

## Anti-metastatic Inhibitors of Lysyl Oxidase (LOX): Design and Structure-Activity Relationships

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# Anti-metastatic Inhibitors of Lysyl Oxidase (LOX): Design and Structure-Activity Relationships

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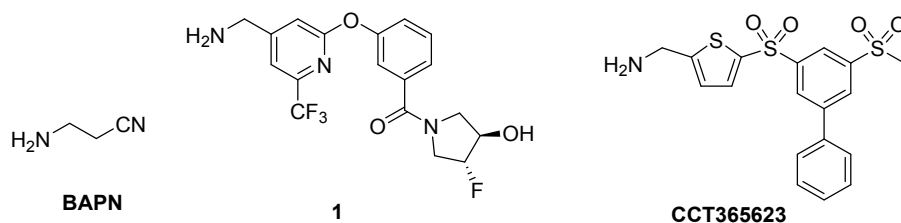
**ABSTRACT.** Lysyl oxidase (LOX) is a secreted copper-dependent amine oxidase that crosslinks collagens and elastin in the extracellular matrix (ECM) and is a critical mediator of tumor growth and metastatic spread. LOX is a target for cancer therapy and thus the search for therapeutic agents against LOX has been widely sought. We report herein the medicinal chemistry discovery of a series of LOX inhibitors bearing an aminomethylenethiophene (AMT) scaffold. High throughput screening (HTS) provided the initial hits. Structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies led to the discovery of AMT inhibitors with sub-micromolar half maximal inhibitory concentrations (IC<sub>50</sub>) in a LOX enzyme activity assay. Further SAR optimization yielded the orally bioavailable LOX inhibitor **CCT365623** with good anti-LOX potency, selectivity, pharmacokinetic properties, as well as anti-metastatic efficacy.

## INTRODUCTION

Lysyl oxidase (LOX) and its family members LOX-like (LOX-L) 1-4 are copper-dependent amine oxidases that covalently crosslink collagens and elastin in the tumor extracellular matrix.<sup>1-4</sup> LOX is secreted as a catalytically inactive 50 kDa pro-protein, which is cleaved to an active 32 kDa enzyme by proteases such as procollagen C-proteinase. LOX and LOXL1-4 have variable N-termini and they share a highly conserved C-terminus, where the catalytic domain is located. The catalytic site comprises a copper binding motif and a covalently bound lysine tyrosylquinone (LTQ) cofactor, where peptidyl lysine residues ( $\text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{R}$ ) are converted to the corresponding  $\alpha$ -aminoadipic- $\delta$ -semialdehyde ( $\text{O}=\text{CHR}$ ) in an oxidative deamination reaction.<sup>3</sup> The newly formed aldehyde residues undergo spontaneous crosslinking with adjacent nucleophilic functionalities, leading to the insoluble extracellular protein matrices.

LOX and LOXL2 also have important roles in promoting tumor growth in many types of cancer.<sup>5-12</sup> In particular, LOX has been demonstrated to be a critical mediator of cancer metastasis.<sup>13</sup> Therapeutic agents targeting the activity of LOX are thus proposed as cancer treatments, especially against metastasis where no effective therapeutic methods are currently available.

**Figure 1.** Small Molecule Inhibitors of LOX Family Enzymes



Until recently, no drug-like small molecule inhibitors of LOX itself have been reported. Noticeably, the irreversible inhibitor  $\beta$ -aminopropionitrile<sup>14,15</sup> (BAPN) has found widespread applications in LOX-family-related biological studies (Figure 1), although the lack of amenable sites for chemical modification has prevented its development into a clinically optimal drug. More recently, haloallylamine-based inhibitor PXS-S1A and PXS-S2A (full structure not disclosed),<sup>16</sup> and

trifluoromethyl (CF<sub>3</sub>) substituted aminomethylenepyridine **1** were reported to be potent selective inhibitors of one of the family members, LOXL2, the latter also showed weak inhibition against LOX.<sup>17,18</sup> Intriguingly, analogs of pyridine **1** without the CF<sub>3</sub> functionality were less selective towards LOXL2, with low micromolar IC<sub>50</sub>s against LOX.

We have recently reported the elucidation of a mechanism by which LOX drives tumor progression in breast cancer,<sup>19</sup> and that treatment with the aminomethylenethiophene (AMT) inhibitor **CCT365623** (**9f**) led to significant reduction in tumor growth and importantly, in metastatic burden too, in a LOX dependent breast tumor transgenic mouse model. In our current study, we present the medicinal chemistry development leading to the discovery of the orally efficacious AMT inhibitor **9f**.

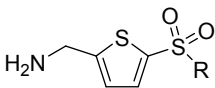
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**LOX Inhibition – initial SAR.** We ran a high throughput screen (HTS) at Evotec, of 267,000 diverse compounds and 5000 fragments, on LOX which yielded a hit rate of 0.4%. (5-(Piperidin-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine **2a** was identified as a positive hit with a mean IC<sub>50</sub> of 19 μM. Since no crystal structure of LOX is available, the design of inhibitors could not be aided by crystallographic or *in silico* methods. Therefore, the SAR of enzyme inhibition is largely elucidated by introducing systematic modifications to different regions of the hit molecule.

*Substitutions at the 5-Sulfonyl Linker – Sulfonamides.* SAR exploration commenced with the investigation of sulfonamide substitutions on LOX inhibition (Table 1). Acyclic sulfonamides show no improvement (**2b** and **2c** vs **2a**), while 2-amido- and 2-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine substitutions exhibit comparable or better LOX potencies (**2d** and **2e** vs **2a**). 2-Phenylpyrrolidine **2f** is also effective against LOX, as is the bicyclic indoline **2g** which is ~10 fold more potent than the piperidine hit **2a**. Similarly, tetrahydroquinoline **2h** is equipotent to indoline **2g**. Replacement of the piperidine ring with morpholine does not improve LOX inhibition (**2i** vs **2a**), whereas homopiperazine (**2j**) substitution leads to ~2 fold

improvement in IC<sub>50</sub>. Functionalization of the free homopiperazine nitrogen with small groups leads to gains in potency compared to the initial hit, as exemplified in *N*-methyl analog **2k**, ethyl urea **2l** and, in particular, sulfonamide **2m**.

**Table 1.** Effects of Sulfonamide Substitution on LOX Potency



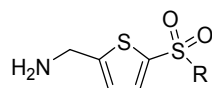
	R	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>		R	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>
<b>2a</b>		17, 21	<b>2h</b>		2.5, 2.7
<b>2b</b>		70, 72	<b>2i</b>		20, 25
<b>2c</b>		27, 31	<b>2j</b>		9.4, 12.7
<b>2d</b>		11, 13	<b>2k</b>		3.1, 3.1
<b>2e</b>		3.1, 3.3	<b>2l</b>		2.1 [1.3, 3.2]
<b>2f</b>		3.8, 3.8	<b>2m</b>		0.93 [0.74, 1.17]
<b>2g</b>		1.9 [1.2, 3.1]			

<sup>a</sup> Reported IC<sub>50</sub> values were determined in at least 2 separate experiments (*n* ≥ 2). When *n* = 2, individual IC<sub>50</sub> values are shown. When *n* > 2, the values are reported as the geometric mean with the error in square brackets expressed as the 95% confidence interval of the geometric mean.

*Substitution at the 5-Sulfonyl Linker – Sulfones.* The effect of alkyl and aryl substitutions at the 5-sulfonyl linker on LOX inhibition was investigated next (Table 2). Replacements of the piperidine moiety on HTS hit **2a** with cyclohexyl (**3a**) and phenyl groups (**3b**) are beneficial, as are pyridine (**3c**) and thiophene (**3d**). Biphenylsulfone is a weaker inhibitor than the phenyl analog (**3e** vs **3b**), while the 2-naphthalylsulfone **3g** is more potent than the 1-regioisomer **3f**. Methanesulfonamido-phenyl analog **3h**

moderately inhibits LOX, while methanesulfonylphenyl sulfone **3i** is an excellent LOX inhibitor with an  $IC_{50}$  of 0.26  $\mu M$ , ~70 fold more potent than the HTS hit **2a**. Replacement of the phenyl moiety of inhibitor **3i** with an alkyl group (**3j**) leads to a reduction in potency. The SAR data illustrate that the attachment of cyclic alkyl or aryl groups to the sulfonyl linker greatly improves LOX potency and the inhibitory effect is further enhanced by the addition of a second sulfonyl group.

**Table 2.** Effects of Sulfonyl-Alkyl and -Aryl Substitutions on LOX Potency



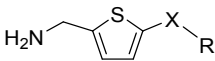
	R	LOX $IC_{50}$ ( $\mu M$ ) <sup>a</sup>		R	LOX $IC_{50}$ ( $\mu M$ ) <sup>a</sup>
<b>3a</b>		2.1 [0.65, 7.1]	<b>3f</b>		4.7 [3.3, 6.8]
<b>3b</b>		1.7 [1.4, 2.2]	<b>3g</b>		0.69 [0.093, 5.1]
<b>3c</b>		2.3 [1.2, 4.1]	<b>3h</b>		2.8 [1.8, 4.4]
<b>3d</b>		0.89, 1.3	<b>3i</b>		0.26 [0.15, 0.44]
<b>3e</b>		5.5, 7.3	<b>3j</b>		12, 13








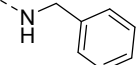

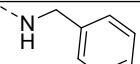


<sup>a</sup> Reported  $IC_{50}$  values were determined in at least 2 separate experiments ( $n \geq 2$ ). When  $n = 2$ , individual  $IC_{50}$  values are shown. When  $n > 2$ , the values are reported as the geometric mean with the error in square brackets expressed as the 95% confidence interval of the geometric mean.

**Modification of the 5-Sulfonyl Linker.** The impact of the sulfonyl linker was subsequently examined (Table 3). A noticeable correlation can be observed between the electron withdrawing ability of the linker and the LOX  $IC_{50}$ , with the most electron withdrawing sulfonyl group achieving the most potent inhibition (LOX  $IC_{50}$ : **3b** < **4a** < **4b**). Carboxamide substitution does not improve LOX inhibition (**4d** vs **4c**). Finally, exchanging the sulfonyl linker and the phenyl ring leads to reduction in potency (**4e** vs **3b**).

It is thus apparent that the sulfonyl moiety is the optimum linker for the AMT core, and that the electron withdrawing effect of the linker is likely to play an important role in the mechanism of inhibition even though the possibility of H-bond and dipole-dipole interactions cannot be ruled out.

**Table 3.** Effects of Sulfonyl Linker (X) Modification on LOX Potency



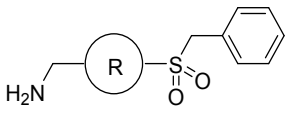
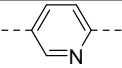
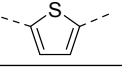
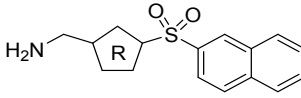
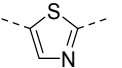
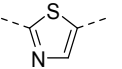
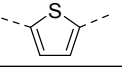
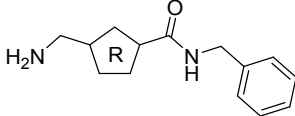
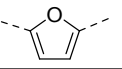
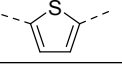
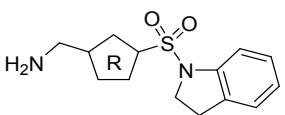
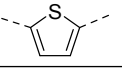
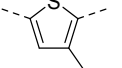
	X	R	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>
3b			1.7 [1.4, 2.2]
4a			6.9 [5.6, 8.6]
4b			14, 27
4c			15, 15
4d			20, 25
4e			13 [7.4, 22]

<sup>a</sup> Reported IC<sub>50</sub> values were determined in at least 2 separate experiments ( $n \geq 2$ ). When  $n = 2$ , individual IC<sub>50</sub> values are shown. When  $n > 2$ , the values are reported as the geometric mean with the error in square brackets expressed as the 95% confidence interval of the geometric mean.

*Modification of the Thiophene Ring.* Aminomethylenepyridine **5a** is ~10 fold weaker than the aminomethylenethiophene counterpart (Table 4; **5a** vs **5b**). 1,4-thiazole **5c** is considerably less potent as an inhibitor than the 1,3-regiomers **5d**, while 1,3-thiazole **5d** demonstrates a potency that is similar to the thiophene **3g**. Furan replacement does not improve the effectiveness of the inhibitors (**5e** vs **4d**). Additional substitutions on the thiophene ring can potentially be a useful handle for the development of the series, but the introduction of a small methyl group is highly unfavorable (**5f** vs **2g**). Overall, although the replacements of the thiophene core with some unsubstituted 5-membered heterocycles are tolerated for LOX inhibition, they are not superior to thiophene itself.

**Table 4.** Effects of Thiophene Modifications on LOX Potency

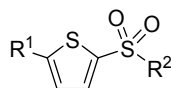


	R		LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>
		<b>5a</b>	25, 25
		<b>5b</b>	1.5 [0.47, 4.5]
		<b>5c</b>	24, 27
		<b>5d</b>	1.0, 1.2
		<b>3g</b>	0.69 [0.093, 5.1]
		<b>5e</b>	40, 45
		<b>4d</b>	20, 25
		<b>2g</b>	1.9 [1.2, 3.1]
		<b>5f</b>	12, 13

<sup>a</sup> Reported IC<sub>50</sub> values were determined in at least 2 separate experiments ( $n \geq 2$ ). When  $n = 2$ , individual IC<sub>50</sub> values are shown. When  $n > 2$ , the values are reported as the geometric mean with the error in square brackets expressed as the 95% confidence interval of the geometric mean.

**Modification of the Aminomethylene Moiety.** All the inhibitors contain the aminomethylene moiety (H<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>2</sub>), which forms part of the core AMT scaffold. We therefore investigate a series of modifications to this group where the replacement moieties are sufficiently diverse to probe non-covalent interactions such as H-bond, electrostatic and dipolar interactions, while small enough to minimize unfavorable steric clashes. The SAR data reveals that all substitutions or modifications at this site result in total loss of activity (Table 5, **6a – 6f**). It is thus apparent that the aminomethylene moiety has a unique role in LOX inhibition; it is likely to be involved in the formation of a Schiff base similar to that of the natural lysyl substrates.

**Table 5.** Effects of Aminomethylene Modifications (R<sup>1</sup>) on LOX Potency



Compound	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>
6a			>100, >100
6b			>100, >100
6c			>100, >100
6d			>100, >100
6e			>100, >100
6f			>100, >100

<sup>a</sup> Reported IC<sub>50</sub> values were determined in at least 2 separate experiments ( $n \geq 2$ ). When  $n = 2$ , individual IC<sub>50</sub> values are shown. When  $n > 2$ , the values are reported as the geometric mean with the error in square brackets expressed as the 95% confidence interval of the geometric mean.

Next, regioisomers on the thiophene ring were investigated (Table 6). Both 2-aminomethyl-3-sulfonylthiophene **7a** and 3-aminomethyl-4-sulfonylthiophene **7b** show no inhibitory activity against LOX, while 2-aminomethyl-4-sulfonylthiophene **7c** is a weak inhibitor. Therefore, from these modifications, the thiophene ring is the optimal ring type, and the aminomethylene and sulfonyl groups are the most effective substituents when placed on the 2- and 5- positions of the ring respectively.

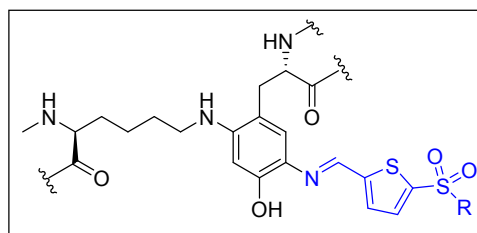
**Table 6.** Effects of Regioisomers on the Thiophene Ring on LOX Potency

	R		LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>
		<b>3g</b>	0.69 [0.093, 5.1]
		<b>7a</b>	>100, >100
		<b>7b</b>	>100, >100
		<b>7c</b>	11 [8.0, 18]

<sup>a</sup> Reported IC<sub>50</sub> values were determined in at least 2 separate experiments ( $n \geq 2$ ). When  $n = 2$ , individual IC<sub>50</sub> values are shown. When  $n > 2$ , the values are reported as the geometric mean with the error in square brackets expressed as the 95% confidence interval of the geometric mean.

Whilst the exact mode of binding of these AMT inhibitors remains unclear due to the absence of a co-crystal structure or a homology model, the observed SAR suggests that a stable Schiff base formed from the inhibitor and the LTQ cofactor (Figure 2) is likely to be involved. While the formation of the Schiff base is reversible, its stabilization by the sulfonyl substituent on the thiophene ring by resonance stabilization and/or direct binding to the enzyme by non-covalent processes such as H-bonding, electrostatic, dipolar or van der Waals interactions can lead to a tightly bound enzyme-inhibitor complex. This can potentially rationalize the improvement in potency observed in Table 3. The SAR also suggests an additional non-covalent interaction between the methanesulfonylphenyl moiety and the enzyme, which further enhances the potency of bis-sulfonyl inhibitors such as compound **9f**.

**Figure 2.** Proposed Binding Mode of AMT inhibitors

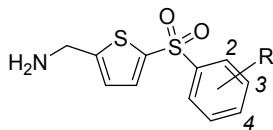


**Optimization Towards *in vivo*-Compatible Inhibitors.** As our aim is to discover LOX inhibitors that can be administered orally, metabolic stability and pharmacokinetics (PK) studies were performed on the most promising AMT inhibitors described above. The highly potent bis-sulfonylphenyl analog **3i** has good stability against mouse microsomal (MLM) degradation (Table 9), but its poor detectability by mass spectrometry renders it unsuitable for *in vivo* studies. Bis-sulfonylhomopiperazine **2m** also exhibits good anti-LOX potency, but it cannot be progressed further due to poor stability against microsomal metabolism. Naphthalenesulfone **3g** demonstrates good MLM stability but only a moderate plasma exposure (AUC = 4.2  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{hr}$ ) when administered orally in mice at 50mg/kg. It was apparent that further medicinal chemistry development was necessary to achieve both potent LOX inhibition and oral plasma drug exposure compatible with *in vivo* studies.

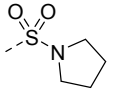
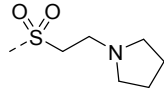
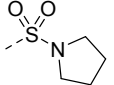
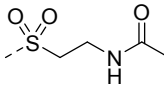
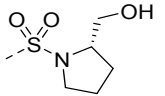
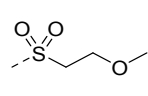
1 Due to its superior LOX potency and ease of synthesis, inhibitor **3i** was chosen as the platform for the  
2 next phase of discovery. Initial SAR established that modifications of the aminomethylene group, the  
3 thiophene ring and the sulfonyl linker were unfavorable to target inhibition. Therefore, optimization to  
4 improve PK properties focused on the aryl ring and its side chain substituents. The aim of the  
5 subsequent studies therefore targeted improvement to oral *in vivo* PK exposure whilst  
6 maintaining/improving LOX potency.

