

Rapamycin or “sirolimus” (brand name: Rapamune).

- METEI (Medical Expedition to Easter Island), a Canadian-led expedition to **Easter Island** in 1964, led to the discovery of rapamycinthis.
- Discovered as an antibiotic produced by an aerobic Gram-positive soil bacterium, specifically *Streptomyces hydropiscus* AY B-994 [NRRL 5491].
- Immunosuppressant & antiproliferative effects.
- FDA approved (1999), treat kidney cancer (2007), “fountain of youth” (2009). Now owned by Pfizer.



METEI logo and inscription by Georges Nogrady



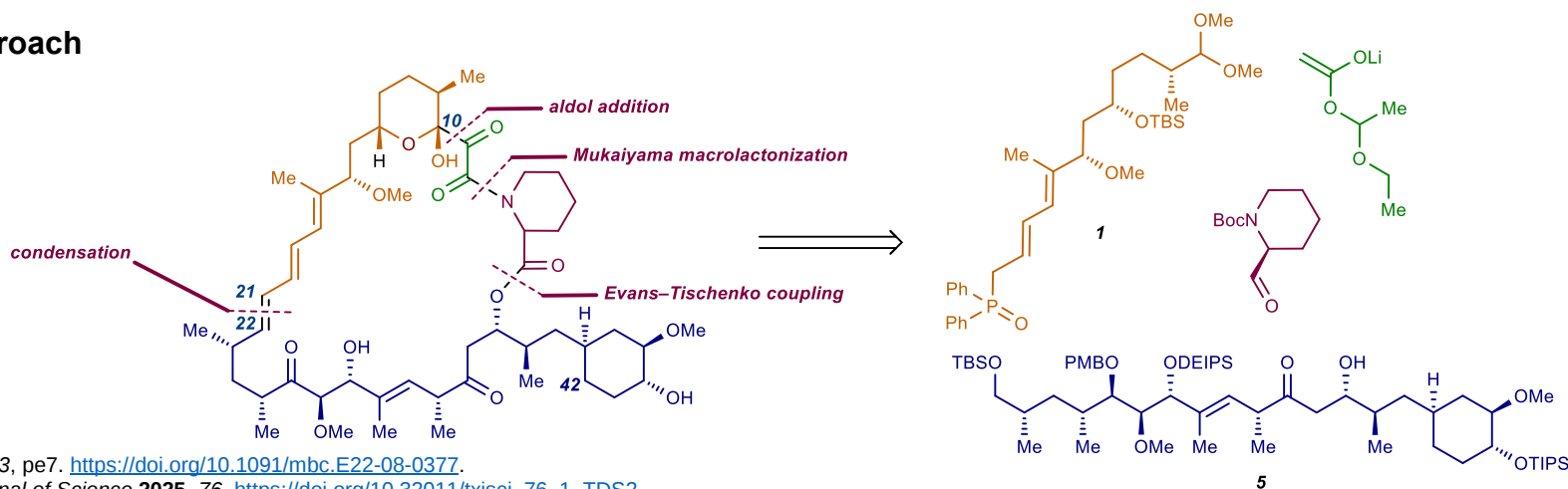
Team Rapamycin Celebration Dinner (1993)

with Stephanie Meyer, Daniel Romo, Laura Romo, Donna Johnson, Stuart Schreiber (left to right; inset: Dr. Tetsuo Miwa who had returned to Japan).

Total Syntheses of Rapamycin

- Nicolaou, K. C.; Chakraborty, T. K.; Piscopio, A. D.; Minowa, N.; Bertinato, P. J. *Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 4419–4420. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja00063a093>.
- Romo, D.; Meyer, S. D.; Johnson, D. D.; Schreiber, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 7906–7907. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja00070a058>.
- Hayward, C. M.; Yohannes, D.; Danishefsky, S. J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 9345–9346. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja00073a083>.
- Smith, A. B.; Condon, S. M.; McCauley, J. A.; Leazer, J. L.; Leahy, J. W.; Maleczka, R. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1997**, *119*, 962–973. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja963067o>.
- Ley, S. V.; Tackett, M. N.; Maddess, M. L.; Anderson, J. C.; Brennan, P. E.; Cappi, M. W.; Heer, J. P.; Helgen, C.; Kori, M.; Kouklovsky, C.; Marsden, S. P.; Norman, J.; Osborn, D. P.; Palomero, M. Á.; Pavey, J. B. J.; Pinel, C.; Robinson, L. A.; Schnaubelt, J.; Scott, J. S.; Spilling, C. D.; Watanabe, H.; Wesson, K. E.; Willis, M. C. *Chem. - Eur. J.* **2009**, *15*, 2874–2914. <https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.200801656>.

