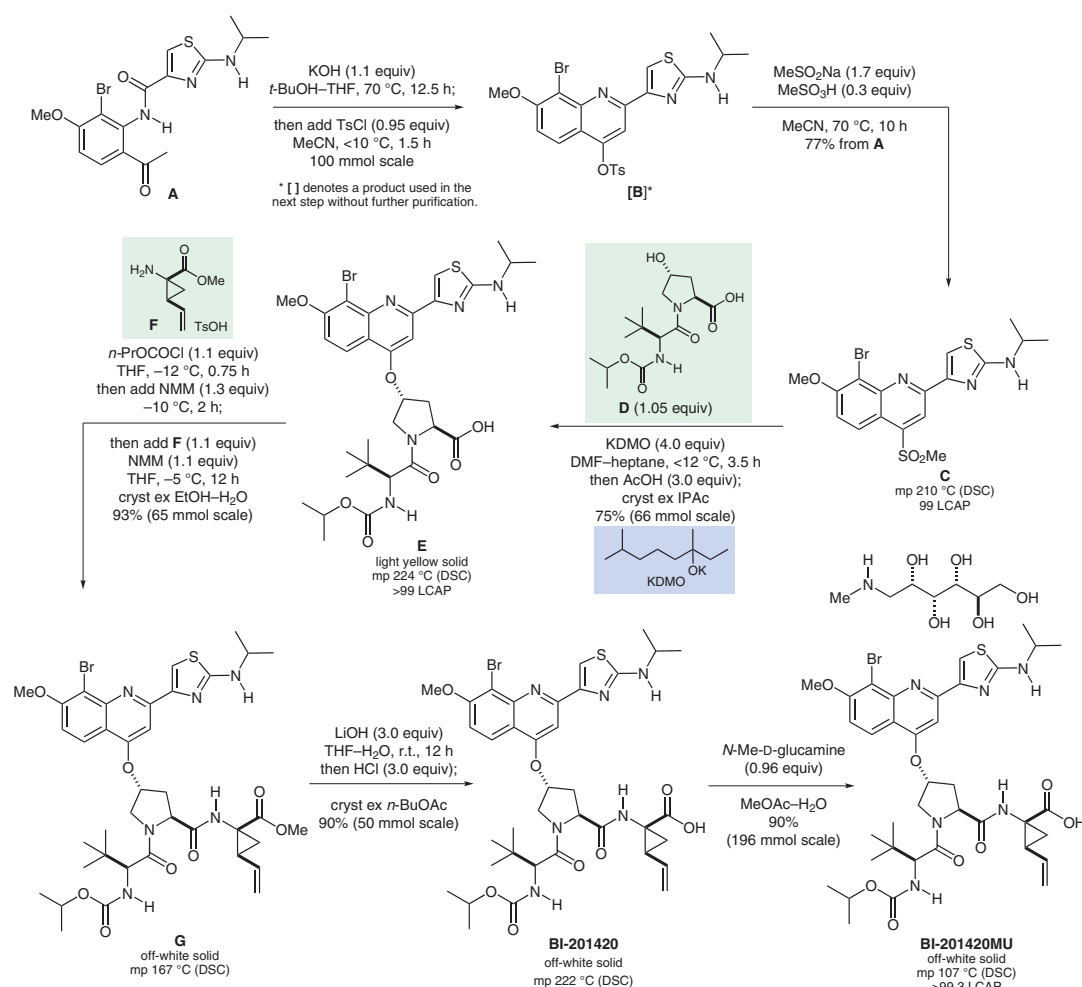


Synthesis of BI 201420



Significance: A new method for the synthesis of 4-quinolinyln ethers has been applied to BI 201420, an HCV NS3/4a protease inhibitor. In the key step, methylsulfone **C** underwent an S_NAr reaction with alcohol **D** in the presence of potassium 3,7-dimethyloctan-3-oxide (KDMO, 4.0 equiv) to give 4-quinolinyln ether **E** in 75% yield. Scoping studies revealed that 1°, 2°, 3°, allylic, and propargylic alcohols participate (20 examples).

Comment: The corresponding S_NAr reaction of 4-chloroquinolines with alcohols is sluggish, even with excess base (>5.0 equiv), and significant decomposition of starting material and product are observed during the long reaction times (12–24 h). Extensive optimization of solvent and reaction conditions failed to produce the desired 4-quinolinyln ethers in reasonable yield and quality.