7  
8 *Side Chain Substitutions.* Further SAR studies began with the investigation of the sulfonyl side chain  
9 substitutions (Table 7). The attachment of the sulfonyl side chain through the 3- position (with respect  
10 to the thiophene sulfone) affords inhibitors with similar LOX IC<sub>50</sub> as the 4-regioisomers (**8a** vs **3i**, **8d** vs  
11 **8c**), whilst 2- substitution is disfavored (**8b** vs **3i**). Sulfonylpyrrolidines exhibit similar potencies as the  
12 methyl sulfone counterparts (**8c–8e** vs **3i** and **8a**), but phenyl sulfone **8f** is a weaker inhibitor. Small  
13 alkyl substituents on the sulfonyl group are generally well tolerated (**8g–8k**). Inhibitors **8d**, **8e** and **8j**  
14 show good anti-LOX potency and MLM stability (Table 9) and were thus selected for *in vivo* PK  
15 evaluation. Unfortunately, they have poor plasma exposure in mice when dosed orally.

16 **Table 7.** Effects of Side Chain Substitutions on LOX Potency of Phenylsulfonyl-AMT Analogs



Compound	Position of R	Structure of R	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>	Compound	Position of R	Structure of R	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>
<b>3i</b>	4		0.26 [0.15, 0.44]	<b>8f</b>	4		1.6, 2.0
<b>8a</b>	3		0.39 [0.27, 0.58]	<b>8g</b>	4		0.29 [0.11, 0.78]
<b>8b</b>	2		1.4 [1.2, 1.7]	<b>8h</b>	4		0.44, 0.46

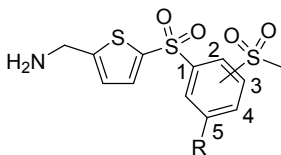
<b>8c</b>	4		0.92 [0.78, 1.1]	<b>8i</b>	4		0.59 [0.47, 0.73]
<b>8d</b>	3		0.61 [0.48, 0.77]	<b>8j</b>	4		0.72 [0.58, 0.91]
<b>8e</b>	3		0.42 [0.34, 0.53]	<b>8k</b>	4		1.3, 2.1















<sup>a</sup> Reported IC<sub>50</sub> values were determined in at least 2 separate experiments ( $n \geq 2$ ). When  $n = 2$ , individual IC<sub>50</sub> values are shown. When  $n > 2$ , the values are reported as the geometric mean with the error in square brackets expressed as the 95% confidence interval.

**Phenyl Ring Substitution.** 1,3- and 1,4-bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMT inhibitors containing an additional substituent on the 5- position of the phenyl ring were evaluated against LOX inhibition (Table 8). *tert*-Butyl, *tert*-butoxy, trimethylsilylethynyl, *N*-methylpyrazolyl and pyridinyl substitutions on the 1,3-bis-sulfonylphenyl motif all lead to moderate reduction in LOX potency (**9a–9e** vs **8a**), whilst a phenyl substituent is well tolerated (**9f**). Replacement of the phenyl group with *p*-tolyl affords an equipotent LOX inhibitor (**9g** vs **9f**), but *m*-xylyl (**9h**) and *o*-ethylphenyl (**9i**) substitutions are disfavored. For the 1,4-bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMT motif, the *N*-methylpyrazolyl (**9j**), phenyl (**9k**) and *p*-tolyl (**9l**) analogs all exhibit sub-micromolar LOX IC<sub>50</sub> values.

*In vivo* mouse PK studies were then conducted for selected 5-substituted compounds. The *tert*-butoxy (**9b**) and *N*-methylpyrazolyl (**9j**) analogs both exhibit low AUCs of 2.3  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{hr}$  and 2.8  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{hr}$  respectively (Table 9), although this improves to 6.5  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{hr}$  when the oxygen atom of the *tert*-butoxy group is removed from the parent compound (**9a** vs **9b**). Pleasingly, the 5-*p*-tolyl substituted bis-sulfones have greatly improved and therapeutically relevant plasma exposures (11  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{hr}$  and 12  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{hr}$  for **9g** and **9l** respectively). While the exposure for 5-phenyl-1,4-bis-sulfone **9k** is disappointing (AUC = 1.4  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{hr}$ ), the 5-phenyl-1,3-bis-sulfonyl-AMT **9f** achieves a desirable *in vivo* PK profile, with the highest AUC, C<sub>max</sub>, longest half-life, lowest clearance of the series (albeit this is still moderate) and a respectable intermediate oral bioavailability (F) of 45%.

**Table 8.** Effects of 5-Substitutions on LOX Potency of Bis-Sulfonylphenyl-AMT Analogs



Compound	Position of 	R	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>	Compound	Position of 	R	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>
9a	3		1.2 [0.88, 1.75]	9g	3		1.1 [0.75, 1.62]
9b	3		1.9 [1.5, 2.3]	9h	3		3.7 [1.7, 8.2]
9c	3		2.5 [1.6, 3.9]	9i	3		6.5 [3.9, 11]
9d	3		1.7 [1.56, 1.75]	9j	4		0.71, 0.76
9e	3		1.4, 1.7	9k	4		0.80, 0.81
9f	3		0.90 [0.55, 1.48]	9l	4		0.76, 0.86

**Table 9.** In Vitro Mouse Liver Microsome (MLM) Stability and *In vivo* Pharmacokinetic (PK) Properties of AMT Inhibitors

Compound	MLM stability (%) <sup>a</sup>	C <sub>max</sub> (PO) (μM) <sup>b</sup>	AUC <sub>(PO)</sub> (μM.hr) <sup>c</sup>	CL <sub>(IV)</sub> ((mL/min/kg)) <sup>d</sup>	t <sub>1/2</sub> (IV) (hr) <sup>e</sup>	F (%) <sup>f</sup>
2m	37	-	-			
3i	67	ND	ND			
8j	91	0.38	0.36			
8d	59	0.83	0.22			
8e	63	1.5	0.46			
9k	41	1.6	1.4			
9b	67	6.3	2.3			
9j	90	9.6	2.8			
3g	100	15	4.2			
9a	68	16	6.5			

<b>9g</b>	60	6.7	11	67	1.0	39
<b>9l</b>	95	9.4	12	106	0.4	74
<b>9f</b>	65	17	15	49	1.2	45

<sup>a</sup> Mouse liver microsome (MLM) stability values represents the percentage of compound remaining after 30 minutes; Mouse plasma PK parameters were determined following a single dose by oral gavage (PO) or intravenous injection (IV) at 50 mg/kg or 10 mg/kg respectively; <sup>b</sup> C<sub>max</sub> – maximum concentration. <sup>c</sup> AUC – area under curve. <sup>d</sup> CL – clearance; <sup>e</sup> t<sub>1/2</sub> – half-life; <sup>f</sup> F – bioavailability. ND - Could not be detected by MS.

**Profile of Orally Available AMT Inhibitors.** We have discovered three AMT inhibitors **9g**, **9l** and **9f** that are highly effective in inhibiting LOX activity as well as possessing therapeutically relevant PK profiles. These compounds are equally potent inhibitors of LOXL2 (Table 10), which is as expected due to the highly conserved catalytic site across the LOX family members. Pleasingly, all three inhibitors are inactive against common amine oxidases including the copper-containing diamine oxidase (DAO), semicarbazide-sensitive amine oxidase (SSAO), and the flavin-containing monoamine oxidases (MAO) A and B. It is noteworthy that AMT **9f** is a substrate of SSAO, thus SSAO-catalyzed metabolism could be a potential mechanism of degradation *in vivo*.

AMT **9g** is a weak inhibitor of the human potassium ion channel hERG, whilst inhibitors **9l** and **9f** are highly selective. All three inhibitors exhibit high permeability through colon Caco<sub>2</sub> cells, which is reflected in their good oral availabilities in mice (Table 9). AMT inhibitor **9f** achieves the most favorable overall profile and was therefore chosen for *in vivo* efficacy studies.

**Table 10.** Potency, Selectivity and Permeability of Optimized AMT inhibitors

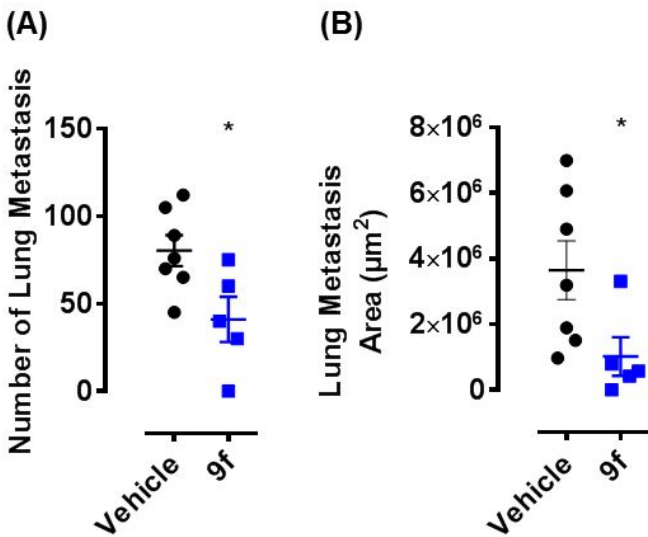
Inhibitor	LOX IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>	LOXL2 IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>	DAO IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>	SSAO IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>	MAO-A MAO-B IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) <sup>a</sup>	hERG IC <sub>50</sub> (μM)	Caco <sub>2</sub> P <sub>app</sub> <sup>b</sup> (10 <sup>-6</sup> cm/s)	
							A→B	B→A
<b>9g</b>	1.1 [0.75, 1.62]	2.0 [1.3, 3.0]	>100, >100	49, 59	A - >100, >100 B - 87, 89	4.6	8.0	17
<b>9l</b>	0.76, 0.86	2.2 [1.4, 3.7]	>100, >100	>100, 100	A - 33, 33 B - >100, >100	68	18	25
<b>9f</b>	0.90	1.5	>100,	48, 90	A - >100,	25	8.5	35

	[0.55, 1.48]	[0.28, 8.1]	>100		>100 B - >100, >100			
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<sup>a</sup> Reported IC<sub>50</sub> values were determined in at least 2 separate experiments ( $n \geq 2$ ). When  $n = 2$ , individual IC<sub>50</sub> values are shown. When  $n > 2$ , the values are reported as the geometric mean with the error in square brackets expressed as the 95% confidence interval of the geometric mean; <sup>b</sup> P<sub>app</sub> – permeability coefficient;

**Evaluation of Anti-metastatic Efficacy.** Compound **9f** was assessed in a LOX-driven genetically engineered mouse model (GEMM) of breast cancer that metastasizes to the lungs.<sup>19</sup> Mice were dosed daily by oral gavage (70 mg/kg) from day 60 when primary tumors start to be palpable (Figure 3). The metastatic nodules in the lungs are measured when the primary tumors reach ethical size limit. Pleasingly, compound **9f** reduces lung metastasis significantly as measured by total surface area (Figure 3B).

**Figure 3.** Anti-metastatic Efficacy of Compound **9f** in LOX-Driven GEMM Model. Animals treated with vehicle (black) or compound **9f** at 70 mg/kg qd (blue). All values are reported as the arithmetic mean with the error expressed as the standard error of the means. (A) Number of lung metastasis - vehicle,  $n = 7$ ; **9f** treated,  $n = 5$ ; (B) Lung metastasis area in  $\mu\text{m}^2$  - vehicle,  $n = 7$ ; **9f** treated,  $n = 5$ .



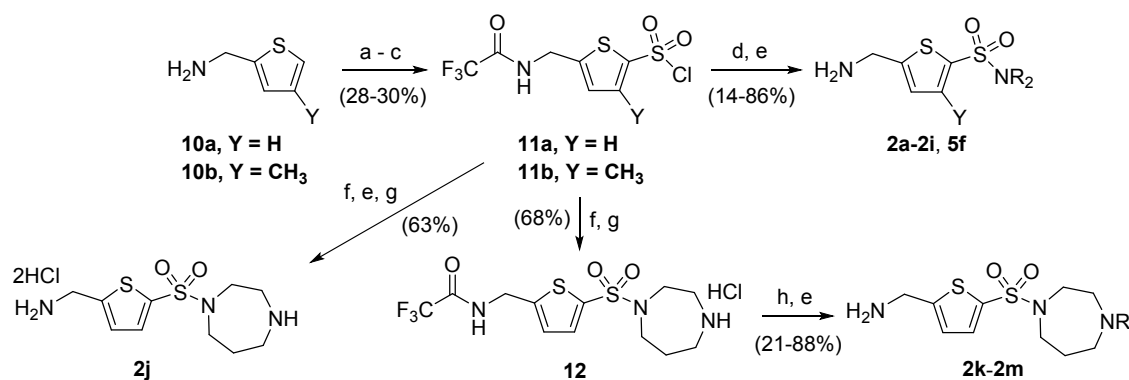
## SYNTHETIC CHEMISTRY

**AMT-sulfonamides.** All sulfonamide analogs were synthesized from the sulfonyl chloride intermediates **11a** and **11b** by condensation with the corresponding amines in dichloromethane (Scheme 1). Subsequent trifluoroacetamide hydrolysis or methanolysis using aqueous NaOH or 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in



methanol furnishes the desired amines **2a–2i**. 3-Methylthiophene sulfonamide **5f** (Table 4) was also synthesized by this method. Sulfonyl chlorides **11a** and **11b** were derived from the commercially available thiophen-2-ylmethanamines **10a/10b** in straightforward steps. Access to sulfonylhomopiperazine analogs with additional functionalization at the free amino group could be achieved *via* the amine hydrochloride intermediate **12**, where *N*-substituted sulfonylhomopiperazines **2k**, **2l** and **2m** was obtained in 3 steps. The unsubstituted sulfonylhomopiperazine **2j** was synthesized from sulfonyl chloride **11a** by condensation with *N*-Boc-homopiperazine, trifluoroacetamide hydrolysis followed by Boc removal.

**Scheme 1.** General Synthetic Routes to AMT-Sulfonamide Analogs **2a–n** and **5f**

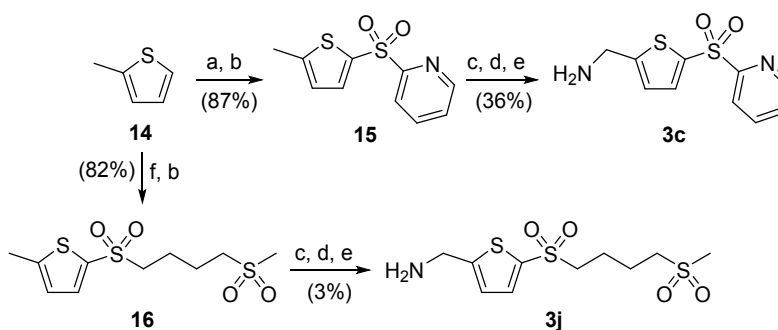


Reagents and conditions: (a) TFAA, Et<sub>3</sub>N, DCM, rt; (b) ClSO<sub>3</sub>H, DCM, -78 °C to rt, then H<sub>2</sub>O; (c) oxalyl chloride, DMF, DCM, rt; (d) R<sub>2</sub>NH, Et<sub>3</sub>N, DCM, rt; (e) aq. NaOH, MeOH, rt or 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH, rt; (f) *N*-Boc-homopiperazine, Et<sub>3</sub>N, DCM, rt; (g) 2 M HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O, rt; (h) R'-Cl (EtNCO for **2l**), Et<sub>3</sub>N, DCM, rt.

**AMT-sulfones.** Synthesis of 2-pyridinesulfonyl **3c** proceeded by the lithiation of 2-methylthiophene **14** followed by condensation with aldrithiol<sup>TM</sup>-2 to afford the corresponding sulfide, which underwent *S*-oxidation with mCPBA to afford sulfone **15** (Scheme 2). Subsequent methyl bromination was followed by the displacement of the bromide by sodium azide to give the resulting alkyl azide, which was catalytically hydrogenated to afford the desired 2-pyridinesulfonyl-AMT **3c**. Similarly, ring opening of 1,2-dithiane with lithiated 2-methylthiophene followed by condensation with iodomethane

afforded the corresponding bis-sulfide, which underwent subsequent *S*-oxidation to afford bis-sulfone **16**. This intermediate was subsequently converted to bis-sulfonylbutyl-AMT **3j** by the method described above.

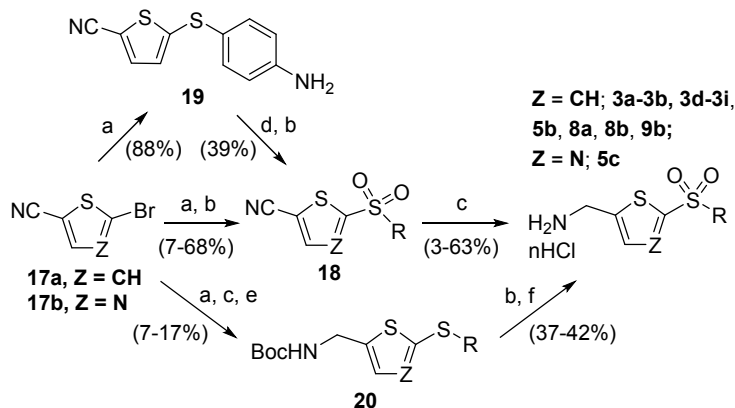
**Scheme 2.** Synthetic Routes to AMT-sulfone Analogs **3c** and **3j**



Reagents and conditions: (a)  $n\text{BuLi}$ , THF,  $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , then aldrithiol<sup>TM</sup>-2,  $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to rt; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (c) NBS,  $\text{Bz}_2\text{O}_2$ , DCE,  $70\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; (d)  $\text{NaN}_3$ , DMF, rt; (e)  $\text{H}_2$ , Pd/C, THF, rt; (f)  $n\text{BuLi}$ , THF,  $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , then 1,2-dithiolane,  $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to rt, then MeI, rt.

The commercially available 5-bromo-2-thiophenecarbonitrile **17a** (interchangeable with 5-chloro-2-thiophenecarbonitrile) and 2-bromothiazole-5-carbonitrile **17b** served as valuable building blocks for the AMT-sulfone inhibitors (Scheme 3). Nucleophilic aromatic substitution with a range of thiols afforded the corresponding sulfides, which were oxidized with mCPBA to afford sulfone intermediates **18**. Subsequent nitrile reduction with borane-tetrahydrofuran complex afforded AMT-sulfones **3a**, **3b**, **3d**, **3f**, **3g**, **3i**, **5b**, **8a**, **8b** and **9b**. For sulfonylaniline **3h**, the product from the initial condensation **19** underwent an additional sulfonamide formation step. Subsequent mCPBA-mediated oxidation afforded the usual sulfone intermediate **18**, which was converted to the desired target. Analogs **3e** and **5c** were synthesized from carbamates **20**, which were derived from nitriles **17a** and **17b** respectively by condensation with the corresponding thiols, followed by nitrile reduction and subsequent Boc protection.