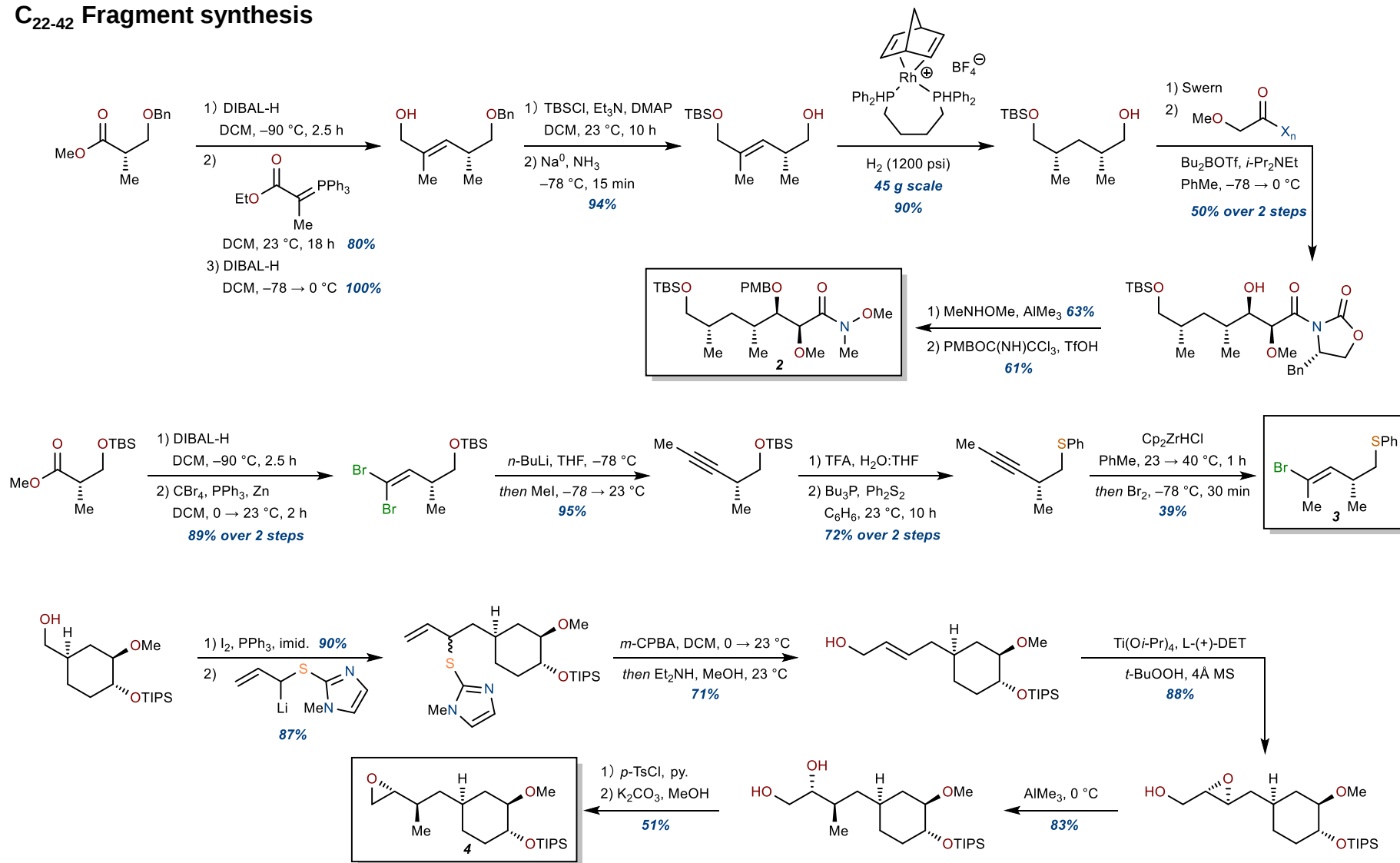
Schreiber's Approach

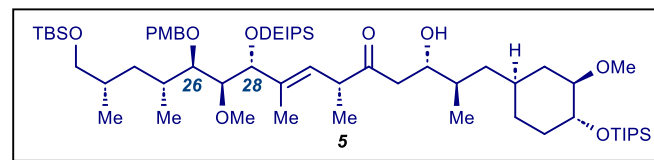


Powers, T. *MBoc* **2022**, *33*, pe7. <https://doi.org/10.1091/mbc.E22-08-0377>.

Romo, D. *The Texas Journal of Science* **2025**, *76*. <https://doi.org/10.32011/tjxsci.76.1.TDS2>.

Meyer, S. D.; Miwa, T.; Nakatsuka, M.; Schreiber, S. L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1992**, 57, 5058–5060. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jo00045a007>.

C₂₂-42 Fragment synthesis



Chemical reaction scheme showing the ozonolysis of rapamycin and its derivative.

The reaction is catalyzed by O_3 and DMS.

The starting material is rapamycin (R = H) or a rapamycin derivative (R = TBS).

The reaction results in the cleavage of the macrocyclic structure, yielding fragments labeled 10, 21, 22, 26, 28, and 42.

The fragments are shown with their respective stereochemistry and functional groups (e.g., ketone, alcohol, ether, ester).

