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## Synthesis and structural elucidation of a dehydrochloromethyltestosterone metabolite†

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The human urinary long-term metabolite “M3” (4-chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-norandrost-13-en-3-ol) of the common doping agent DHCMT has thus far been detected *via* GC/MS-MS, creating ambiguities concerning its absolute configuration. Its structure was elucidated *via* the synthesis of all eight possible stereoisomers with 17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl configuration. The highlights of the synthesis consist of a novel first generation approach to 4 $\beta$ -chloro-5 $\beta$  compounds as well as a divergent route which allows easy access to the remaining A-ring chlorohydrins.

## Introduction

In doping control analysis, a tool with still increasing importance is high sophisticated mass spectrometry MS (HRMS or tandem MS) coupled either to an HPLC or a GC separation system.<sup>1</sup> Due to a lack of structural information, especially in complex organic substances, it is often not possible to completely assign the configuration of *in vivo* formed stereogenic centers using these methods. In order to unambiguously identify the compound or its metabolites in an athlete's sample, the chemical synthesis of the target compound followed by analytical characterization is a suitable method.

A novel long-term metabolite, adapted by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for testing in 2013 extended the window of detection for dehydrochloromethyltestosterone (DHCMT, **2**) significantly to an estimated time frame of 40–50 days. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of adverse analytical findings for DHCMT in 2013 (1 to 87).<sup>2</sup> The responsible metabolite M3 (**1**) (4-chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-norandrost-13-en-3-ol) was first detected and described by Sobolevsky and Rodchenkov in 2012.<sup>3</sup> The metabolic transformations leading to this metabolite are full A-ring hydrogenation, Wagner–Meerwein-rearrangement and hydroxylation (or *vice versa*). It was assumed that the metab-

olite would be reduced *in vivo* forming a 5 $\beta$ -androstane, and the authors also argued that the C-3 hydroxyl should be  $\alpha$  since 3 $\beta$ -steroids tend to be excreted as sulphate conjugates.<sup>4</sup>

The stereochemistry at C-4 was left uncommented on, but the literature suggests the formation of an equatorial 4 $\beta$ -chloride.<sup>5</sup> The identity of the compound is not ensured and a reference material provided by organic synthesis would be beneficial for method development and substantially facilitate assay characterization efforts.

In order to prove the identity of the metabolite and elucidate the unknown stereochemistry we planned the synthesis of the most probable target, 4 $\beta$ -chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\beta$ -androst-13-en-3 $\alpha$ -ol (**3a**). In continuation of previous work on long-term metabolites with the 17-hydroxymethyl-17-methyl-18-nor-13-en fragment<sup>6</sup> we herein report the synthesis of eight possible stereoisomers of compound **1** concerning configurations at C-3, C-4 and C-5 (see Fig. 1).

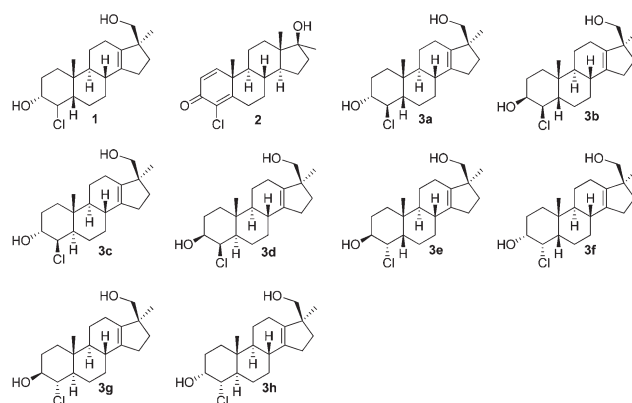


Fig. 1 Relevant structures.