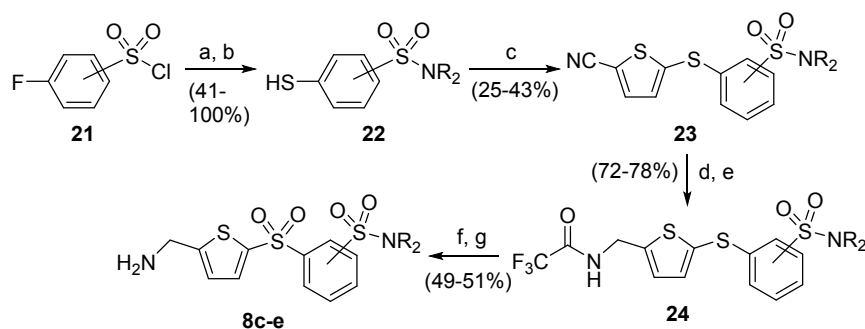
**Scheme 3.** Synthetic Routes to AMT-sulfone Analogs **3a**, **3b**, **3d–3i**, **5b**, **5c**, **8a**, **8b** and **9b**



Reagents and conditions: (a) RSH,  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ , DMF, heat; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (c)  $\text{BH}_3\cdot\text{THF}$ , THF, rt; (d)  $\text{MsCl}$ ,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , DCM, rt; (e)  $\text{Boc}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , DCM, rt; (f) 4 M HCl in dioxane, rt.

Sulfonamide-substituted phenylsulfonamide-AMT analogs **8c-8e** were synthesized from the corresponding thiols **22** (Scheme 4). Hence, condensation of 3- or 4-fluorophenylsulfonamide **21** with the desired amines ( $\text{HNR}_2$ ) afforded the corresponding sulfonamides, which were thiolated by treatment with sodium thiomethoxide to afford intermediate thiols **22**. The thiols were condensed with 5-chloro-2-thiophene-carbonitrile to yield sulfides **23**. The nitrile group of sulfides **23** was then converted to the corresponding trifluoroacetamide by nitrile reduction and amide formation. *S*-oxidation of sulfides **24** and subsequent amine deprotection affords the desired AMT targets **8c-8e**.

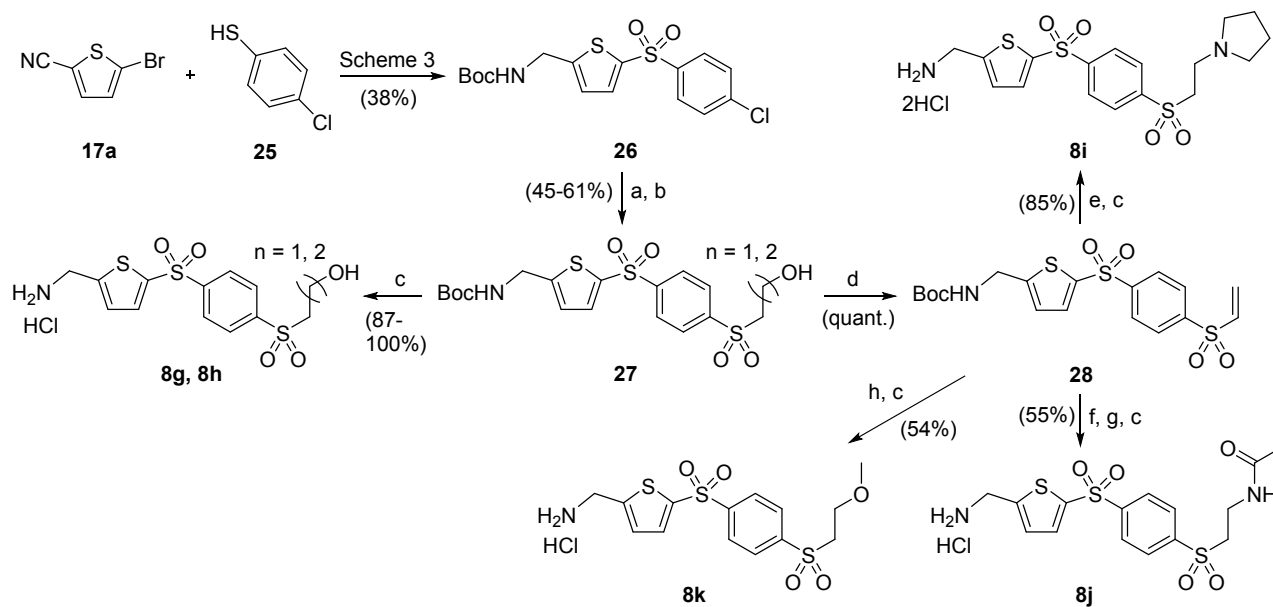
**Scheme 4.** Synthetic Route to Sulfonamide-Substituted Phenylsulfonamide-AMTs **8c-8e**



Reagents and conditions: (a)  $\text{HNR}_2$ , DCM; (b)  $\text{NaSMe}$ , DMF, 165 °C; (c) 5-chloro-2-thiophene-carbonitrile,  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ , DMF, 120-130 °C; (d)  $\text{BH}_3\cdot\text{THF}$ , THF, rt; (e) TFAA,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , DCM; (f) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (g) 7N  $\text{NH}_3$  in MeOH, rt.

The sulfonyl side chains of AMT analogs **8g–8k** were introduced through the nucleophilic substitution of the chlorine atom on intermediate **26** (Scheme 5), which could be obtained in straightforward steps using methods previously described in Scheme 3. Condensation of intermediate **26** with 2-mercaptoethanol or 3-mercaptopropanol followed by sulfide oxidation led to alkanol intermediates **27**. After Boc removal, these intermediates afforded AMT targets **8g** and **8h**. Alternatively, treatment of hydroxyethylsulfone **27** ( $n = 1$ ) with methanesulfonyl chloride led to concomitant sulfonylation and elimination, furnishing vinyl sulfone **28**. Addition of pyrrolidine to vinyl sulfone **28** followed by Boc removal gives AMT target **8i**. Ammonia addition to intermediate **28** provided the corresponding aminoethyl sulfone, which was treated with acetic anhydride to afford the corresponding AMT-acetamide **8j** after Boc removal. Methoxyethylsulfone **8k** was also obtained by from vinyl sulfone **28** by methoxide addition followed by Boc removal.

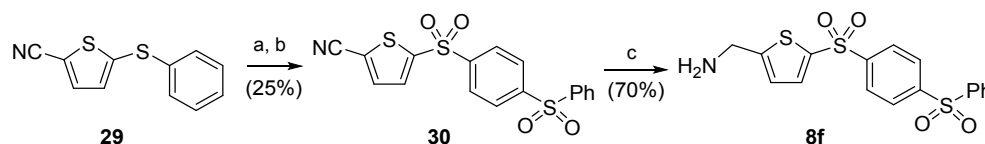
**Scheme 5. Synthetic Routes to Phenylsulfonyl-AMTs with Sulfonyl Side Chain Modifications (**8g–8k**)**



Reagents and conditions: (a) 2-Mercaptoethanol or 3-mercaptopropanol, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, DMF, 50 °C; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt (45–61% over 2 steps); (c) 4 M HCl in dioxane, rt; (d) MsCl, Et<sub>3</sub>N, DCM, rt (quant.); (e) Pyrrolidine, DCM, rt (85% for steps e + c); (f) 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH, rt; (g) Ac<sub>2</sub>O, Et<sub>3</sub>N, DCM, rt; (h) K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, MeOH, rt.

Phenyl sulfide **29**, obtained from methods previously described in Scheme 3, underwent a Friedel-Crafts sulfonylation to afford the corresponding phenyl sulfonyl (Scheme 6), which was subsequently oxidized to bis-sulfone **30** using mCPBA. Reduction of the nitrile group with borane-tetrahydrofuran complex afforded the bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMT analog **8f**.

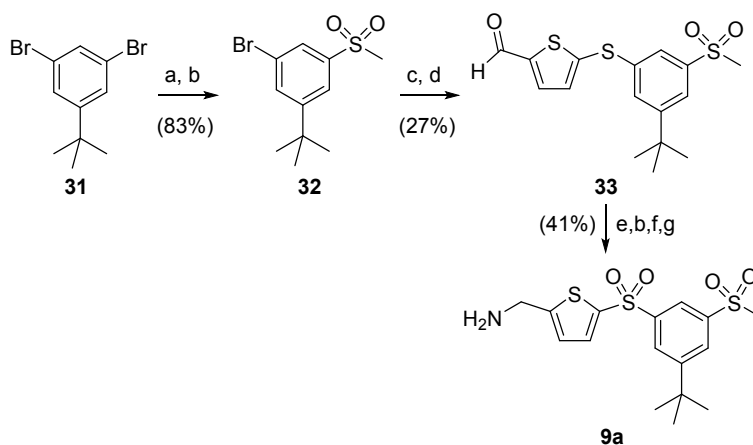
**Scheme 6.** Synthetic Route to Bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMT **8f**



Reagents and conditions: (a)  $\text{PhSO}_2\text{Cl}$ ,  $\text{FeCl}_3$ , neat,  $100^\circ\text{C}$ ; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt (c)  $\text{BH}_3\cdot\text{THF}$ , THF, rt.

*tert*-Butyl-bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMT **9a** was synthesized from 1,3-dibromo-5-(*tert*-butyl)benzene **31** (Scheme 7). *tert*-Butyllithium-mediated lithium-bromine exchange of dibromide **31** and treatment of the resultant lithium phenylate with dimethyl disulfide afforded the corresponding methyl sulfide, which was oxidized to sulfone **32** using mCPBA. This underwent Pd-catalyzed cross coupling with thiophene-2-thiol to yield the corresponding thiophene sulfide, which was formylated under Vilsmeier-Haack conditions to give aldehyde **33**. After reduction of the aldehyde with sodium borohydride and subsequent sulfide oxidation, the hydroxyl group was substituted with azide using diphenylphosphoryl azide (DPPA) before it was subsequently reduced to the desired AMT target **9a**.

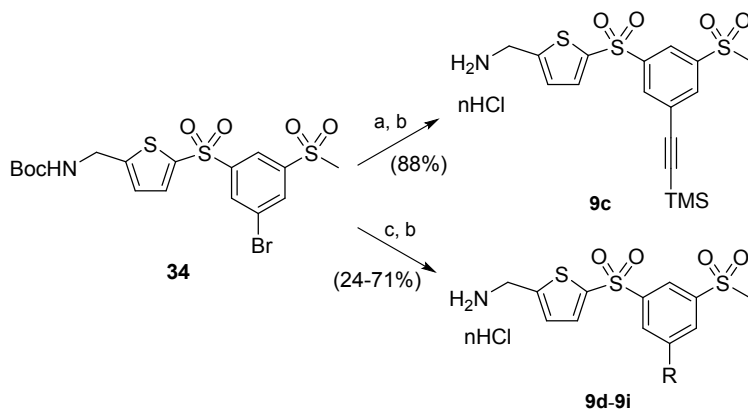
**Scheme 7.** Synthetic Route to *tert*-Butyl-bis-Sulfonylphenyl-AMT **9a**



Reagents and conditions: (a)  $t\text{-BuLi}$ , THF,  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  then MeSSMe,  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to rt; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (c) thiophene-2-thiol,  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$ , Xantphos,  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$ , *p*-xylene;  $140\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; (d)  $\text{POCl}_3$ , DMF,  $50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; (e)  $\text{NaBH}_4$ , THF, rt; (f) DPPA,  $\text{PPh}_3$ , DIAD, THF, rt; (g)  $\text{H}_2$ , Pd/C, EtOH, rt.

5-Substituted 1,3-bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMTs **9c–9i** were synthesized from aryl bromide **34**.<sup>19</sup> Hence, Pd-catalyzed cross coupling of aryl bromide **34** with trimethylsilylacetylene under Sonogashira conditions afforded the corresponding aryl-alkyne (Scheme 8), which is subjected to HCl-mediated Boc deprotection to afford AMT analog **9c**. Suzuki-Miyaura coupling with boronic acids gave the corresponding biaryl products, which underwent Boc removal to furnish the desired AMT inhibitors **9d–9i**.

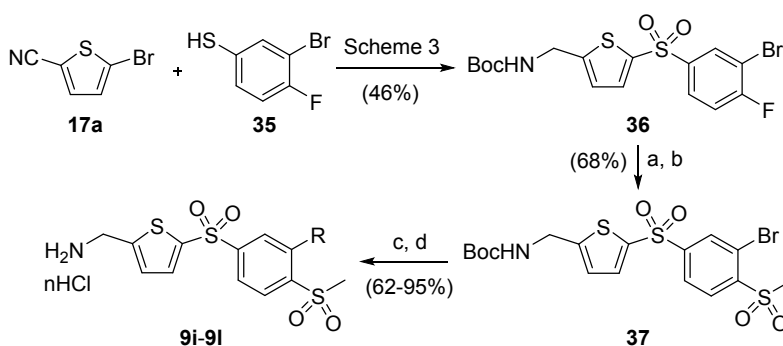
**Scheme 8.** Synthetic Routes to Substituted Bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMTs **9c–9i**



Reagents and conditions: (a)  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ , CuI,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , trimethylsilylacetylene, dioxane, rt; (b) 4 M HCl in dioxane, DCM, rt; (c)  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ ,  $\text{RB}(\text{OR}')_2$ ,  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$ , dioxane,  $100\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

5-Substituted 1,4-bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMTs **9j–9l** were synthesized from bromofluorobenzene intermediate **36** (Scheme 9), which could be obtained from the commercially available 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** and 3-bromo-4-fluorobenzenethiol **35** by methods previous described in Scheme 3. Selective substitution of the fluorine atom of intermediate **36** with thiomethoxide afforded the corresponding sulfide, which was oxidized to sulfone **37** using mCPBA. Suzuki-Miyaura coupling with boronic acids and subsequent Boc removal furnished the desired AMT inhibitors **9j–9l**.

**Scheme 9.** Synthetic Routes to Substituted Bis-sulfonylphenyl-AMTs **9j–9l**

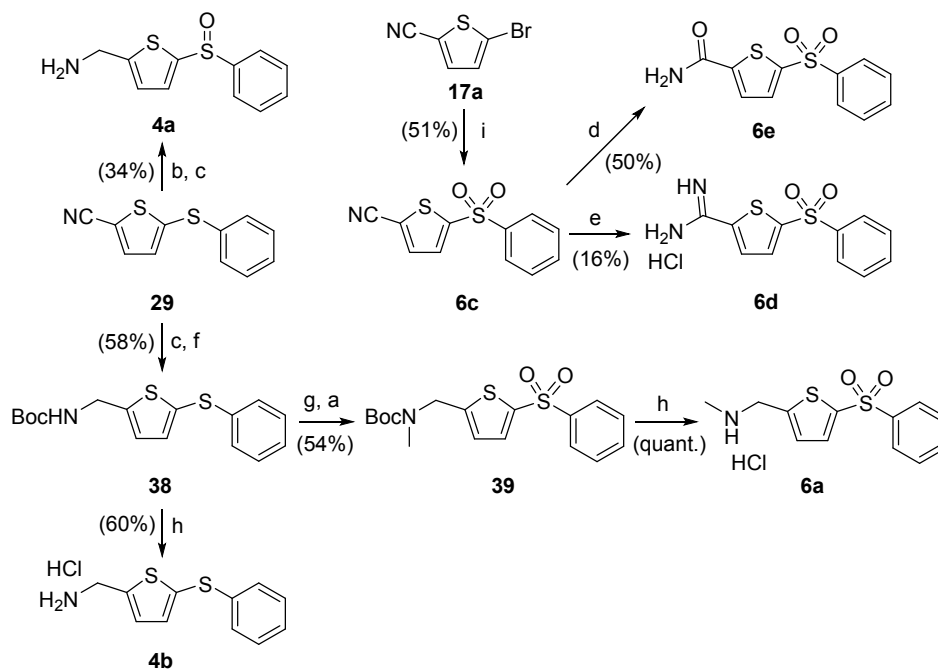


Reagents and conditions: (a) NaSMe, DMF, rt; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (c) Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, RB(OR')<sub>2</sub>, Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, dioxane, 100 °C; (d) 4 M HCl in dioxane, DCM, rt.

**AMT-sulfide, -sulfoxide and aminomethylene modifications.** AMT-sulfide **4b** and -sulfoxide **4a** (Scheme 10) were derived from intermediate sulfide **29** (see Scheme 3; R = Ph). Mono *S*-oxidation of sulfide **29** with 1 equivalent of mCPBA and subsequent nitrile reduction leads to AMT-sulfoxide **4a**. Reduction of intermediate **29** with borane-tetrahydrofuran complex, followed by Boc protection affords carbamate **38**. Removal of Boc from carbamate **38** led to AMT-sulfide **4b**, whereas *N*-methylation using sodium hydride/iodomethane and subsequent oxidation with mCPBA affords intermediate **39** which was deprotected to afford the *N*-methyl AMT analog **6a**. Alternatively, sulfone **6c** can be obtained from the condensation of bromothiophene **17a** and sodium benzenesulfinate in DMF. This intermediate was

converted to the corresponding thiopheneacetimidamide **6d** and thiophenecarboxamide **6e** by treatment with indium trichloride ( $\text{InCl}_3$ ) and lithium hexamethyldisilazide ( $\text{LiHMDS}$ ) respectively.

**Scheme 10.** Synthetic Routes to Compounds **4a**, **4b**, **6a**, **6c–6e**

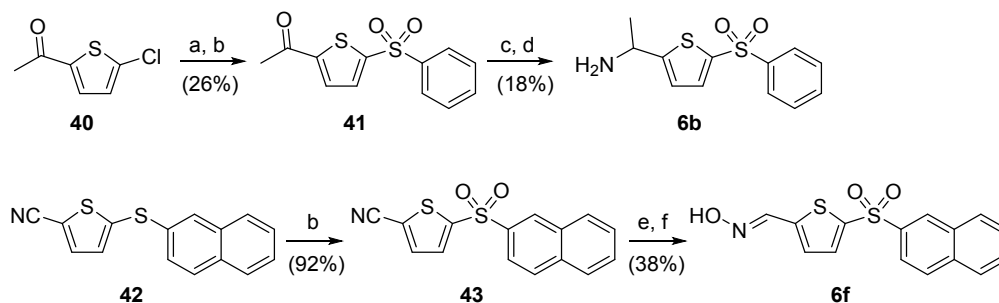


Reagents and conditions: (a)  $\text{mCPBA}$  (2 equiv.),  $\text{DCM}$ , rt; (b)  $\text{mCPBA}$  (1 equiv.),  $\text{DCM}$ , rt (c)  $\text{BH}_3 \cdot \text{THF}$ ,  $\text{THF}$ , rt; (d)  $\text{InCl}_3$ , acetaldoxime, toluene, reflux; (e)  $\text{LiHMDS}$ ,  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ , rt, then 2 M  $\text{HCl}$ , rt; (f)  $\text{Boc}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ ,  $\text{DCM}$ , rt; (g)  $\text{NaH}$ ,  $\text{MeI}$ ,  $\text{THF}$ , rt; (h) 4 M  $\text{HCl}$  in dioxane,  $\text{DCM}$ , rt; (i) Sodium benzenesulfinate,  $\text{DMF}$ ,  $135^\circ\text{C}$ .

