) under an Ar atmosphere was stirred at room temperature overnight. After evaporation of the volatiles, the residue was purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (1:1 EtOAc/hexanes to wash out less polar impurities, followed by 10% MeOH

in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to elute the product) to give a yellow oil. Further purification by semipreparative HPLC (Dynamax Microsorb C-18 column, 250 mm × 10 mm; methanol/0.1% TFA in water; methanol gradient from 60% to 99% over 30 min; 2 mL/min) gave 1 (7.1) mg, 44% for three steps) as a colorless syrup:  $\tau_R = 19.8$  min;  $[\alpha]_D^{23}$  -17.4 (c 0.46, MeOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  8.63 (d, 1 H, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.09 (s, 1 H), 8.07 (bs, 1 H), 7.24-7.23 (m, 4 H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 1 H), 5.72 (dd, 1 H, J = 11.0, 2.5 Hz), 4.74-4.70 (m, 1 H), 4.42-4.36 (m, 2 H), 3.75 (dd, 1 H, J = 12.8, 3.8 Hz), 3.49-3.45 (m, 1 H), 3.12 (s, 3 H), 3.11-3.04 (m, 1 H), 2.90 (dd, 2 H, J = 6.8, 3.2 Hz), 2.74 (s, 3 H), 2.58-2.53 (m, 1 H), 2.39 (ddd, 1 H, J = 14.5, 11.5, 3.2 Hz), 2.33-2.28 (m, 1 H), 2.18-2.16 (m, 1 H), 2.15 (s, 3 H), 2.01 (ddd, 1 H, J = 14.0, 10.0, 4.0 Hz), 1.95-1.89 (m, 4 H), 1.81-1.74 (m, 2 H), 1.67 (ddd, 1 H, J = 14.4, 10.1, 4.5 Hz), 1.61-1.56 (m, 2 H), 1.23-1.20 (m, 1 H), 1.17 (d, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.04 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.01 (d, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.94 (t, 3 H, J = 7.2Hz), 0.85 (d, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD, 75 MHz)  $\delta$  179.9, 174.6, 171.8, 171.6, 169.2, 162.8, 150.8, 139.5, 130.5, 129.3, 127.4, 125.1, 71.2, 68.0, 58.4, 56.2, 56.0, 50.7, 42.9, 42.2, 39.1, 37.8, 37.4, 35.6, 30.9, 30.2, 25.2, 24.0, 22.3, 20.8, 20.5, 20.3, 18.5, 16.2, 11.3; IR (film, cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3258, 2964, 2929, 2877, 1735, 1676, 1546, 1373, 1446, 1373, 1204, 1134; MS (ESI) m/z 750 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 728 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>); HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{38}H_{55}N_5O_6S$ (M-H<sub>2</sub>O) 709.3873, found 709.3863.

#### Determination of the Absolute Configurations of 9a and 9b

To determine the absolute configurations of  $\bf 9a$  and  $\bf 9b$ , a double derivatization of each epimer with (R)- and (S)- $\alpha$ -phenylacetic acid (MPA) was performed. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of both ester derivatives were recorded, and the  $\Delta \delta^{RS}$  ( $\delta^R$  -  $\delta^S$ ) for the hydrogens

on both sides of the stereogenic carbon was calculated. The two substituents on the stereogenic carbon were then designated as  $L_1$  ( $\Delta\delta^{RS} > 0$ ) and  $L_2$  ( $\Delta\delta^{RS} < 0$ ) and fitted to the following model to determine the absolute configuration.<sup>7</sup>

