The determination of absolute stereochemistry was made by correlating 11 with 4, whose absolute stereostructure was determined crystallographically (Scheme 1). (+)-4 and 11 were independently converted to one enantiomer of 31. Racemic 4 was converted to the benzoate derivative and was selectively hydrogenated under 1 atm of H_2 in the presence of 5% Pd/C catalyst to give racemic 31 (major product) which was purified by HPLC (Cyanopropyl, 5% EtOAc in hexanes). The enantiomers of the pure product had HPLC retention times of 24 min and 36 min (Chiralcel OD, 250 x 10 cm, 2.5% isopropanol in hexanes). The same sample of racemic 4 was resolved by chiral HPLC (Chiralcel OD, 250 x 10 cm, 1% isopropanol in hexanes) to give samples of (+)-4 ([α]_D²⁴ +127°; 98% ee) and (-)-4 ([α]_D²⁴ -110°; 97% ee). The absolute stereochemistry of (-)-4 is known with certainty from the X-ray crystallographic structure determination of the (S)- α -methylbenzylurethan derivative (see reference 1). Consequently, the absolute stereochemistry of (+)-4 is also known with certainty. Benzoylation and hydrogenation of (+)-4 gave 31, which had a retention time of 36 min on the Chiralcel OD column. In a separate series of experiments, 11 (53% ee) was first benzoylated, then treated with the higher-order *tert*-butylcyanocuprate to give 31. The relative stereochemistry in the two samples of 31 was determined by

nOe. Irradiation of the allylic methine hydrogen at 2.67 ppm (br t, J = 3.9 Hz) gave a strong enhancement of one of the methylene hydrogens adjacent to the *tert*-butyl group (1.34 ppm, dd, J = 14.2, 8.8 Hz). Only a very weak nOe was observed to the methine α to the carbonyl group. Irradiation of the methine proton α to the carbonyl group (2.32 ppm, br d, J = 8.8 Hz) led to enhancement of *both* the allylic methine, and to the methylene protons adjacent to the OTBS group. The enhancements were of approximately the same magnitude. The HPLC retention times of major and minor peaks of the sample of 31 which was derived from 11 were 24 min and 36 min, respectively. The retention times were the same as for the racemate, and since the *minor* component of the mixture from 11 is identical with 31 derived from (+)-4, the *major* component must be its enantiomer. Hence, the cyclization of 10 with 5 led to (S)-11 as the major product.

It is, of course, possible that amides other than 10 may have cyclized following the opposite stereochemical course.

Scheme 1 OTBS (-)-4 97% ee OTBS OTBS Mé (±)-4 (±)-31 OTBS (+)-4 98% ee a, b a, d CH₂ BzO BzO OTBS ~_OTBS OTBS Мé 31 (derived from 5)

(a) Bz_2O , pyridine; (b) H_2 , Pd/C; (c) Chiralcel OD, 1% isopropanol in hexanes; (d) $(tert-Bu)_2Cu(CN)Li_2$, Et_2O .

A suspension of α -D-glucose (4.015 g, 22.29 mmol) in propargyl alcohol (30 mL) containing DOWEX-50H+ (1.019 g) was heated to 80°C for 12 h, cooled to room temperature, filtered through cotton, and concentrated to give the crude alkyne. The crude alkyne was dissolved in THF (30 mL), 18-crown-6 (ca. 500 mg) was added and the solution was transferred via cannula to a suspension of potassium hydroxide (11.032 g, 197 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at 0°C. Methyl iodide (10 mL, 22.8 g, 161 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature. After 21 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with brine, water, and EtOAc. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (5 x) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine (1 x) and dried over MgSO₄. Purification by flash column chromatography on silica (30% to 40% EtOAc in hexanes) gave a mixture of alkynes 32 and 33 (4.172 g combined, 68% yield; 2:1, 32:33) as a colorless oil. Data for 32: $R_f = 0.19$ (20% EtOAc in hexanes); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.16 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.61-3.35 (m, 4H), 3.59 (s, 3H), 3.50 (s, 3H), 3.47 (s, 3H), 3.37 (s, 3H), 3.22 (dd, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (t br, J = 9.6Hz, 1H), 2.39 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 94.5, 83.1, 81.2, 79.1, 78.7, 74.7, 70.8, 70.5, 60.8, 60.4, 59.2, 58.4, 54.3; IR (neat) 3265, 2940, 2840, 2130, 1455, 1380, 1165, 1105, 1050, 1000 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum m/z 102 (14), 101 (100), 99 (78), 89 (23), 88 (100), 83 (11), 75 (32), 74 (10), 73 (48), 71 (40); exact mass calcd for $C_{10}H_{19}O_5$ (M⁺ - OCH₂C=CH) 219.1232, found 219.1230; optical rotation $[\alpha]^{27}_D + 185^\circ$ (c 0.018, CHCl₃).

A mixture of alkyne 32 (1.624 g, 5.92 mmol) and potassium *tert*-butoxide (63 mg, 0.56 mmol) was heated to 60°C for 1 h, cooled to room temperature, and diluted with saturated NaHCO₃, brine, and EtOAc. The aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 x) and the

combined organic extracts were washed with brine (1 x) and dried over K_2CO_3 . Purification by flash column chromatography on silica (5% to 10% EtOAc in hexanes) gave allene 5 (1.265 g, 78% yield) as a colorless oil: $R_f = 0.18$ (20% EtOAc in hexanes); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.62 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.42 (dd, J = 9.0, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.35 (dd, J = 8.8, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 5.19 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.66-3.36 (m, 4H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.53 (s, 3H), 3.49 (s, 3H), 3.39 (s, 3H), 3.28-3.22 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.0, 117.7, 95.3, 90.1, 83.3, 81.3, 79.0, 70.7, 70.5, 60.9, 60.5, 59.1, 59.0; IR (neat) 2950, 2845, 1970, 1450, 1170, 1105, 1025 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum m/z 187 (67), 155 (20), 127 (19), 111 (79), 101 (100), 99 (18), 95 (12), 89 (33), 88 (35), 75 (44), 74 (16), 73 (37), 71 (60); exact mass calcd for $C_{13}H_{22}O_6$ 274.1416, found 274.1430; optical rotation [α]²⁷_D +158° (c 0.015, CHCl₃).

A mixture of alkyne 33 (871 mg, 3.18 mmol) and potassium *tert*-butoxide (ca. 50 mg) was heated to 70°C for 1 h, cooled to room temperature, and purified directly by flash column chromatography on silica (5% to 10% EtOAc in hexanes). Allene 29 (430 mg, 49% yield) was isolated as a colorless oil: $R_f = 0.35$ (20% EtOAc in hexanes); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.71 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (dd, J = 8.8, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (dd, J = 8.8, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.65-3.10 (m, 6H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 3.38 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.0, 119.2, 101.0, 89.9, 86.3, 83.1, 79.1, 74.7, 71.1, 60.5, 60.2, 60.1, 59.1; IR (neat) 2940, 2900, 2840, 1970, 1450, 1385, 1340, 1310, 1100, 995, 940, 890 cm⁻¹; mass spectrum m/z 187 (56), 111 (40), 101 (100), 89 (30), 88 (67), 75 (42), 73 (33), 71 (51); exact mass calcd for $C_{13}H_{22}O_6$ 274.1416, found 274.1465; optical rotation [α]²⁷_D -7° (c 0.024, CHCl₃).