Condensation of 1-(5-chlorothiophen-2-yl)ethan-1-one **40** with thiophenol afforded the corresponding sulfide (Scheme 11), which was oxidized to sulfone **41** using  $\text{mCPBA}$ . Subsequent oxime formation followed by reduction using zinc powder in trifluoroacetic acid furnished *C*-methylated AMT **6b**. Sulfide **42** was obtained in straightforward steps by methods previously illustrated in Scheme 3. Oxidation of sulfide **42** with  $\text{mCPBA}$  afforded the corresponding sulfone **43**. This was reduced to the corresponding aldehyde with  $\text{DIBAL-H}$  before conversion to oxime **6f** by treatment with hydroxylamine hydrochloride.

**Scheme 11.** Synthetic Routes to Compounds **6b** and **6f**

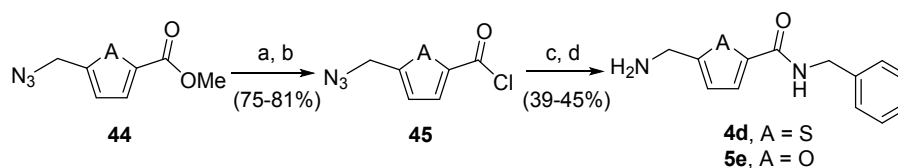




Reagents and conditions: (a) Thiophenol,  $K_2CO_3$ , DMF, 120 °C; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (c)  $H_2NOH.HCl$ , DIPEA, EtOH, rt; (d) Zn, TFA, rt; (e) DIBAL-H, DCM, 45 °C; (f)  $H_2NOH.HCl$ ,  $K_2CO_3$ , EtOH, 70 °C.

**AMT- and Aminomethylenefuran-amides.** Synthesis of AMT-amide **4d** and aminomethylenefuran-amide **5f** were accomplished *via* methyl esters **44** (Scheme 12; A = S or O).<sup>20,21</sup> Esters **44** first underwent saponification with aqueous hydroxide and the resultant carboxylic acids were then converted to acid chlorides **45** using oxalyl chloride. Condensation with benzylamine in dichloromethane followed by catalytic hydrogenation using 10% Pd/C in tetrahydrofuran furnished the desired amides **4d** and **5e**.

**Scheme 12.** Synthetic Routes to Amide Analogs **4d** and **5e**

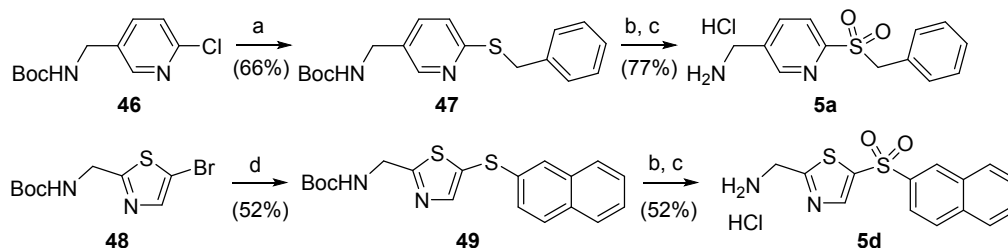


Reagents and conditions: (a) 1 M NaOH, MeOH, rt; (b)  $(COCl)_2$ , DMF, DCM, rt; (c) Benzylamine, DCM, rt; (d)  $H_2$ , Pd/C, THF, rt.

**Aminomethylene-pyridine, -1,3-thiazole and -imidazole.** Aminomethylenepyridine **5a** was obtained from the commercially available *tert*-butyl ((6-chloropyridin-3-yl)methyl)carbamate **46**. Condensation with sodium benzylthiolate afforded the corresponding sulfide **47** (Scheme 13). Sulfide oxidation with mCPBA and subsequent HCl-mediated Boc removal furnished the desired target **5a**. 2-(Aminomethylene)-1,3-thiazole **5d** was obtained from sulfide intermediate **49** in a similar manner.

Sulfide **49** was synthesized from *tert*-butyl ((5-bromothiazol-2-yl)methyl)carbamate<sup>22</sup> **48** and naphthalene-2-thiol by a Pd-catalyzed cross coupling reaction.

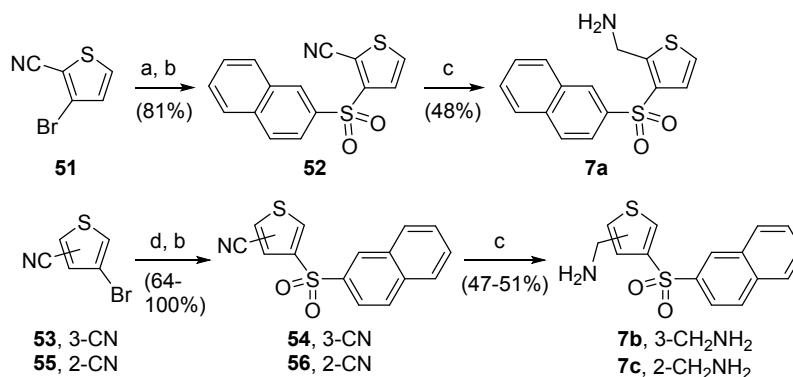
**Scheme 13.** Synthetic Routes to Aminomethylene-Pyridine, -Thiazole and -Imidazole **5a** and **5d**



Reagents and conditions: (a) NaH, benzylmercaptan, DMF, 70 °C; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (c) 2 M HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O or 4 M HCl in dioxane, rt; (d) Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, Xantphos, naphthalene-2thiol, NaO<sup>t</sup>Bu, <sup>t</sup>BuOH/toluene, 100 °C.

**AMT-sulfone regioisomers.** The AMT regioisomers **7a-7c** were synthesized by 2 different methods (Scheme 14). The synthesis of 2,3-regioisomer **7a** began with nucleophilic aromatic substitution between 3-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **51** and naphthalene-2-thiol. The resultant sulfide underwent subsequent sulfide oxidation followed by nitrile reduction to afford the desired target **7a**. The initial nucleophilic aromatic substitution step was replaced with a Pd-catalyzed cross coupling for the synthesis of the 3,4- and 2,4-regioisomers **7b** and **7c**, starting from bromothiophenes **53** and **55**. The resultant sulfides were oxidized to sulfones **54** and **56**, which were subsequently converted to the corresponding AMT targets **7b** and **7c** by nitrile reduction.

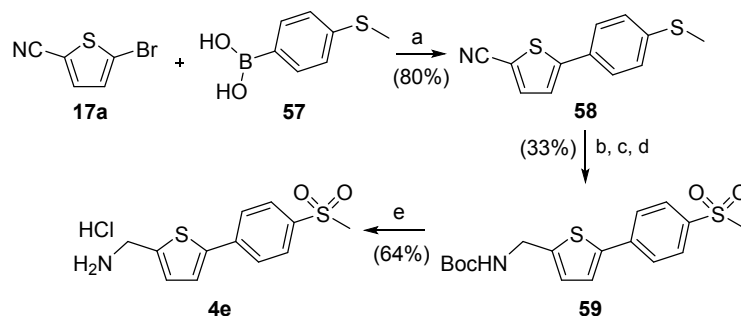
**Scheme 14.** Synthetic Routes to AMT Regioisomers **7a-7c**



Reagents and conditions: (a) Naphthalene-2-thiol,  $K_2CO_3$ , DMF, 120 °C; (b) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (c)  $BH_3 \cdot THF$ , THF, rt; (d)  $Pd_2dba_3$ , Xantphos, naphthalene-2-thiol,  $NaOtBu$ , toluene, 110 °C.

Finally, the Suzuki-Miyaura coupling between 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** and (4-(methylthio)phenyl)boronic acid **57** affords phenyl thiophene **58** (Scheme 15). This was converted to carbamate **59** by nitrile reduction, Boc protection and sulfide oxidation. Subsequent Boc removal furnished the phenyl-linked AMT analog **4e**.

#### Scheme 15. Synthetic Route to Phenyl-linked AMT **4e**



Reagents and conditions: (a)  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ ,  $CS_2CO_3$ , 1,4-dioxane, 100 °C; (b)  $BH_3 \cdot THF$ , THF, rt; (c)  $Boc_2O$ ,  $Et_3N$ , DCM, rt; (d) mCPBA, DCM, rt; (e) 4 M HCl in dioxane, DCM, rt.

## CONCLUSION

We described herein a series of LOX inhibitors containing a 2-aminomethylene-5-sulfonyl thiophene core. The attachment of a sulfonylphenyl side chain to the core scaffold via the 5-sulfonyl linker

furnishes inhibitors with submicromolar LOX IC<sub>50</sub> values. Further SAR optimization leads to the discovery of inhibitor **9f** with potent anti-LOX activity as well as desirable selectivity and PK profile making it a valuable asset for LOX research. More importantly, we have described its ability to reduce the growth of spontaneous breast tumor lung metastasis in a GEMM,<sup>19</sup> thus demonstrating the promise of **9f** as a drug candidate.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**Synthesis of Inhibitors.** Commercial building blocks, reagents and solvents for reactions were reagent grade and used as purchased. Flash chromatography was performed on a Biotage Isolera flash purification system using pre-packed silica gel cartridges (Biotage) with HPLC grade solvents. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) analysis was performed using silica gel 60 F-254 thin layer plates. LCMS and HRMS analyses of chemical compounds were performed on an Agilent 1200 series HPLC and diode array detector coupled to a 6210 time of flight mass spectrometer with a multimode ESI source or a Waters Acquity UPLC and diode array detector coupled to a Waters G2 QToF mass spectrometer fitted with a multimode ESI/APCI source. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz or a 300 MHz spectrometer using an internal deuterium lock. NMR data is given as follows: chemical shift (δ) in ppm, multiplicity, coupling constants (*J*) given in Hz and integration. All final inhibitors submitted for biological evaluation were at least 95% pure by HPLC, apart from compound **2g**, which has a purity of 94%.

General procedures GP1: Alkylamine was added to solution of sulfonyl chloride **11a** in DCM and the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 1 - 16 h. 1 M HCl was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 ×). The combine organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. MeOH and aq. NaOH were then added and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h (MeOH and aq. NaOH can be replaced by 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH). H<sub>2</sub>O was added and the

aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 ×). The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the desired AMT-sulfonamide, which could be further purified if necessary.

General procedures GP2: 4 M HCl in dioxane or 2 M HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O was added to *tert*-butyl carbamate (neat or as a solution in DCM) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 1 - 16 h. EtOAc was added to precipitate the solids if necessary. The solids were collected by filtration or centrifugation, washed with EtOAc and dried under vacuum to afford the desired amine hydrochloride. If necessary, this can be further purified by chromatography in its free amine form, which can be obtained by treatment with 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH.

General procedures GP3: BH<sub>3</sub>.THF was added to a solution of heteroaryl nitrile in THF and the mixture was stirred at rt for 1 - 5 h. EtOH (equal volume to reaction mixture) was then carefully added to quench the reaction. The solution was subsequently heated at 70 °C for 1 h to aid borane decomplexation. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the desired amine, which could be purified if necessary.

General procedures GP4: A mixture of 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (interchangeable with 5-chlorothiophene-2-carbonitrile) or 2-bromothiazole-5-carbonitrile **17b**, alkyl or aryl thiol, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and DMF was stirred at 50 °C - 140°C. After cooling to rt, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with 1:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/brine (3 ×), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the desired sulphide product, which could be further purified if necessary.

General procedures GP5: mCPBA (>2 equiv. for sulfones, 1.0 equiv. for sulfoxides) was added in small portions to a solution of sulfide in DCM at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred at rt (0 °C for sulfoxides) for 3 - 16 h. When complete conversion was achieved, EtOAc was added. The organic phase was washed with sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (3×) and sat. Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (until no color detected on starch iodide paper), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the desired sulfone/sulfoxide, which could be further purified if necessary.

General procedures GP6: The alkylamine was dissolved in DCM. Et<sub>3</sub>N followed by Boc<sub>2</sub>O were added and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. When complete conversion was achieved, DCM was added. The organic phase was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the desired *tert*-butyl-carbamate, which could be further purified if necessary.

General procedures GP7: A mixture of aryl bromide, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, ArB(OR')<sub>2</sub> (boronic acid or pinacolatoboronate), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and 1,4-dioxane was degassed with argon and then stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. After cooling to rt, the mixture was filtered through celite and washed with EtOAc. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the desired biaryl, which could be further purified if necessary.

General procedures GP8: A mixture of aryl bromide, Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, Xantphos, alkyl or aryl thiol, NaO<sup>t</sup>Bu and <sup>t</sup>BuOH/toluene (1:4) was degassed with argon and then stirred at 100 °C for 16 h. After cooling to rt, the suspension was filtered through celite, washed with DCM. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the desired sulfide, which could be further purified if necessary.

**(5-(Piperidin-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (2a).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (150 mg, 0.487 mmol), piperidine (96.3 μL, 0.975 mmol) and DCM (2.4 mL); 16 h, rt. ii) 1 M NaOH (2 mL) and MeOH (2 mL); rt, 16 h. Compound **2a** was obtained as a white crystalline solid (109 mg, 86%) and didn't require further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (br, 2H), 3.11 – 2.96 (m, 4H), 1.82 – 1.12 (m, 8H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 134.51, 132.45, 123.57, 47.10, 25.23, 23.58. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 261.0726; Observed 261.0743; Error = 4.8 ppm.

**5-(Aminomethyl)-*N,N*-dimethylthiophene-2-sulfonamide (2b).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (100 mg, 0.325 mmol), dimethylamine (40% in H<sub>2</sub>O; 0.206 mL, 1.62 mmol) and DCM (1.63 mL); 16 h, rt. ii) 30% NaOH (0.5

mL) and MeOH (3 mL); rt, 16 h. Compound **2b** was obtained as a white solid (38 mg, 53%) and didn't require further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.41 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dt, *J* = 3.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 2H), 2.76 (s, 6H), 1.61 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.65, 133.60, 132.76, 123.60, 41.66, 38.18. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 221.0413; Observed 221.0409; Error = 1.8 ppm.

**5-(Aminomethyl)-*N*-ethylthiophene-2-sulfonamide (2c).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (100 mg, 0.325 mmol), ethylamine (2.0 M in MeOH; 0.812 mL, 1.62 mmol) and DCM (1.63 mL); 16 h, rt. ii) 30% NaOH (0.5 mL) and MeOH (3 mL); rt, 16 h. Compound **2c** was obtained as a colorless oil (23 mg, 32%) and didn't require further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.46 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (br, 1H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 3.09 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.76 (br, 2H), 1.15 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.38, 138.81, 132.43, 123.47, 41.60, 38.62, 15.11. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>10</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M-NH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 204.1480; Observed 204.01460; Error = 0.98 ppm.

**(*S*)-1-(5-(Aminomethyl)thiophen-2-ylsulfonyl)pyrrolidine-2-carboxamide (2d).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (75 mg, 0.244 mmol), prolinamide hydrochloride (30.6 mg, 0.268 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (74.7 μL, 0.536 mmol) and DCM (1.2 mL); 16 h, rt. ii) 1 M NaOH (1.2 mL) and MeOH (1.2 mL); rt, 16 h. The crude was purified by chromatography (1N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford an orange oil (10 mg, 14%). [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> - 134.2 (*c* 0.16, MeOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 4.06 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (ddd, *J* = 10.2, 6.1, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (m, 1H), 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.93 – 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.67 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 177.35, 154.70, 135.83, 134.45, 126.75, 63.79, 50.93, 41.12, 32.07, 25.51. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M-NH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 273.0362; Observed 273.0334; Error = 10 ppm.

**(*S*)-1-(5-(Aminomethyl)thiophen-2-ylsulfonyl)pyrrolidin-2-ylmethanol (2e).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (100 mg, 0.325 mmol), (*S*)-pyrrolidin-2-ylmethanol (35.3 μL, 0.358 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (100 μL, 0.715 mmol) and

DCM (1.6 mL); 2 h, rt. ii) 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (5 mL); rt, 20 h. The crude was purified by chromatography (1 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH/DCM 0→15%) to afford a yellow oil (47 mg, 52%). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> -33.6 (c 2.76, MeOH/CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.47 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (dt, *J* = 3.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.11 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 2H), 3.80 – 3.57 (m, 3H), 3.53 – 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.30 (dt, *J* = 10.5, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.18 – 1.95 (m, 3H), 1.90 – 1.69 (m, 3H), 1.60 – 1.50 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  155.82, 134.49, 133.01, 123.57, 65.67, 62.29, 50.22, 41.55, 28.90, 24.41. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 277.0675; Observed 277.0629; Error = 17 ppm.

**(5-(2-Phenylpyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (2f).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (100 mg, 0.325 mmol), 2-phenylpyrrolidine (40.7 mg, 0.357 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (100  $\mu$ L, 0.715 mmol) and DCM (1.6 mL); 2 h, rt. ii) 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (4 mL); rt, 16 h. The crude was purified by chromatography (1N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford a brown oil (40 mg, 38%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.42 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 6.90 (dt, *J* = 3.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (m, 1H), 3.45 (dt, *J* = 10.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.96 – 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.53 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  155.35, 143.01, 135.67, 132.68, 128.44, 127.18, 126.22, 123.38, 63.71, 49.77, 41.57, 35.82, 24.08. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 323.0883; Observed 323.0873; Error = 3.1 ppm.

**(5-(Indolin-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (2g).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (100 mg, 0.325 mmol), indoline (142 mg, 0.358 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (100  $\mu$ L, 0.715 mmol) and DCM (1.6 mL); 2 h, rt. ii) 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (5 mL); rt, 20 h. The crude was purified by chromatography (1 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH/DCM 0→15%) to afford a brown solid (73 mg, 76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.58 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 – 7.16 (m, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (td, *J* = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.88 – 6.78 (m, 1H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 3.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 1.56 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  156.23, 141.59, 133.90, 132.97, 131.84, 127.81, 125.24, 124.07, 123.43, 115.10,



50.30, 50.25, 41.51, 27.91. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{13}H_{15}N_2O_2S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 295.0569; Observed 295.0577; Error = 2.7 ppm.