$$RO$$
  $H$   $L_1$   $L_2$   $\Delta\delta^{RS}$  signs +

(*R*)-((1*S*,3*R*)-3-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl(methyl)amino)-1-(4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)thiazol-2-yl)-4-methylpentyl) 2-methoxy-2-phenylacetate (18). To a solution of (*R*)-(-)-α-phenylacetic acid (10 mg, 60 μmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (0.05 mL) was added thionyl chloride (0.05 mL, 0.68 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The solvent and excess thionyl chloride were removed by vacuum, and the residue was redissolved in anhydrous dichloromethane (0.2 mL) and added via syringe to a solution of 9a (5 mg, 11 μmol), DMAP (1 mg, 9 μmol), and pyridine (46 mg, 0.58 mmol) in dichloromethane. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, treated with saturated sodium bicarbonate (5 mL), extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL), washed with brine (10 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), concentrated, and purified by chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (EtOAc/hexanes, 1:10) to give 18 (4.4 mg, 67%) as a colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 1.5:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 7.48-7.34 (m, 5 H), 7.21 (s, 1

H), 5.95 (quintet, 1 H, J = 4.6 Hz), 4.85 (s, 2 H), 4.77 (s, 1 H), 3.62 (bs, 1 H), 3.39 (s, 3 H), 2.62 (s, 3 H), 2.47-2.35 (m, 1 H), 1.97-1.60 (m, 2 H), 1.27 (s, 9 H), 0.96 (s, 9 H), 0.86 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.75 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.12 (s, 6 H); Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.16 (s, 1 H), 4.84 (s, 2 H), 4.81 (s, 1 H), 3.40 (s, 3 H), 2.52 (s, 3 H), 1.41 (s, 9 H), 0.95 (s, 9 H), 0.80 (d, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.72 (d, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.12 (s, 6 H); MS (ESI) m/z 629 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 607 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

(*S*)-((1*S*,3*R*)-3-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl(methyl)amino)-1-(4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl-oxy)methyl)thiazol-2-yl)-4-methylpentyl) 2-methoxy-2-phenylacetate (19). According to the protocol used for 18, 9a (7 mg, 15 μmol) provided 19 (7.4 mg, 80%) as a colorless oil.  $^{1}$ H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 1.6:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 7.43-7.32 (m, 5 H), 7.06 (s, 1 H), 6.00-5.98 (m, 1 H), 4.80 (s, 1 H), 4.78 (d, 2 H, J = 1.0 Hz), 3.78 (bs, 1 H), 3.40 (s, 3 H), 2.73 (s, 3 H), 2.52-2.43 (m, 1 H), 2.21-2.04 (m, 1 H), 1.75-1.65 (m, 1 H), 1.44 (s, 9 H), 0.95-0.93 (m, 12 H), 0.81 (d, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.10 (s, 6 H); Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer:  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz) δ 7.02 (s, 1 H), 4.88 (s, 1 H), 4.77 (d, 2 H, J = 0.5 Hz), 3.43 (s, 3 H), 2.57 (s, 3 H), 1.34 (s, 9 H), 0.80 (d, 3 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.09 (s, 6 H); MS (ESI) m/z 629 (M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 607 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

(*R*)-((1*R*,3*R*)-3-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl(methyl)amino)-1-(4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)thiazol-2-yl)-4-methylpentyl) 2-methoxy-2-phenylacetate (20). According to the protocol used for 18, 9b (5 mg, 11  $\mu$ mol) was converted into colorless, oily 20 (4.1 mg, 62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 2.6:1 mixture of rotamers. Major rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.45-7.32 (m, 5 H), 6.93 (t, 1 H, *J* = 1.2 Hz), 5.88 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 11.2, 2.8 Hz), 4.97 (s, 1 H), 4.74 (s, 2 H), 4.08-4.04 (m, 1 H), 3.48 (s, 3 H), 2.70 (s, 3 H), 2.25-2.15 (m, 1 H), 2.09-2.03 (m, 1 H), 1.72-1.67 (m, 1 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H), 0.96 (d, 3 H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.92 (s, 9 H), 0.88 (d, 3 H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.07 (s, 6 H); Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  6.98 (s, 1 H), 6.00 (t, 1 H, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 4.84 (s, 1 H), 3.39 (s, 3 H), 2.65 (s, 3 H), 1.43 (s, 9 H), 0.92 (s, 9 H), 0.84 (d, 6 H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.09 (s, 6 H); MS (ESI) *m*/*z* 629 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), 607 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>).