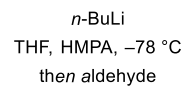
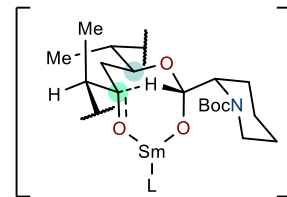
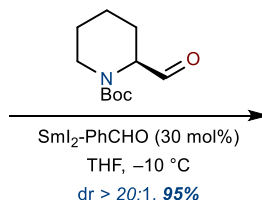
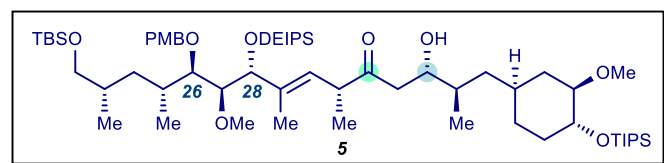
The reaction is labeled **ozonolysis**.

Legend:

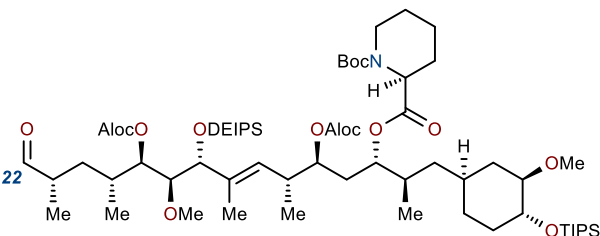
- rapamycin, R = H
- rapamycin derivative, R = TBS

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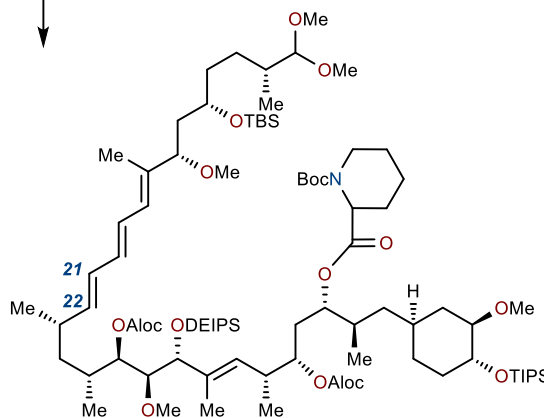
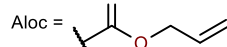
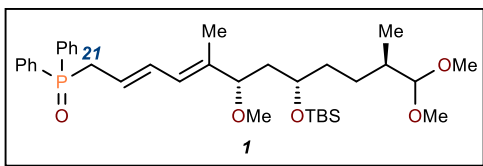
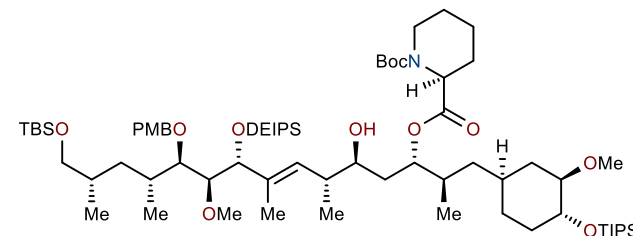
Fragments Assembling – Endgame



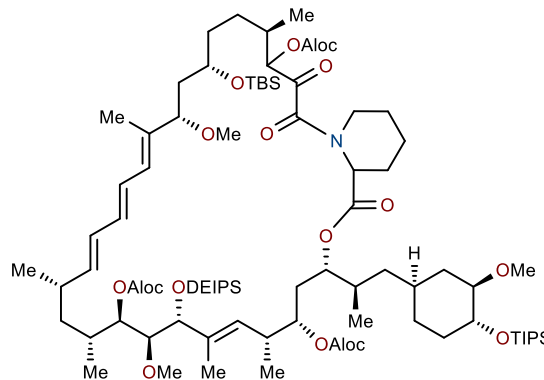
12:1 *trans:cis*, **71%**



- 1) DDQ, NaHCO_3
- 2) Aloc-Cl, py, 2,6-lutidine
THF, **87% over 2 steps**
- 3) PPTS, TsOH (4:1)
THF/ H_2O (20:1)
71% (86% brsm)
- 4) Swern **96%**



- 1) PPTS, acetone, 43°C **56%**
- 2) i.
THF, -78°C
ii. Aloc-Cl, 2,6-lutidine, $-78 \rightarrow 23^\circ\text{C}$
- 3) TESOTf, 2,6-lutidine, DCM, 0°C
- 4)
dr 1:1, **40% over 3 steps**



- 1) $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$, HCO_2NH_4 , THF
- 2) DMP
- 3) HF-py, py, THF

rapamycin

Evans-Tischenko fragment coupling: Evans, D. A.; Hoveyda, A. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1990**, *112*, 6447–6449. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja00173a071>.

Mukaiyama macrolactonization: Bald, E.; Saigo, K.; Mukaiyama, T. *Chemistry Letters* **1975**, *4*, 1163–1166. <https://doi.org/10.1246/cl.1975.1163>.

Romo, D.; Meyer, S. D.; Johnson, D. D.; Schreiber, S. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 7906–7907. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ja00070a058>.