**(5-(3,4-Dihydroquinolin-1(2H)-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (2h).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (100 mg, 0.325 mmol), tetrahydroquinoline (44.9  $\mu$ L, 0.357 mmol),  $Et_3N$  (100  $\mu$ L, 0.715 mmol) and DCM (1.6 mL); 2 h, rt. ii) 7 N  $NH_3$  in MeOH (5 mL); rt, 20 h. The crude was purified by chromatography (1N  $NH_3$  in MeOH/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 10%) to afford a brown foam (27 mg, 27%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.78 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.13 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d,  $J$  = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.87 – 3.81 (m, 2H), 2.54 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.37 – 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.80 – 1.72 (br, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  137.52, 136.43, 132.42, 130.96, 129.27, 126.69, 125.28, 125.03, 123.78, 46.98, 41.34, 26.93, 21.78. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{14}H_{17}N_2O_2S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 309.0726; Observed 309.0732; Error = 1.9 ppm.

**(5-(Morpholin sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (2i).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (75 mg, 0.244 mmol), morpholine (42.7  $\mu$ L, 0.487 mmol) and DCM (1.2 mL); 16 h, rt. ii) 1 M NaOH (1 mL) and MeOH (1 mL); rt, 16 h. The crude was dissolved in MeOH, passed through an SCX ion exchange (sulfonic acid) column and washed with MeOH. The amine was released by the addition of 1N  $NH_3$  in MeOH to afford a crystalline solid (47 mg, 73%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.40 (d,  $J$  = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d,  $J$  = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (br, 2H), 3.90 – 3.65 (m, 4H), 3.15 – 2.89 (m, 4H), 1.64 (br, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  133.16, 133.01, 123.70, 66.13, 46.12. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_9H_{15}N_2O_3S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 263.0519; Observed 263.0533; Error = 5.3 ppm.

**(5-(1,4-Diazepan-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine dihydrochloride (2j).** *tert*-Butyl 4-((5-(aminomethyl)thiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)-1,4-diazepane-1-carboxylate was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (75 mg, 0.244 mmol), *N*-Boc-homopiperazine (53.7 mg, 0.268 mmol),  $Et_3N$  (74.7  $\mu$ L, 0.536 mmol) and DCM (1.2 mL); rt, 16 h. ii) 1 M NaOH (5 mL), MeOH (5 mL); rt, 16 h. The crude was used in the subsequent transformation immediately.

Compound **2j** was synthesized according to general procedures GP2 - from *tert*-butyl 4-((5-(aminomethyl)thiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)-1,4-diazepane-1-carboxylate (crude) and 2 M HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL); rt, 16. Compound **2j** was obtained as a pink solid (43 mg, 63%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) δ 7.77 (br, 1H), 7.44 (br, 1H), 4.55 (s, 2H), 3.75 (br, 2H), 3.60 – 3.45 (m, 6H), 2.23 (br, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) δ 141.90, 137.80, 133.32, 130.36, 47.20, 46.84, 44.85, 44.38, 37.31, 25.22. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 276.0835; Observed 276.0771; Error = 23 ppm.

**(5-(4-Methyl-1,4-diazepan-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (2k).** A mixture of sulfonyl chloride **11a** (645 mg, 2.10 mmol), *N*-Boc-homopiperazine (449 μL, 2.31 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (643 μL, 4.61 mmol) and DCM (10 mL) was stirred at rt for 2 h. 1 M HCl (30 mL) was added. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The intermediate was dissolved in 2 M HCl in Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. The solids were collected, washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O dried under vacuum to afford *N*-((5-((1,4-diazepan-1-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide hydrochloride as a beige solid (580 mg, 68%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) δ 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.27 (m, 1H), 3.74 – 3.70 (m, 2H), 3.56 – 3.42 (m, 6H), 2.27 – 2.13 (m, 2H). HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 372.0658.

A mixture of *N*-((5-((1,4-diazepan-1-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide hydrochloride (80 mg, 0.196 mmol), MeI (18.0 μL, 0.294 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (68.0 μL, 0.490 mmol) and DCM (1.0 mL) was stirred at rt for 48 h. H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The intermediate was dissolved in 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (1 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford compound **2k** as a brown oil (12 mg, 21%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dt, *J* = 3.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 2H), 3.45 – 3.38 (m, 4H), 2.69 – 2.61 (m, 4H), 2.36 (s, 2H), 1.88 (dt, *J* = 11.7, 6.2 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.05, 137.16, 131.90, 123.37,

58.55, 56.84, 48.04, 47.38, 46.58, 41.66, 27.55. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{11}H_{20}N_3O_2S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 290.0992; Observed 290.0861; Error = 45 ppm.

**4-(5-(Aminomethyl)thiophen-2-ylsulfonyl)-N-ethyl-1,4-diazepane-1-carboxamide (2l).** A mixture of *N*-((5-((1,4-diazepan-1-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide hydrochloride (80 mg, 0.196 mmol), EtNCO (17.0  $\mu$ L, 0.216 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (54.7  $\mu$ L, 0.392 mmol) and DCM (1.0 mL) was stirred at rt for 2 h. DCM (10 mL) was added. The organic phase washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and brine (10 mL each), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The intermediate was dissolved in 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford compound **2l** as a colorless oil (60 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.38 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (dt, *J* = 3.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 1H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.62 – 3.57 (m, 2H), 3.49 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.36 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 3.29 – 3.20 (m, 4H), 2.02 – 1.94 (m, 2H), 1.69 (s, 2H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  157.38, 155.48, 136.96, 132.01, 123.40, 50.69, 48.51, 48.13, 45.28, 41.58, 35.79, 28.24, 15.70. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{13}H_{23}N_4O_3S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 347.1206; Observed 347.1196; Error = 2.9 ppm.

**(5-(4-(Methylsulfonyl)-1,4-diazepan-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (2m).** A mixture of *N*-((5-((1,4-diazepan-1-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide hydrochloride (80 mg, 0.196 mmol), MsCl (16.7  $\mu$ L, 0.216 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (68.0  $\mu$ L, 0.490 mmol) and DCM (1.0 mL) was stirred at rt for 48 h. H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3  $\times$  10 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The intermediate was dissolved in 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (3 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (1 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford compound **2m** as a white solid (44 mg, 63%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.39 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (dt, *J* = 3.7, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 2H), 3.54 – 3.34 (m, 8H), 2.85 (s, 3H), 2.00 (pentet, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 1.62 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  155.81, 136.76, 132.10, 123.37, 51.25, 50.49, 47.76, 47.27,

41.56, 38.13, 29.33. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{11}H_{20}N_3O_4S_3$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 354.0611; Observed 354.0530; Error = 23 ppm.

**(5-(Cyclohexylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (3a).** NaH (60% in mineral oil; 39.6 mg, 0.985 mmol) was added to a solution of 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (100  $\mu$ L, 0.901 mmol) and cyclohexylmercaptan (121  $\mu$ L, 0.991 mmol) in DMF (3.0 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 130  $^{\circ}$ C for 16 h. After cooling to rt, EtOAc (15 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed with 1:1  $H_2O$ /brine ( $3 \times 15$  mL), dried over  $MgSO_4$  and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the intermediate was dissolved in DCM (3.0 mL). mCPBA (77%; 489 mg, 2.18 mmol) was added in small portions and the mixture was stirred at rt for 3 h. DCM (15 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed with 1 M NaOH ( $3 \times 15$  mL) and brine (15 mL), dried over  $MgSO_4$  and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%) to afford 5-(cyclohexylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile as a white crystalline solid (50 mg, 22%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.65 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (tt,  $J$  = 12.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 2.19 – 2.11 (m, 2H), 1.97 – 1.88 (m, 2H), 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.65 – 1.10 (m, 5H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  278  $[M+Na]^+$ .

Compound **3a** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 0.58 mL, 0.58 mmol), 5-(cyclohexylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (49 mg, 0.192 mmol) and THF (1.9 mL); rt, 1 h. The crude was purified by chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 15%) to afford a white solid (12 mg, 24%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.50 (d,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (m, 1H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 2.95 (tt,  $J$  = 12.1, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 2.20 – 2.12 (m, 2H), 1.92 – 1.84 (m, 2H), 1.68 (d,  $J$  = 21.7 Hz, 3H), 1.51 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.33 – 1.08 (m, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  158.07, 135.80, 135.11, 123.83, 64.77, 41.72, 25.97, 25.27, 25.19. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{11}H_{17}NO_2S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 260.0773; Observed 260.0785; Error = 4.6 ppm.

**(5-(Phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (3b).** A mixture of nitrile **6c** (39 mg, 0.156 mmol),  $LiAlH_4$  (1.0 M in THF; 160  $\mu$ L, 0.160 mmol) and THF (1.6 mL) was stirred at 0  $^{\circ}$ C for 1 h.  $H_2O$  (5 mL) was slowly added and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $3 \times 8$  mL). The combined organic

phase was washed with brine (10 mL), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (7 N  $\text{NH}_3$  in MeOH/DCM 0→60%) to afford compound **3b** as a light brown crystalline solid (15 mg, 38%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.01 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.48 (m, 4H), 6.88 (dt,  $J$  = 3.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (s, 2H), 1.58 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  158.19, 142.50, 140.63, 133.70, 133.26, 129.39, 127.41, 123.80, 41.71. HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): Calculated 254.0304; Observed 254.0309; Error = 2.0 ppm.

**(5-(Pyridin-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (3c).** A mixture of 2-((5-methylthiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)pyridine **15** (310 mg, 1.30 mmol),  $\text{Bz}_2\text{O}_2$  (75%; 20.9 mg, 0.0648 mmol), NBS (253 mg, 1.42 mmol) and DCE (6.5 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 20→40%) to afford 2-((5-(bromomethyl)thiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)pyridine as a white solid (294 mg, 71%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.74 (s, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.13 (d,  $J$  = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (s, 2H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  318/320  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ .

A mixture of 2-((5-(bromomethyl)thiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)pyridine (133 mg, 0.418 mmol),  $\text{NaN}_3$  (32.6 mg, 0.502 mmol) and DMF (2.1 mL) was stirred at 70 °C for 16 h. After cooling to rt, EtOAc (20 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed with 1:1  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ /brine ( $2 \times 20$  mL), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the intermediate was dissolved in THF (2.1 mL) and Pd/C (10%; 44 mg, 0.0418 mmol) was then added. The mixture was stirred at rt under  $\text{H}_2$  atmosphere (balloon) for 16 h, and subsequently filtered through celite. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford compound **3c** as a white solid (53 mg, 50%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.69 (ddd,  $J$  = 4.7, 1.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dt,  $J$  = 7.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (td,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.6, 4.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (dt,  $J$  = 3.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d,  $J$  = 0.9 Hz, 2H), 1.62 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  159.60, 159.12, 150.48, 138.27, 136.95, 135.65, 127.01, 123.94,

121.78, 41.71. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{10}H_{11}N_2O_2S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 255.0257; Observed 255.0276; Error = 7.5 ppm.

**(5-(Thiophen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (3d).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP4, GP5 and GP3 - from i) 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (1.0 g, 5.32 mmol), thiophene-2-thiol (586 mg, 5.05 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (881 mg, 6.38 mmol) and DMF (17 mL); 80 °C, 16 h. ii) mCPBA (77%; 1.30 g, 11.2 mmol) and DCM (36 mL); rt, 3 h. iii)  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 10.6 mL, 10.6 mmol) and THF (10.6 mL); rt, 1 h. Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 0→100%) afforded a brown gum (323 mg, 25%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.64 (dd,  $J$  = 5.0, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (dd,  $J$  = 3.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d,  $J$  = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (dd,  $J$  = 5.0, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dt,  $J$  = 3.7, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 1.63 (br, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  155.85, 147.91, 145.56, 131.64, 130.91, 129.86, 127.48, 123.47, 41.84. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_9H_7O_2S_3$  ( $[M-NH_2]^+$ ): Calculated 242.9608; Observed 242.9608; Error = 0 ppm.

**5-(Biphenyl-3-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (3e).** 5-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-3-ylthio)thiophene-2-carbonitrile was synthesized according to general procedures GP4 - from 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (160 mg, 1.11 mmol), [1,1'-biphenyl]-3-thiol (223 mg, 1.22 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (308 mg, 2.23 mmol) and DMF (4.6 mL); 120 °C, 16 h; Chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0→20%) afforded a brown oil (327 mg, 92%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  7.13-7.80 (m, 11H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  294  $[M+H]^+$ .

*tert*-Butyl ((5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-ylthio)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 and GP6 - from i) 5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-ylthio)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (264 mg, 0.910 mmol),  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 2.7 mL, 2.70 mmol), THF (2.7 mL); rt, 1 h. ii)  $Boc_2O$  (590 mg, 2.70 mmol),  $Et_3N$  (250  $\mu$ L, 1.80 mmol), DCM (3.5 mL); rt, 16 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0→30%) afforded a yellow oil (64 mg, 18%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.56 (m, 1H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.33 (m, 3H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d,  $J$  = 3.3Hz, 1H), 5.04 (s, 1H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 1.50 (s, 9H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  281  $[M-BocNH]^+$ .

Compound **3e** was synthesized according to general procedures GP5 and GP2 - from i) *tert*-butyl ((5-([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-ylthio)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate (64 mg, 0.161 mmol), mCPBA (77%; 69 mg, 0.402 mmol), DCM (2.0 mL); 45 °C, 1.5 h. ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (8.0 mL); rt, 16 h. The white precipitate was filtered, washed with excess EtOAc to afford a white solid (25mg, 42% over two steps). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 8.19 (m, 1H), 7.99 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (ddd, *J* = 7.8, 1.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.52 (m, 2H), 7.44 (m, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 144.2, 143.8, 142.8, 142.4, 138.8, 133.8, 131.9, 130.3, 130.1, 128.9, 128.2, 126.7, 125.7, 125.1, 37.1. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M-NH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 313.0357; Observed 313.0359; Error = 0.64 ppm.

**(5-(Naphthalen-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (3f).** 5-(Naphthalen-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile was synthesized according to general procedures GP4 and GP5 - from i) 5-chlorothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (95 μL, 0.901 mmol), naphthalene-1-thiol (137 μL, 0.991 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (250 mg, 1.80 mmol) and DMF (3.0 mL); 120 °C, 16 h. ii) mCPBA (77%; 504 mg, 2.25 mmol) and DCM (15 mL); rt, 16 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0→15%) afforded a colorless oil (170 mg, 63%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.78 (m, 1H), 8.51 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.59 (m, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H). LCMS (ESI) *m/z* 300 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

Compound **3f** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from BH<sub>3</sub> (1.0 M in THF; 1.10 mL, 1.10 mmol), 5-(naphthalen-1-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (110 mg, 0.367 mmol) and THF (1.8 mL); rt, 2 h. Chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→20%) afforded a white crystalline solid (25 mg, 23%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.86 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.70 – 7.64 (m, 2H), 7.63 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 6.84 (dt, *J* = 3.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (d, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 2H), 1.58 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.61, 141.08, 137.18, 135.25, 134.40, 133.68, 129.61, 129.23, 128.54, 127.07, 124.65, 124.63, 123.50, 41.67. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M-NH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 287.0195; Observed 287.0226; Error = 11 ppm.

**(5-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (3g).** Compound **3g** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $\text{BH}_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 5.10 mL, 5.10 mmol), 5-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile **43** (510 mg, 1.71 mmol) and THF (10 mL); rt, 3 h. Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 30→100%) afforded a white solid (273 mg, 54%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.58 (s, 1H), 8.01 – 7.87 (m, 4H), 7.68 – 7.57 (m, 3H), 6.88 (m, 1H), 4.05 (s, 2H), 1.56 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  158.24, 140.73, 139.30, 135.17, 133.73, 132.40, 129.75, 129.59, 129.25, 128.71, 128.06, 127.75, 123.82, 122.58, 41.68. HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$  ( $[\text{M}-\text{NH}_2]^+$ ): Calculated 287.0195; Observed 287.0207; Error = 4.2 ppm.

***N*-(4-(5-(Aminomethyl)thiophen-2-ylsulfonyl)phenyl)methanesulfonamide (3h).** A mixture 5-((4-aminophenyl)thio)thiophene-2-carbonitrile **19** (120 mg, 0.517 mmol),  $\text{MsCl}$  (44.0  $\mu\text{L}$ , 0.568 mmol) and pyridine (1.7 mL) was stirred at rt for 16 h. 2 M  $\text{HCl}$  (30 mL) was added. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3  $\times$  20 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was dissolved in DCM (2.6 mL).  $m\text{CPBA}$  (77%; 254 mg, 1.14 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at rt for 5 h. sat.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (40 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3  $\times$  40 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→15%) to afford *N*-(4-((5-cyanothiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)methanesulfonamide as a white solid (69 mg, 39%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.50 (d,  $J$  = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d,  $J$  = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (s, 3H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  365  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ .

Compound **3h** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $\text{BH}_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 0.61 mL, 0.61 mmol), *N*-(4-((5-cyanothiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)methanesulfonamide (69 mg, 0.202 mmol) and THF (0.6 mL); rt, 1 h. Chromatography (MeOH/DCM 5→25%) afforded a yellow solid (2 mg, 3%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*4)  $\delta$  7.90 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.58 (d,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.04 (d,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 3.03 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*4)  $\delta$



156.79, 146.06, 142.74, 136.92, 134.52, 130.00, 126.62, 119.69, 41.34, 40.06. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{12}H_{15}N_2O_4S_3$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 347.0189; Observed 347.0190; Error = 0.29 ppm.

**(5-(4-(Methylsulfonyl)phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (3i).** 5-((4-(Methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile was synthesized according to general procedures GP4 and GP5 - from i) 5-chlorothiophene-2-carbonitrile (500 mg, 3.48 mmol), 4-(methylthio)benzenethiol (599 mg, 3.83 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (960 mg, 7.00 mmol) and DMF (11.6 mL); 120 °C, 16 h. ii) mCPBA (77%; 3.90 g, 17.4 mmol) and DCM (23 mL); rt, 2 h. White solid obtained which did not require further purification (770 mg, 68%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  8.35 – 8.29 (m, 2H), 8.24 – 8.18 (m, 2H), 8.13 – 8.08 (m, 2H), 3.31 (s, 3H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  147.29, 145.83, 144.19, 140.29, 134.79, 128.78, 128.56, 116.87, 112.57, 42.92.

