Significance: Overexpression of the antiapoptotic protein Mcl-1 benefits survival of some cancer cells. The target molecule R is an inhibitor of Mcl-1. A key step in the synthesis depicted is the macrocyclization of diene J by ring-closing metathesis.

Comment: The addition of Reformatsky reagent F to the keto group in E generated a mixture of diastereoisomers G (dr = 2:1) that was later separated by column chromatography to give the desired diastereoisomer K.