(S)-((1R,3R)-3-(tert-Butoxycarbonyl(methyl)amino)-1-(4-((tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)thiazol-2-yl)-4-methylpentyl) 2-methoxy-2-phenylacetate (21). According to the protocol used for 18, 9b (5.4 mg, 12 μmol) was converted into colorless, oily 21 (5.4 mg, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis at room temperature showed a 1.1:1 mixture of

rotamers. Major rotamer:  ${}^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz)  $\delta$  7.51-7.32 (m, 5 H), 7.09 (s, 1 H), 5.92 (t, 1 H, J = 6.8 Hz), 4.87 (s, 1 H), 4.82 (d, 2 H, J = 1.0 Hz), 3.43 (s, 3 H), 2.71-2.62 (m, 1 H), 2.51 (s, 3 H), 2.28-2.15 (m, 2 H), 1.78-1.63 (m, 1 H), 1.42 (s, 9 H), 0.95 (s, 9 H), 0.87 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.79 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.12 (s, 6 H); Characteristic signals of the minor rotamer: 7.13 (s, 1 H), 5.96-5.95 (m, 1 H), 4.85 (s, 1 H), 4.83 (d, 2 H, J = 1.0 Hz), 3.51 (s, 3 H), 1.37 (s, 9 H), 0.81 (d, 3 H, J = 6.5 Hz), 0.74 (d, 3 H, J = 6.0 Hz), 0.11 (s, 6 H); MS (ESI) m/z 629 ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>).

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
e & d \\
O & OR \\
\hline
N & b' \\
S & a' \\
\end{array}$$
Si
$$\begin{array}{c}
d' \\
C'
\end{array}$$

<sup>1</sup> H	b	d	e	f	g	a'	b'	c'	ď'
$\delta^R$ (18)	3.62	0.86	0.75	2.62	1.27	7.21	4.85	0.12	0.96
	(-)	(0.80)	(0.72)	(2.52)	(1.41)	(7.16)	(4.84)	(0.12)	(0.95)
δ <sup>S</sup> (19)	3.78	0.94	0.81	2.73	1.44	7.06	4.78	0.10	0.94
	(-)	(0.93)	(0.80)	(2.57)	(1.34)	(7.02)	(4.77)	(0.09)	(-)
$\Delta \delta^{RS}$	-0.16	-0.08	-0.06	-0.11	-0.17	0.15	0.07	0.02	0.02
$(\delta^R - \delta^S)$	(-)	(-0.13)	(-0.08)	(-0.05)	(0.07)	(0.14)	(0.07)	(0.03)	(-)

**Table 1**. Proton chemical shifts differences between **18** and **19**. The values in parentheses are characteristic signals of the minor rotamers.

<sup>1</sup> H	d	e	f	g	a'	b'	c'	ď'
$\delta^R$ (20)	0.96	0.88	2.70	1.47	6.93	4.74	0.07	0.92
	(-)	(0.84)	(2.65)	(1.43)	(6.98)	(-)	(0.09)	(0.92)
$\delta^{S}(21)$	0.87	0.79	2.51	1.42	7.09	4.82	0.12	0.95
(21)	(0.81)	(0.74)	(-)	(1.37)	(7.13)	(4.83)	(0.11)	(-)
$\Delta \delta^{RS}$	0.09	0.09	0.19	0.05	-0.16	-0.08	-0.05	-0.03
	(-)	(0.10)	(-)	(0.06)	(-0.15)	(-)	(-0.02)	(-)

**Table 2**. Proton chemical shifts differences between **20** and **21**. The values in parentheses are characteristic signals of the minor rotamers.

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