Compound **3i** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 8.40 mL, 8.40 mmol), 5-((4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (921 mg, 2.81 mmol) and THF (18 mL); 50 °C, 3 h. Chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→20%) afforded a white solid (310 mg, 34%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.19 – 8.15 (m, 2H), 8.11 – 8.06 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dt,  $J$  = 3.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (d,  $J$  = 0.8 Hz, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  160.12, 147.61, 144.80, 138.67, 134.95, 128.64, 128.46, 124.12, 44.41, 41.70. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{12}H_{14}NO_4S_3$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 332.0080; Observed 332.0070; Error = 3.0 ppm.

**(5-(4-(Methylsulfonyl)butylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (3j).** A mixture of 2-methyl-5-((4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl)sulfonyl)thiophene **16** (860 mg, 2.90 mmol),  $Bz_2O_2$  (75%; 46.8 mg, 0.145 mmol), NBS (568 mg, 3.19 mmol) and DCE (14.5 mL) was stirred at 70 °C for 16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was dissolved in DMF (14.5 mL).  $NaN_3$  (226 mg, 3.40 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 70 °C for 5 h. After cooling to rt, EtOAc (30 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed with 1:1  $H_2O$ /brine ( $3 \times 30$  mL), dried over  $MgSO_4$  and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/DCM 5→30%) to afford 2-(azidomethyl)-5-((4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl)sulfonyl)thiophene as a

colorless oil (414 mg, 42%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (m, 1H), 4.59 (s, 2H), 3.33 – 3.22 (m, 2H), 3.13 – 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.92 (s, 3H), 2.13 – 1.92 (m, 4H). LCMS (ESI) *m/z* 360 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>.

A mixture of (azidomethyl)-5-((4-(methylsulfonyl)butyl)sulfonyl)-thiophene (410 mg, 1.22 mmol) and Pd/C (10%; 129 mg, 0.122 mmol) in THF (6.1 mL) was stirred at rt under H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere (balloon) for 16 h, and subsequently filtered through celite. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford compound **3j** as a white solid (27 mg, 6%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (m, 1H), 4.11 (s, 2H), 3.25 – 3.19 (m, 2H), 3.05 – 3.00 (m, 2H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.03 – 1.91 (m, 4H), 1.71 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.73, 137.14, 134.65, 123.97, 56.81, 53.92, 41.63, 40.85, 22.16, 21.11. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 312.0393; Observed 312.0417; Error = 7.7 ppm.

**(5-(Phenylsulfinyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (4a).** 5-(Phenylsulfinyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile was synthesized according to general procedures GP5 – from mCPBA (77%; 143 mg, 0.636 mmol) and 5-(phenylthio)thiophene-2-carbonitrile **29** (138 mg, 0.636 mmol) in DCM (3 mL); rt, 16 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0→20%) afforded a colorless oil (127 mg, 86%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.76 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.50 (m, 4H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H). LCMS (ESI) *m/z* 233 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

Compound **4a** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from BH<sub>3</sub> (1.0 M in THF; 1.70 mL, 1.70 mmol), 5-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (132 mg, 0.568 mmol) and THF (2.8 mL); rt, 2 h. Chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→20%) afforded a yellow oil (53 mg, 40%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.72 – 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.54 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 6.86 (m, 1H), 4.00 (s, 2H), 1.80 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 156.03, 145.85, 145.18, 132.03, 131.13, 129.26, 124.42, 123.46, 41.74. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NOS<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 238.0355; Observed 238.0378; Error = 9.7 ppm.

**(5-(Phenylthio)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (4b).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP2 - from 4 M HCl in dioxane (2.5 mL) and *tert*-butyl ((5-(phenylthio)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate (60.1 mg, 0.189 mmol); rt, 3 h. White solid obtained which did not require further purification (29 mg, 60%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 7.36 – 7.14 (m, 7H), 4.32 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 141.06, 138.75, 136.99, 135.89, 131.40, 130.24, 129.20, 127.91, 38.79. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M-NH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 205.0146; Observed 205.1050; Error = 2.0 ppm.

**5-(Aminomethyl)-*N*-benzylthiophene-2-sulfonamide (4c).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11a** (100 mg, 0.325 mmol), benzylamine (88.7 μL, 0.812 mmol) and DCM (1.63 mL); 16 h, rt. ii) 30% NaOH (0.5 mL) and MeOH (3 mL); rt, 16 h. Colorless oil (59 mg, 64%) obtained which didn't require further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.20 (m, 5H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.24 (br, 1H), 4.19 (s, 2H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 1.87 (br, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 132.60, 128.77, 128.02, 127.98, 123.55, 47.50, 41.43. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 283.0570; Observed 283.0573; Error = 1.1 ppm.

**5-(Aminomethyl)-*N*-benzylthiophene-2-carboxamide (4d).** A mixture of methyl 5-(azidomethyl)thiophene-2-carboxylate **44** (A = S) (1.77 g, 8.98 mmol), 1 M NaOH (30 mL) and MeOH (30 mL) was stirred at rt for 16 h. The pH was subsequently adjusted to <2 with 2 M HCl. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was dissolved in DCM (21.8 mL), oxalyl chloride (0.61 mL, 7.20 mmol) was added, followed by DMF (2 drops). The mixture was stirred at rt for 3 h and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford acyl chloride **45** (A = S) as an orange oil (1.25 g, 75%). Acyl chloride **45** was used in the subsequent transformation without further purification

Benzylamine (120 μL, 1.09 mmol) was added to a solution of acyl chloride **45** (100 mg, 0.496 mmol) and DCM (2.5 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 3 h. 2 M HCl (10 mL) was added and the

aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $3 \times 10$  mL). The combined organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was dissolved in THF (2.5 mL) and 10% Pd/C (53 mg) was added. The mixture was stirred under  $\text{H}_2$  atmosphere (balloon) at rt for 24 h and was subsequently filtered through celite. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (1 N  $\text{NH}_3$  in MeOH/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%) to afford compound **4d** as a white solid (55 mg, 45%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  7.36 – 7.19 (m, 5H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.37 (d,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.52 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  160.84, 159.70, 147.96, 140.02, 129.53, 128.59, 128.25, 116.26, 109.12, 43.74, 39.37. HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{OS}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): Calculated 247.0905; Observed 247.0907; Error = 0.81 ppm.

**(5-(4-(Methylsulfonyl)phenyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (4e).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP2 - from *tert*-butyl ((5-(4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **59** (267 mg, 0.797 mmol), 4 M HCl in dioxane (4 mL) and DCM (4 mL); rt, 16 h. Light yellow solid obtained which did not require further purification (138 mg, 64%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  8.01 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.93 – 7.89 (m, 2H), 7.57 (d,  $J = 3.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d,  $J = 3.8$  Hz, 1H), 4.36 (s, 2H), 3.16 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  144.98, 140.90, 140.20, 137.74, 131.83, 129.37, 127.31, 126.97, 44.36, 38.86. HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$  ( $[\text{M}-\text{NH}_2]^+$ ): Calculated 251.0200; Observed 251.0196; Error = 1.6 ppm.

**(6-(Benzylsulfonyl)pyridin-3-yl)methanamine dihydrochloride (5a).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP5 and GP2 - from i) sulfide **47** (44 mg, 0.133 mmol), mCPBA (50%; 115 mg, 0.333 mmol), DCM (0.6 mL); rt, 16 h. ii) 2 M HCl in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (2.0 mL), DCM (1.0 mL); rt, 20 h. Chromatography (1N  $\text{NH}_3$  in MeOH/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%) afforded a white solid (27 mg, 77%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  8.76 (m, 1H), 7.92 (m, 1H), 7.75 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.30 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 4.68 (s, 2H), 3.92 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  155.78, 150.77, 144.38, 138.22, 132.22, 129.66, 129.53, 129.19, 129.14, 124.10, 59.32, 43.72. HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): Calculated 263.0849; Observed 263.0848; Error = 0.38 ppm.

**(5-(Benzylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (5b).** 5-(Benzylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile was synthesized according to general procedures GP4 and GP5 - from i) 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (150  $\mu$ L, 1.35 mmol), benzylmercaptan (174  $\mu$ L, 1.49 mmol), NaH (60% in mineral oil; 59.5 mg, 1.49 mmol) and DMF (4.5 mL); 140  $^{\circ}$ C, 16 h. ii) mCPBA (77%; 757 mg, 3.38 mmol) and DCM (4.5 mL); rt, 4 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%) afford a white solid (318 mg, 89%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  8.07 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 4.93 (s, 2H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  286  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ .

Compound **5b** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $\text{BH}_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 1.10 mL, 1.10 mmol), 5-(benzylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (151 mg, 0.570 mmol) and THF (2.8 mL); rt, 1 h. Chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%) to afforded a white crystalline solid (23 mg, 15%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.38 – 7.26 (m, 3H), 7.21 – 7.15 (m, 3H), 6.84 (dt,  $J$  = 3.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 4.07 (d,  $J$  = 0.9 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (s, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  158.50, 136.25, 135.25, 130.88, 129.00, 128.74, 128.52, 123.68, 64.15, 41.68. HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{14}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): Calculated 268.0461; Observed 268.0462; Error = 0.37 ppm.

**(2-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiazol-5-yl)methanamine dihydrochloride (5c).** *tert*-Butyl ((2-(naphthalen-2-ylthio)thiazol-5-yl)methyl)carbamate was synthesized according to general procedures GP4, GP3 and GP6 - from i) 2-chlorothiazole-5-carbonitrile **17b** (580 mg, 4 mmol), naphthalene-2-thiol (640 mg, 4 mmol),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (800 mg, 5.8 mmol) and DMF (10 mL); 60  $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h. Chromatography (DCM/cyclohexane 0 $\rightarrow$ 100%) 400 mg, 37%. ii) 2-(naphthalen-2-ylthio)thiazole-5-carbonitrile (400 mg, 1.5 mmol),  $\text{BH}_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 5 mL, 5 mmol), THF (20 mL); rt, 18 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 100%) 120 mg, 26% iii) (2-(naphthalen-2-ylthio)thiazol-5-yl)methanamine (120 mg, 0.4 mmol),  $\text{Boc}_2\text{O}$  (109 mg, 0.5 mmol),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (70  $\mu$ L, 0.5 mmol), THF (5 mL); rt, 18 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 50%) to afford *tert*-butyl ((2-(naphthalen-2-ylthio)thiazol-5-yl)methyl)carbamate (110 mg, 74%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*6)  $\delta$  8.79 (d,  $J$  = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (dd,  $J$  = 8.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.82 –

7.75 (m, 1H), 7.72 (ddd,  $J = 8.0, 6.9, 1.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 2H), 1.38 (s, 9H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  373  $[M+H]^+$ .

Compound **5c** was synthesized according to general procedures GP5 and GP2 - from i) *tert*-butyl ((2-(naphthalen-2-ylthio)thiazol-5-yl)methyl)carbamate (110 mg, 0.296 mmol), mCPBA (77%; 340 mg, 1.52 mmol), DCM (5.0 mL); rt, 3 h. ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (2.0 mL), dioxane (5 mL); rt, 16 h. The white precipitate was filtered, washed with excess dioxane and dried under vacuum to afford the desired compound as a white solid (33 mg, 37%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.82 (d,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.49 (s, 3H), 8.31 (d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 8.23 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.15 (s, 1H), 8.10 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dd,  $J = 8.6, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.77 – 7.71 (m, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H). HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$   $[M+H]^+$ : Calculated 305.0413; Observed 305.0471; Error = 19 ppm.

**(5-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiazol-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (5d)**. The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP5 and GP2 - from i) *tert*-butyl ((5-(naphthalen-2-ylthio)thiazol-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **49** (200 mg, 0.537 mmol), mCPBA (77%; 300 mg, 1.34 mmol), DCM (4 mL); rt, 18 h; chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0→60%). ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (1.6 mL); rt, 4 h. The mixture was diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O and the precipitate collected using filtration, washing with excess Et<sub>2</sub>O, and dried under vacuum to afford the compound as a white solid (106 mg, 52% over two steps).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  8.79 (d, 1H,  $J = 1.8$  Hz), 8.72 (br s, 3H), 8.65 (s, 1H), 8.27 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 8.21 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.8$  Hz), 8.09 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 8.00 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.7, 2.0$  Hz), 7.78 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.2, 6.9, 1.3$  Hz), 7.73 (ddd, 1H,  $J = 8.1, 6.9, 1.3$  Hz), 4.46 (s, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ , 125 MHz)  $\delta$  170.3, 147.4, 140.2, 137.6, 134.9, 131.8, 130.4, 130.0, 129.7, 128.8, 128.2, 128.0, 121.8, 39.7; HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{13}\text{N}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_2$   $[M+H]^+$ : Calculated 305.0402; Observed 305.0413; Error = 3.6 ppm.

**5-(Aminomethyl)-*N*-benzylfuran-2-carboxamide (5e)**. Benzylamine (130  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.19 mmol) was added to a solution of acyl chloride **45** (A = O; 100 mg, 0.539 mmol) and DCM (2.7 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. 2M HCl (10 mL) was added and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (3  $\times$  10 mL). The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was

removed under reduced pressure. The crude was dissolved in THF (2.7 mL) and 10% Pd/C (57.3 mg) was added. The mixture was stirred under H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere (balloon) at rt for 20 h and was subsequently filtered through celite. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (1 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford compound **5e** as a light brown oil (48 mg, 39%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 7.56 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.18 (m, 5H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 164.43, 152.94, 140.21, 138.59, 129.85, 129.56, 128.56, 128.22, 126.28, 44.41, 41.61. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 253.0953; Observed 253.0960; Error = 2.8 ppm.

**(5-(Indolin-1-ylsulfonyl)-4-methylthiophen-2-yl)methanamine (5f).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP1 - from i) sulfonyl chloride **11b** (crude), Et<sub>3</sub>N (44.4 μL, 0.319 mmol), indoline (33 μL, 0.294 mmol) and DCM (1.2 mL); rt, 3 h. ii) 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (5 mL); rt for 20 h. Chromatography (1 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH/DCM 0→10%) afforded compound a light brown foam (54 mg, 73%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 7.00 (td, *J* = 7.4, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 4.03 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 1.68 – 1.35 (br, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 153.13, 143.82, 141.96, 132.09, 129.42, 127.97, 127.69, 125.15, 124.08, 115.79, 50.22, 41.39, 28.16, 15.56. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 309.0726; Observed 309.0726; Error = 0 ppm.

**N-Methyl-1-(5-(phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (6a).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP2 – from *tert*-butyl methyl((5-(phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate (57 mg, 0.155 mmol) and 4 M HCl in dioxane (2.5 mL); rt, 16 h. Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 50→100%) afforded a white solid (43 mg, quant.). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 8.01 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.67 – 7.55 (m, 4H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 154.35, 143.60, 142.54, 134.90, 134.63, 130.61, 128.22, 127.79, 50.42, 35.41. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 268.0461; Observed 268.0457; Error = 1.5 ppm.

**1-(5-(Phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)ethanamine (6b).** A mixture of sulfone **41** (177 mg, 0.665 mmol), hydroxylamine hydrochloride (76 mg, 1.10 mmol) and DIPEA (174  $\mu$ L, 1.00 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL) was stirred at reflux for 18 h. After cooling to rt, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 100%) to afford 1-(5-(phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)ethanone oxime (80 mg, 43%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  11.72 (s, 1H), 8.01 – 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.79 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.68 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.41 (d,  $J$  = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H).

A mixture of 1-(5-(phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)ethanone oxime (80 mg, 0.142 mmol), Zn powder (~10 mg) and TFA (4 mL) was stirred at rt for 1 h. The mixture was diluted with DCM, filtered through celite and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. EtOAc was added and the solution was washed with sat.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford compound **6b** (17 mg, 43%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.96 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.65 – 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.01 (dd,  $J$  = 3.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (qd,  $J$  = 6.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (s, 1H), 1.30 (d,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 3H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  251  $[\text{M}-\text{NH}_2]^+$ .

**5-(Phenylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (6c).** The titled compound can be obtained in two steps from the method illustrated in Scheme 3 in the manuscript. An alternative one step method is shown here – a mixture of 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (100 mg, 0.532 mmol), sodium benzenesulfinate (138 mg, 0.691 mmol) and DMF (1.0 mL) was stirred at 135  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 16 h. After cooling to rt, EtOAc (10 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $2 \times 10$  mL) and brine (10 mL), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%) to afford nitrile **6c** as a white crystalline solid (67 mg, 51%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  8.03 – 7.98 (m, 2H), 7.70 – 7.53 (m, 5H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform- $d$ )  $\delta$  150.24, 140.54, 137.42, 134.47, 132.39, 129.89, 127.86, 117.10, 112.37. HRMS (ESI) for  $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2$  ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ): Calculated 249.9996; Observed 250.0001; Error = 2.0 ppm.



**5-(Phenylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carboximidamide hydrochloride (6d).** LiHMDS (225 mg, 1.35 mmol) was added to a mixture of nitrile **6c** (224 mg, 0.900 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. 2 N HCl (5 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for a further 1 h. The aqueous layer was washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O, basified with NaOH pellets and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The combined organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford compound **6d** as a yellow solid (40 mg, 16%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 8.07 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (br. s., 2H), 7.54 - 7.80 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 160.8, 151.3, 142.2, 137.2, 135.8, 135.1, 134.9, 131.2, 129.0. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: Calculated 267.0256; Observed 267.0301; Error = 17 ppm.

**5-(Phenylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carboxamide (6e).** A mixture of nitrile **6c** (100 mg, 0.401 mmol), InCl<sub>3</sub> (4.4 mg, 5%) and acetaldoxime (76 mg, 1.21 mmol) in toluene (0.4 mL) was stirred at reflux for 5 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 20→80%) to afford compound **6e** as a yellow gel (52 mg, 50%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 7.94 - 8.10 (m, 2H), 7.66 - 7.75 (m, 3H), 7.59 - 7.66 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 164.8, 148.5, 148.3, 142.9, 135.2, 134.8, 130.9, 130.2, 128.7. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: Calculated 268.0097; Observed 268.0187; Error = 34 ppm.

**5-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbaldehyde oxime (6f).** DIBAL-H (1.0 M in toluene; 1.0 mL, 1.0 mmol) was added to a solution of 5-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile **43** (104 mg, 0.347 mmol) in DCM (3 mL) at rt. The mixture was stirred at 45 °C for 45 min and cool in ice bath. 2 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added followed by stirring for a further 1 h at rt. The aqueous phase was extracted with DCM. The organic phase was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0→30%) to afford 5-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbaldehyde as a yellow solid (96 mg, 92%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.92 (s, 1H), 8.62 (s, 1H), 8.07 - 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.96 - 7.87 (m, 2H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.72 - 7.61 (m, 3H). HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: Calculated 303.0144; Observed 303.0159; Error = 5.0 ppm.

A mixture of 5-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbaldehyde (96 mg, 0.318 mmol), hydroxylamine hydrochloride (28 mg, 0.406 mmol) and  $K_2CO_3$  (132 mg, 0.957 mmol) in EtOH (6.0 mL) was stirred 70 °C for 2 h. After cooling to rt, the mixture was filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane) to afford oxime **6f** as a white solid (38 mg, 38%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.61 (s, 1H), 7.95 - 8.08 (m, 2H), 7.87 - 7.95 (m, 2H), 7.58 - 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.41 (d,  $J$  = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.8 (br s, OH).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  161.8, 147.8, 145.1, 137.9, 135.3, 132.8, 132.2, 129.9, 129.5, 129.3, 128.5, 128.0, 127.9, 122.3. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{15}H_{11}NO_3S_2$  [M-OH] $^+$ : Calculated 300.0153; Observed 300.0192; Error = 13 ppm.

**(3-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (7a)**. The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 6.0 mL, 6.0 mmol), 3-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile **52** (602 mg, 2.01 mmol) and THF (6.0 mL); 2 h, rt. Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 0→90%) afforded a white crystalline solid (289 mg, 48%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.55 (d,  $J$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.69 - 7.60 (m, 2H), 7.42 (d,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 4.31 (s, 2H), 1.92 (s, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  154.77, 138.97, 135.19, 135.00, 132.29, 129.85, 129.57, 129.32, 128.68, 128.45, 128.09, 127.85, 124.02, 122.36, 40.04. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{15}H_{14}NO_2S_2$  ([M+H] $^+$ ): Calculated 304.0460; Observed 304.0462; Error = 0.66 ppm.

**(4-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-3-yl)methanamine (7b)**. The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 8.2 mL, 8.2 mmol), 4-(naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-3-carbonitrile **54** (0.821 g, 2.75 mmol) and THF (8.2 mL); 2 h, rt. Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 0→100%) afforded a white crystalline solid (386 mg, 47%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.55 (br, 1H), 8.27 (d,  $J$  = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 - 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d,  $J$  = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 2H), 1.82 - 1.54 (m, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  142.19,

1 138.80, 137.83, 135.08, 134.87, 132.08, 129.73, 129.46, 129.34, 128.86, 127.98, 127.79, 124.96,  
2 122.48, 77.42, 77.17, 76.92, 40.35. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{15}H_{14}NO_2S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 304.0460;  
3 Observed 304.0460; Error = 0 ppm.

4 **(4-(Naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (7c)**. The titled compound was  
5 synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 5.0 mL, 5.0 mmol), 4-  
6 (naphthalen-2-ylsulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile **56** (501 mg, 1.68 mmol) and THF (5.0 mL); 2 h, rt.  
7 Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 5→100%) afforded a light orange solid (256 mg, 51%).  $^1H$  NMR  
8 (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.57 (s, 1H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 8.00 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.90 – 7.84 (m, 2H), 7.67 –  
9 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 3.97 (s, 2H), 1.71 (s, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  151.36,  
10 141.20, 138.42, 135.07, 132.24, 130.33, 129.71, 129.44, 129.20, 128.89, 127.99, 127.70, 122.56,  
11 121.52, 41.27. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{15}H_{14}NO_2S_2$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 304.0460; Observed 304.0444;  
12 Error = 5.2 ppm.

13 **(5-(3-(Methylsulfonyl)phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (8a)**. 5-((3-  
14 (Methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile was synthesized according to general  
15 procedures GP4 and GP5 - from i) 5-chlorothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (120  $\mu$ L, 1.14 mmol), 3-  
16 (methylthio)benzenethiol (178 mg, 1.14 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (157 mg, 1.14 mmol) and DMF (5.7 mL); 120  
17  $^{\circ}C$ , 16 h. ii) mCPBA (77%; 1.15 g, 5.13 mmol) and DCM (5.7 mL); rt, 16 h. Chromatography  
18 (EtOAc/DCM 5→30%) afforded a white solid (207 mg, 56%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$   
19 8.57 (t,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.28 (ddd,  $J = 7.9, 1.8, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.23 (ddd,  $J = 7.9, 1.6, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.83 (t,  
20  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 4.1$  Hz, 1H), 3.13 (s, 3H).

21 Compound **8a** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 0.88  
22 mL, 0.88 mmol), 5-((3-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (96 mg, 0.293 mmol)  
23 and THF (1.5 mL); rt, 1 h. Chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→20%) afforded a white solid (60 mg,  
24 63%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.50 (t,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.24 (ddd,  $J = 7.9, 1.7, 1.1$  Hz,  
25 1H), 8.13 (ddd,  $J = 7.8, 1.7, 1.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dt,  $J =$   
26 3.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d,  $J = 0.9$  Hz, 2H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-

d)  $\delta$  160.00, 144.45, 142.31, 138.59, 134.88, 132.21, 131.73, 130.82, 126.38, 124.12, 44.45, 41.64.

HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{12}H_{11}O_4S_3$  ( $[M-NH_2]^+$ ): Calculated 314.9814; Observed 314.9820; Error = 1.9 ppm.

**(5-(2-(Methylsulfonyl)phenylsulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (8b).** 5-((2-(Methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile was synthesized according to general procedures GP4 and GP5 - from i) 5-chlorothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a** (87.8  $\mu$ L, 0.832 mmol), 2-(methylthio)benzenethiol (130 mg, 0.832 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (172 mg, 1.25 mmol) and DMF (2.8 mL); 120  $^{\circ}C$ , 16 h. ii) mCPBA (77%; 839 mg, 3.74 mmol) and DCM (2.8 mL); rt, 6 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/DCM 5 $\rightarrow$ 30%) to afford a white solid (46 mg, 17%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.47 (m, 1H), 8.37 (m, 1H), 7.96 – 7.87 (m, 3H), 7.54 (d,  $J$  = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (s, 3H).

Compound **8b** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 0.41 mL, 0.41 mmol), 5-((2-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (45 mg, 0.137 mmol) and THF (0.8 mL); rt, 1 h. Chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0 $\rightarrow$ 20%) afforded compound **8b** as a white solid (17 mg, 39%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.43 (dd,  $J$  = 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (dd,  $J$  = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d,  $J$  = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 6.88 (dt,  $J$  = 3.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (d,  $J$  = 0.8 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  159.33, 142.15, 139.62, 138.92, 136.80, 134.50, 134.07, 132.79, 132.44, 123.74, 45.73, 41.73. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{12}H_{14}NO_4S_3$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 332.0080; Observed 332.0108; Error = 8.4 ppm.

**(5-((4-(Pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (8c).** A mixture of 2,2,2-trifluoro-*N*-((5-((4-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl)phenyl)thio)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)acetamide **24c** (91 mg, 0.202 mmol), mCPBA (77%; 100 mg, 0.444 mmol) and DCM (1.4 mL) was stirred at rt for 4 h. EtOAc (30 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed with sat.  $NaHCO_3$  (3  $\times$  30 mL), dried over  $MgSO_4$  and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was dissolved in 7 N  $NH_3$  in MeOH (3.0 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 5 $\rightarrow$ 40%, then 100%) to afford compound **8c** as a white solid (38 mg, 49%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  8.20 – 8.15 (m, 2H), 8.04 – 8.00 (m, 2H), 7.70 (d,  $J$  = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (m, 1H), 4.01 (s, 2H), 3.27 – 3.22

(m, 4H), 1.79 – 1.73 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 159.72, 147.61, 143.08, 140.37, 136.09, 129.69, 129.18, 126.59, 49.15, 41.66, 26.28. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 387.0502; Observed 387.0489; Error = 3.4 ppm.

**(5-((3-(Pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (8d).** A mixture of 2,2,2-trifluoro-*N*-((5-((3-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulfonyl)phenyl)thio)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)acetamide **24d** (107 mg, 0.238 mmol), mCPBA (77%; 117 mg, 0.523 mmol) and DCM (1.6 mL) was stirred at rt for 4 h. EtOAc (30 mL) was added. The organic phase was washed with sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (3 × 30 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was dissolved in 7 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (3.0 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 5→40%, then 100%) to afford compound **8d** as a white solid (49 mg, 51%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.37 (br, 1H), 8.16 (m, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (m, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (m, 1H), 6.90 (br, 1H), 4.07 (br, 2H), 3.25 (br, 4H), 1.78 (br, 4H), 1.64 (br, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.69, 144.01, 139.17, 138.94, 134.64, 131.61, 131.00, 130.42, 126.07, 124.06, 48.17, 41.64, 25.40. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 387.0502; Observed 387.0493; Error = 2.3 ppm.

**(S)-(1-((3-((5-(Aminomethyl)thiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)pyrrolidin-2-yl)methanol (8e).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP5 and GP3 - from i) (S)-5-((3-((2-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidin-1-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)thio)thiophene-2-carbonitrile **23e** (180 mg, 0.474 mmol), mCPBA (77%; 234 mg, 1.04 mmol) and DCM (3.2 mL); rt, 3 h. ii) BH<sub>3</sub> (1.0 M in THF; 1.42 mL, 1.42 mmol) and THF (1.42 mL); rt, 1 h. Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 20→100%) afforded a white foam (141 mg, 72%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.37 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (dt, *J* = 7.9, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.02 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (m, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 3.69 – 3.58 (m, 3H), 3.45 (ddd, *J* = 10.4, 6.9, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dt, *J* = 10.4, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (br, 3H), 1.88 – 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.70 – 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.55 – 1.43 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.51, 144.04, 139.01, 138.72, 134.73, 131.69, 131.20,

130.61, 126.10, 124.24, 65.27, 62.06, 50.01, 41.54, 28.72, 24.26. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{16}H_{20}N_2O_5S_3Na$  ( $[M+Na]^+$ ): Calculated 439.0427; Observed 439.0413; Error = 3.2 ppm.

**(5-((4-(Phenylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (8f).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from 5-((4-(phenylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile **30** (40 mg, 0.103 mmol),  $BH_3$  (1.0 M in THF; 0.5 mL, 0.5 mmol) and THF (4.0 mL); rt, 3 h. Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 0→100%) afforded a glassy solid (8 mg, 20%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $DMSO-d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.21 – 8.13 (m, 4H), 7.99 (dt,  $J = 7.1, 1.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.64 (t,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, 2H), 7.02 (dt,  $J = 3.5, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d,  $J = 1.3$  Hz, 2H). HRMS calcd for  $C_{17}H_{15}NO_4S_3$   $[M+H]^+$  394.0236; found 394.0233; Error = 0.76 ppm.

**2-((4-((5-(Aminomethyl)thiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)ethanol hydrochloride (8g).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP2 – from *tert*-butyl ((5-((4-((2-hydroxyethyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **27** ( $n = 1$ ) (52 mg, 0.113 mmol) and 4M HCl in dioxane (3.0 mL); rt, 3 h. White solid obtained which didn't require further purification (39 mg, 87%).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $D_2O$ )  $\delta$  8.37 – 8.29 (m, 2H), 8.27 – 8.19 (m, 2H), 7.91 (m, 1H), 7.38 (m, 1H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 4.03 – 3.95 (m, 2H), 3.72 – 3.65 (m, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz,  $D_2O$ )  $\delta$  146.18, 144.20, 140.94, 136.69, 131.43, 130.19, 129.18, 58.15, 55.77, 38.19. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{13}H_{13}O_5S_3$  ( $[M-NH_2]^+$ ): Calculated 344.9920; Observed 344.9917; Error = 0.87 ppm.

**3-((4-((5-(Aminomethyl)thiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)propan-1-ol hydrochloride (8h).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP2 - from 4 M HCl in dioxane (1.5 mL) and *tert*-butyl ((5-((4-((3-hydroxypropyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **27** ( $n = 2$ ) 23.5 mg, 0.0494 mmol); rt, 3 h. A white solid was obtained and did not require further purification (23 mg, quant.).  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  8.26 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 8.15 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d,  $J = 3.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 3.58 (t,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 2H), 3.37 – 3.32 (m, 2H), 1.89 – 1.80 (m, 2H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  148.02,

146.19, 145.44, 144.33, 136.14, 131.84, 130.66, 129.60, 60.56, 53.60, 38.46, 26.85. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{14}H_{18}NO_5S_3$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 376.0342; Observed 376.0334; Error = 2.1 ppm.

**(5-((4-((2-(Pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine**

**dihydrochloride (8i).** Pyrrolidine (12.6  $\mu$ L, 0.151 mmol) was added to a solution of *tert*-butyl ((5-((4-(vinylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **28** (61 mg, 0.138 mmol) in DCM (0.8 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. 4 M HCl in dioxane (4 mL) was added to the crude and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. The precipitated solid was collected on a pad of celite and washed with EtOAc. MeOH was added to dissolve the solid and the suspension was filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford compound **8i** as a white solid (58 mg, 85%), which didn't require further purification.  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $D_2O$ )  $\delta$  8.37 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 8.27 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (m, 1H), 7.41 (m, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H), 3.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.92 – 2.98 (m, 6H), 2.13 (br, 4H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (126 MHz,  $D_2O$ )  $\delta$  146.87, 145.89, 142.50, 140.91, 136.88, 131.77, 130.49, 129.53, 55.66, 51.65, 48.16, 38.08, 23.47. HRMS (ESI) for  $C_{17}H_{23}N_2O_4S_3$  ( $[M+H]^+$ ): Calculated 415.0815; Observed 415.0828; Error = 3.1 ppm.

**N-(2-((4-((5-(Aminomethyl)thiophen-2-yl)sulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)ethyl)-acetamide**

**hydrochloride (8j).** A mixture of *tert*-butyl ((5-((4-(vinylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **28** (448 mg, 1.01 mmol) and 7 N  $NH_3$  in MeOH (10 mL) was stirred at rt for 2 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford *tert*-butyl ((5-((4-((2-aminoethyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)thio)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate as a white solid (472 mg, quant.) which didn't required further purification.  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz, Methanol- $d_4$ )  $\delta$  7.70 (d,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 8.16 – 8.12 (m, 2H), 3.39 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.96 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H), 8.27 – 8.21 (m, 2H). LCMS (ESI)  $m/z$  405  $[M-tBu+2H]^+$ .

$Ac_2O$  (18.1  $\mu$ L, 0.191 mmol) was added to a solution of afford *tert*-butyl ((5-((4-((2-aminoethyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)thio)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate (80 mg, 0.174 mmol) and  $Et_3N$  (29.1  $\mu$ L, 0.209 mmol) in DCM (1.2 mL) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. DCM (20 mL) was added. The organic solution was washed with  $H_2O$  (20 mL) and brine (20 mL), dried over  $MgSO_4$ , filtered and

the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. 4 M HCl in dioxane (5.0 mL) was added to the crude and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. The precipitated solid was filtered through a pad of celite and washed with EtOAc. MeOH was added to dissolve the solid and the suspension was filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford compound **8j** as a white solid (42 mg, 55%), which didn't require further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*4) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 3.57 – 3.44 (m, 4H), 1.69 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*4) δ 173.41, 148.05, 146.22, 145.69, 144.29, 136.17, 131.85, 130.69, 129.58, 54.98, 38.43, 34.81, 22.23. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 403.0451; Observed 403.0453; Error = 0.50 ppm.

**(5-((4-((2-Methoxyethyl)sulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (8k).** A mixture of *tert*-butyl ((5-((4-(vinylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **28** (65.9 mg, 0.149 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (24.6 mg, 0.178 mmol) and MeOH (1 mL) was stirred at rt for 2 h before it was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL). The organic layer was washed with 1:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/brine (20 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. 4 M HCl in dioxane (5 mL) was added to the crude and the mixture was stirred at rt for 3 h. The precipitated solid was filtered through a pad of celite and washed with EtOAc. MeOH was added to dissolve the solid and the suspension was filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford compound **8k** as a white solid (30 mg, 54%) which didn't require further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*4) δ 8.22 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 3.72 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.55 (t, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.11 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*4) δ 147.77, 146.76, 146.08, 144.50, 136.04, 131.78, 130.69, 129.24, 66.83, 58.69, 56.78, 38.43. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 376.0342; Observed 376.0333; Error = 2.4 ppm.

**(5-((3-(*tert*-Butyl)-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (9a).** To a solution of carbaldehyde **33** (590 mg, 1.66 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at 0 °C was added sodium borohydride (141 mg, 3.72 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h, before it was quenched



with ice. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 4-5 with 1 M HCl and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phase was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was dissolved in DCM (50 mL). mCPBA (77%; 742 mg, 3.31 mmol) was added in small portions at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at rt for 12 h, and the solvent was subsequently removed under reduced pressure. The crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0→60%) to afford (5-((3-(*tert*-butyl)-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanol (500 mg, 78% over 2 steps). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.32 (t, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 1.40 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 155.4, 155.3, 143.8, 142.0, 140.2, 134.3, 129.1, 128.7, 125.0, 123.7, 60.1, 44.4, 35.8, 31.0. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M-OH]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 371.0445; Observed 371.0486.

To a solution of (5-((3-(*tert*-butyl)-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanol (500 mg, 1.29 mmol) in THF (15 mL) at 0 °C was added PPh<sub>3</sub> (406 mg, 1.54 mmol) and DEAD (0.24 mL, 1.54 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 10 min, followed by the addition of DPPA (0.35 mL, 1.54 mmol). The reaction was warmed to rt over 16 h and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude was dissolved in EtOH (50 mL), and Pd/C (10%; 150 mg) was added. The mixture was stirred at rt under H<sub>2</sub> pressure (balloon) for 12 h and then filtered through celite. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 0→100%) to afford compound **9a** as an orange gum (262 mg, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.28 (t, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1H), 8.23 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 1.36 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.4, 155.2, 143.9, 141.8, 138.6, 134.5, 128.9, 128.4, 123.9, 123.5, 44.3, 41.4, 35.6, 30.9. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M-NH]<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>): Calculated 371.0445; Observed 371.0428; Error = 4.6 ppm.

**(5-((3-(*tert*-Butoxy)-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (9b).** NaO<sup>*t*</sup>Bu (65.8 mg, 0.684 mmol) was added to a degassed mixture of 2-ethylhexyl 3-((3-(*tert*-butoxy)-5-(methylthio)phenyl)thio)propanoate **60** (282 mg, 0.684 mmol) and 5-bromothiophene-2-carbonitrile **17a**

(76.1  $\mu$ L, 0.684 mmol) in DMF (3.4 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 60  $^{\circ}$ C for 3h. The cooled mixture was diluted with EtOAc (50 mL), washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3  $\times$  50 mL) and brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was purified by chromatography (EtOAc/pet ether 0 $\rightarrow$ 10%) to afford 5-((3-(*tert*-Butoxy)-5-(methylthio)phenyl)thio)thiophene-2-carbonitrile as a colorless oil (85 mg, 37%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  7.51 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (t, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 9H). LCMS (ESI) *m/z* 280 [M-*t*Bu+2H]<sup>+</sup>.

5-((3-(*tert*-Butoxy)-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile was synthesized according to general procedures GP5 – from 5-((3-(*tert*-Butoxy)-5-(methylthio)phenyl)thio)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (41 mg, 0.122 mmol), mCPBA (70-75%; 145 mg, 0.612 mmol) and DCM (1.2 mL); rt, 16 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/cyclohexane 0 $\rightarrow$ 60%) afforded a white solid (43 g, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.17 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H). LCMS (ESI, -ve) *m/z* 398 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

Compound **9b** was synthesized according to general procedures GP3 - from BH<sub>3</sub> (1.0 M in THF; 0.53 mL, 0.53 mmol), 5-((3-(*tert*-Butoxy)-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophene-2-carbonitrile (70 mg, 0.175 mmol) and THF (0.53 mL); 2 h, rt. Chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 30, then 100%) afforded a white foam (60 mg, 85%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*4)  $\delta$  8.14 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.79 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 7.15 (m, 1H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*4)  $\delta$  158.93, 157.22, 146.05, 144.77, 140.99, 136.12, 127.67, 126.97, 126.78, 120.47, 82.68, 43.97, 41.02, 28.83. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 404.0655; Observed 404.0651; Error = 0.99 ppm.

**(5-((3-(Methylsulfonyl)-5-((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (9c).** A mixture of *tert*-butyl ((5-((3-bromo-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **34** (170 mg, 0.333 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (38.5 mg, 10%), CuI (12.7 mg, 20%), trimethylsilylacetylene (70.6  $\mu$ L, 0.500 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.5 mL) and 1,4-dioxane (0.5 mL) was degassed

with argon and then stirred at rt for 16 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude was dissolved in DCM (1.0 mL). 4 M HCl in dioxane (1.0 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at rt for 16 h. EtOAc (2.0 mL) was added to precipitate the solids, which were filtered, washed with EtOAc and dried under vacuum to afford compound **9c** as a white powder (80 mg, 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 8.42 (H, 1H), 8.29 – 8.21 (m, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (s, 2H), 3.21 (s, 3H), 0.28 (s, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 146.34, 145.18, 144.58, 143.96, 136.34, 136.15, 135.52, 131.87, 127.82, 126.41, 101.83, 54.75, 43.85, 38.40. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub>Si ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 428.0475; Observed 428.0477; Error = 0.47 ppm.

**(5-((3-(1-Methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (9d).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP7 and GP2 – from i) *tert*-Butyl ((5-((3-bromo-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **34** (100 mg, 0.196 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (22.6 mg, 10%), (1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)boronic acid pinacol ester (48.9 mg, 0.235 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (76.7 mg, 0.235 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.3 mL); 90 °C, 16 h. ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (1.0 mL) and DCM (1.0 mL); rt, 3 h. The crude was basified with 2 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH and purified by chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→25%) to afford a light yellow solid (57 mg, 71%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>/Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.29 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.27 – 8.22 (m, 2H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 3.18 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>/Chloroform-*d*) δ 157.51, 145.17, 143.55, 139.75, 137.56, 137.06, 135.61, 129.87, 128.63, 128.57, 126.43, 123.50, 120.52, 44.25, 41.01, 39.31. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 412.0454; Observed 412.0444; Error = 2.4 ppm.

**(5-((3-(Methylsulfonyl)-5-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (9e).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP7 and GP2 – from i) *tert*-Butyl ((5-((3-bromo-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **34** (100 mg, 0.196 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (45.2 mg, 20%), pyridine-4-boronic acid (57.8 mg, 0.470 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (76.7 mg, 0.235 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.3 mL); 90 °C, 16 h. ii) 4M HCl in dioxane (0.6 mL) and 1,4-dioxane

(0.6 mL); rt, 16 h. The crude was basified with 2 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH and purified by chromatography (MeOH/DCM 0→20%) to afford a yellow solid (35 mg, 44%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>/Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.72 – 8.69 (m, 2H), 8.55 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.73 – 7.70 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.23 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>/Chloroform-*d*) δ 158.47, 150.06, 145.33, 145.14, 143.36, 141.22, 138.23, 135.26, 130.28, 130.21, 126.22, 125.35, 122.13, 43.68, 40.64. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 409.0345; Observed 409.0340; Error = 1.2 ppm.

**(5-((4'-Methyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (9g).**

The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP7 and GP2 – from i) *tert*-Butyl ((5-((3-bromo-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **34** (100 mg, 0.196 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (22.6 mg, 10%), *p*-tolylboronic acid (32.0 mg, 0.235 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (76.7 mg, 0.235 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.3 mL); 90 °C, 16 h. ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (1.0 mL) and DCM (1.0 mL); rt, 3 h. The crude was basified with 2 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH and purified by chromatography (acetone/DCM 0→40%) to afford a light yellow foam (20 mg, 24%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.45 – 8.39 (m, 2H), 8.30 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (s, 2H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 144.95, 144.56, 142.77, 139.79, 138.73, 134.92, 134.43, 130.27, 130.15, 129.73, 127.25, 124.34, 124.16, 44.59, 41.71, 21.36. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 422.0549; Observed 422.0561; Error = 2.8 ppm.

**(5-((3',5'-Dimethyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine**

**hydrochloride (9h).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP7 and GP2 – from i) *tert*-Butyl ((5-((3-bromo-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **34** (100 mg, 0.196 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (22.6 mg, 10%), (3,5-dimethylphenyl)boronic acid (35.3 mg, 0.235 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (76.7 mg, 0.235 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.3 mL); 90 °C, 16 h. ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (0.7 mL) and 1,4-dioxane (0.7 mL); rt, 16 h. The crude was basified with 2 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH and purified by chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 0→100%

then 100%) to afford a white solid (23 mg, 27%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>/Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.41 – 8.35 (m, 2H), 8.30 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (br, 2H), 7.09 (br, 1H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.04 (s, 2H), 3.17 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>/Chloroform-*d*) δ 145.50, 144.81, 143.06, 139.62, 139.57, 137.51, 135.39, 131.47, 130.63, 130.52, 126.17, 125.50, 124.57, 44.43, 40.89, 21.44. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 436.0705; Observed 436.0700; Error = 1.1 ppm.

**(5-((2'-ethyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (9i).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP7 and GP2 – from i) *tert*-Butyl ((5-((3-bromo-5-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **34** (100 mg, 0.196 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (22.6 mg, 10%), (2-ethylphenyl)boronic acid (35.3 mg, 0.235 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (76.7 mg, 0.235 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (1.3 mL); 90 °C, 16 h. ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (0.7 mL) and 1,4-dioxane (0.7 mL); rt, 16 h. The crude was basified with 2 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH and purified by chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 0→100% then 100%) to afford a white foam (42 mg, 49%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.49 (t, *J* = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.30 (td, *J* = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 2.53 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.61 (s, 2H), 1.12 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 159.97, 145.25, 144.31, 142.19, 141.50, 138.66, 137.63, 134.95, 132.72, 132.24, 129.87, 129.41, 129.33, 126.37, 124.59, 124.15, 44.53, 41.73, 26.17, 15.73. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 436.0705; Observed 436.0727; Error = 5.0 ppm.

**(5-((3-(1-Methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine dihydrochloride (9j).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP7 and GP2 – from i) *tert*-butyl ((5-((3-bromo-4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **37** (150 mg, 0.294 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (34.0 mg, 10%), (1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-4-yl)boronic acid pinacol ester (73.0 mg, 0.353 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (115 mg, 0.353 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL); 90 °C, 16 h. ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (1.5 mL) and

DCM (1.5 mL); rt, 3 h. White solid obtained (111 mg, 92%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) δ 8.32 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (s, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H), 2.96 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) δ 144.87, 144.70, 142.07, 140.32, 139.70, 135.77, 134.00, 132.82, 131.38, 130.83, 130.08, 126.31, 116.55, 41.49, 38.31, 37.18. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 412.0454; Observed 412.0441; Error = 3.2 ppm.

**(5-((6-(Methylsulfonyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine (9k).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP7 and GP2 – from i) *tert*-butyl ((5-((3-bromo-4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **37** (150 mg, 0.294 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (34.0 mg, 10%), phenylboronic acid (43.1 mg, 0.353 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (115 mg, 0.353 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL); 90 °C, 16 h. Chromatography (EtOAc/DCM 0→100%), white foam, 169 mg; ii) 4M HCl in dioxane (1.0 mL) and DCM (1.0 mL); rt, 3 h. The crude was basified with 2 N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH and purified by chromatography (EtOH/cyclohexane 0→100%) to afford a white solid (66 mg, 55%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.41 (m, 5H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (s, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 1.63 (s, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 160.04, 146.65, 143.39, 142.92, 138.54, 136.79, 134.97, 131.05, 130.11, 129.70, 129.38, 128.43, 126.64, 124.12, 43.13, 41.67. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>): Calculated 408.0392; Observed 408.0373; Error = 4.9 ppm.

**(5-((4'-Methyl-6-(methylsulfonyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-yl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methanamine hydrochloride (9l).** The titled compound was synthesized according to general procedures GP7 and GP2 – from i) *tert*-butyl ((5-((3-bromo-4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)sulfonyl)thiophen-2-yl)methyl)carbamate **37** (150 mg, 0.294 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (34.0 mg, 10%), *p*-tolyl boronic acid (48.0 mg, 0.353 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (115 mg, 0.353 mmol) and 1,4-dioxane (2.0 mL); 90 °C, 16 h. ii) 4 M HCl in dioxane (1.5 mL) and DCM (1.5 mL); rt, 3 h. A beige solid obtained (83 mg, 62% over). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) δ 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 5H), 4.40 (s, 2H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75

1 MHz, Methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>)  $\delta$  147.21, 146.24, 145.44, 144.69, 144.29, 140.60, 136.19, 135.39, 132.22, 131.88,  
2 131.03, 130.92, 129.94, 127.81, 43.41, 38.43, 21.30. HRMS (ESI) for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>S<sub>3</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>):  
3 Calculated 422.0549; Observed 422.0531; Error = 4.3 ppm.

4 **PAINS Assessment.** To identify compounds that may demonstrate some degree of promiscuity in  
5 biochemical screening, the PAINS filters as described by Baell and Holloway<sup>23</sup> were curated as  
6 SMARTS and scripted as a flagging protocol deployed in Vortex (Version 2018.09.76561.53-s, 2018,  
7 <https://www.dotmatics.com/products/vortex>) and Pipeline Pilot (Dassault Systèmes BIOVIA, BIOVIA  
8 Pipeline Pilot, Release 2018, San Diego: Dassault Systèmes, 2018). The 480 patterns were used to  
9 recognise structures that may result in non-specific binding to multiple biological targets by virtue of  
10 being comprised of one or more fragments established to be of concern. No LOX inhibitor in this study  
11 showed any potential PAINS liability when screened against this PAINS filter.

12 **LOX Protein Preparation and Enzyme Assay.** LOX enzyme was extracted from pig skin by the  
13 method of Shackleton and Hulmes.<sup>24</sup> LOX catalytic activity was determined using a horseradish  
14 peroxidase(HRP)-coupled fluorescent assay previously described,<sup>19</sup> with cadaverine hydrochloride as  
15 substrate, BAPN as positive control, a preincubation time of 20 minutes with nine dilutions from a top  
16 concentration of 100  $\mu$ M. LOXL2 was purchased from R&D System. LOXL2 catalytic activity was  
17 determined using the Promega ROS-Glo assay kit with cadaverine hydrochloride as substrate, BAPN as  
18 positive control, a preincubation time of 20 minutes at the same concentrations as above.

19 **High Throughput Screening.** HTS was performed by Evotec AG on 270,000 diverse compounds  
20 and 5000 fragments using the enzyme assay described above.

21 **Amine Oxidase Assays.** Methods for the determination of catalytic activity of DAO, MAO-A and  
22 MAO-B have been previously described.<sup>19</sup> All amine oxidase assays were performed with  
23 concentrations as above. MAO-A and MAO-B enzymes were purchased from Promega and Sigma  
24 respectively. The catalytic activity of MAO-A and MAO-B was determined using the Promega MAO-  
25 Glo assay kit (substrate included), with clorgyline and deprenyl as positive controls respectively. DAO

was purchased from Sigma and the catalytic activity was determined using the Promega ROS Glo assay kit, with aminoguanidine as the positive control. SSAO was purchased from Sigma. SSAO catalytic activity was determined using the Promega MAO-Glo assay kit, with Mofegiline as positive control.

*Assessment of Compound 9f as Substrate for Amine Oxidases.* The catalytic activities of MAO-A, MAO-B and SSAO with compound **9f** as substrate were determined using the respective enzymes described above and the hydrogen peroxide produced was quantified using the HRP-coupled fluorescent method as in the LOX activity assay.

**MLM Stability Assay.** Mouse liver microsomes (BALB/c) were purchased from Tebu-bio and the assay was performed by methods previously described.<sup>19</sup> Inhibitors at 10  $\mu$ M concentration incubated with the microsomes were assessed at 0, 15 and 30 minutes. Control samples containing no microsomes and no cofactors were also assessed at 0 and 30 min. Samples were extracted by protein precipitation, and centrifugation for 20 min in a refrigerated centrifuge (4 °C) at 3,700 r.p.m. The supernatant was analyzed by LC–MS/MS for % metabolized over time.

***In vivo* PK.** All procedures involving animals were performed in accordance with national Home Office regulations under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and within guidelines set out by the Institute's Animal Ethics Committee and the United Kingdom Coordinating Committee for Cancer Research's ad hoc Committee on the Welfare of Animals in Experimental Neoplasia.<sup>25</sup> Female BALB/c or CD1 mice (Charles River Laboratories) at 6 weeks of age were used for the PK analyses. The mice were dosed orally by gavage (50 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in DMSO:water 1:19 v:v; n = 21) or intravenously in the tail vein (10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> in DMSO:Tween20:saline 10:1:89 v:v:v; n = 24). Samples were taken at seven (po) or eight (iv) time-points between 5 min and 24 h. Three mice were used per time-point per route. They were placed under halothane or isoflurane anesthesia, and blood for plasma preparation was taken by terminal cardiac puncture into heparinized syringes. Plasma samples were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and then stored at -80 °C prior to analysis.



***In vivo* Anti-metastatic Efficacy.** LOX inhibitor treatment in mouse GEMM breast cancer model where MMTV-PyMT female mice were randomized as described previously.<sup>19</sup> Mice were treated daily by oral gavage with 70 mg/kg compound **9f** (n = 5) in vehicle (5% DMSO/2.5% Tween20 in water) or control with vehicle alone (n = 7). Lungs were collected at the end of the experiment as previously described.<sup>19</sup>

**Histology and immunohistochemistry.** All mouse tissue samples were fixed in 10% formalin (Sigma) and embedded in paraffin. For spontaneous lung metastasis in MMTV-PyMT animals, the number of metastasis in the lung parenchyma was counted and the size was measured.

**Commercial ADME-T Services.** hERG inhibition was determined using the ‘hERG Human Potassium Ion Channel Cell Based Antagonist Qpatch Assay’ by Eurofins Ltd. Cell permeability was determined using the ‘Caco-2 permeability assay’ by Cypotex Ltd.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information.

This Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publication website at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

Experimental procedures and characterization data for synthetic intermediates – compounds **11a**, **11b**, **15**, **16**, **19**, **22c**, **22d**, **22e**, **23c**, **23d**, **23e**, **24c**, **24d**, **26**, **27**, **28**, **29**, **30**, **32**, **33**, **36**, **37**, **38**, **39**, **41**, **43**, **45**, **47**, **49**, **52**, **54**, **56**, **58**, **59** and **60** (PDF).

Molecular Formula Strings of all final inhibitors (CSV).

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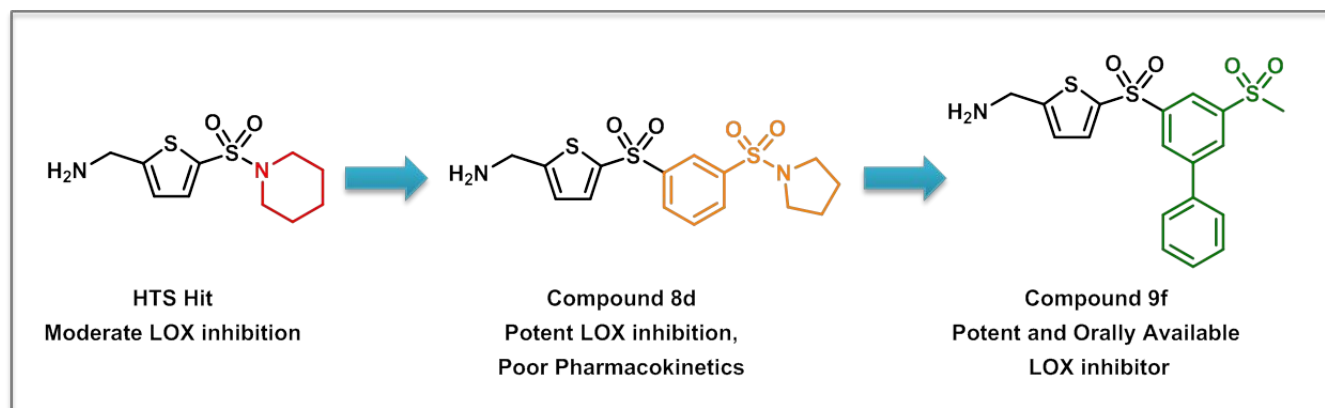
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19 **ABBREVIATIONS**

20 8  
21 9 AMT, aminomethylenethiophene; BAPN, 3-aminopropionitrile; DAO, diamine oxidase; dba,  
22  
23 10 dibenzylideneacetone; Cl, clearance; C<sub>max</sub>, maximal concentration; DIAD, diisopropyl azodicarboxylate;  
24  
25 11 DIPEA, *N,N*-diisopropylethylamine; DPPA, diphenyl phosphoryl azide; GEMM, genetically engineered  
26  
27 12 mouse model; HMDS, hexamethyldisilazane; HRP, horseradish peroxidase; LOX, lysyl oxidase; LOXL,  
28  
29 13 lysyl oxidase-like; LTQ, lysine tyrosylquinone; MAO, monoamine oxidase; mCPBA, *meta*-  
30 14 chloroperbenzoic acid; MLM, mouse liver microsome; MMTV, mouse mammary tumor virus; PAINS,  
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32 15 pan assay interference compounds; PyMT, polyomavirus middle T-antigen; ROS, reactive oxygen  
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34 16 species; SSAO, semicarbazide-sensitive amine oxidase.  
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## TABLE OF CONTENT GRAPHICS



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