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## Retrosynthetic analysis

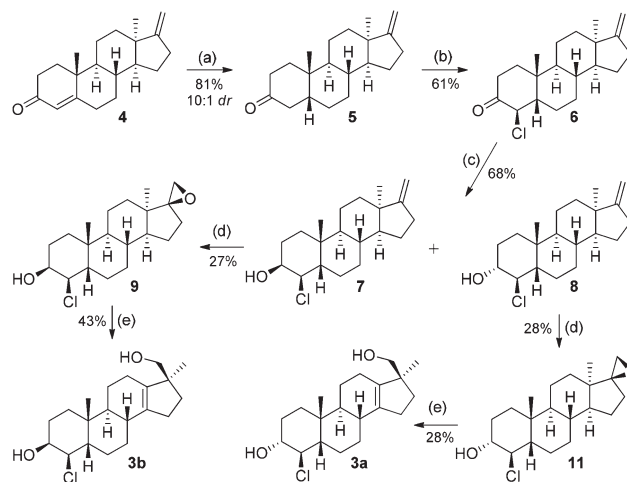
The retrosynthetic analysis of **3a** is depicted in Scheme 1 and starts with a Wagner–Meerwein-rearrangement to install the functionalities at the D-ring. Epoxide **11** can conceivably be formed from the corresponding C-17 *exo*-methylene, which might be obtained by the reduction of chloroketone **6**. It is known that 3-keto-5 $\beta$  androstanes are kinetically deprotonated at C-4 regioselectively,<sup>7</sup> so ketone **5** would be suited for chlorine introduction. The 3-keto-5 $\beta$  structural motif might come from  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketone which is a known intermediate from another metabolite synthesis.

For Route B, the retrosynthesis of the D-ring is as described above. The *trans/trans*-chlorohydrins could be constructed from the C-3-axial epoxides. If epoxide **17** can be accessed, a *trans* addition of the nucleophile<sup>8</sup> would deliver the desired product, given the reaction proceeds under the right regioselectivity. The epoxides could be synthesized from the corresponding olefins. The literature precedence indicated straightforward access to these olefins *via* the Clemmensen reduction of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketone which can be derived from dehydroepiandrosterone acetate (DHEA acetate), a commercially available starting material. Inversion of the C-3 can be achieved by oxidation/reduction or a Mitsunobu reaction. To reach the *trans/cis* and *cis/cis* isomers of the 5 $\alpha$  series a suitable 3-keto-4 $\beta$ -chloro intermediate needs to be epimerised.

## Results and discussion

### 1<sup>st</sup> generation approach (Route A)

The starting material for this sequence, enone **4**, was synthesized in 6 steps with an overall yield of 40% from DHEA acetate (Scheme 2).<sup>6a</sup> The chemoselective hydrogenation of the double bond in conjugation was achieved by organocatalytic



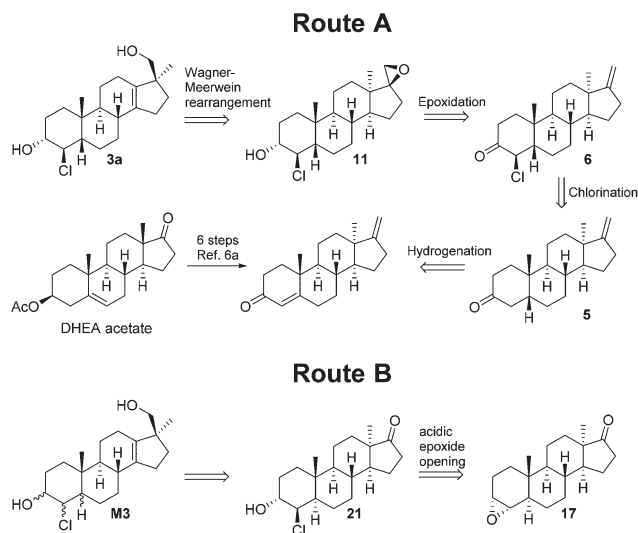
**Scheme 2** Synthesis of **3a** and **3b** with 1<sup>st</sup> generation approach: (a) D-CSA, Hantzsch ester, (S)-(2-pyrrolidinylmethyl)pyrrolidine, CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 70 °C; (b) LiHMDS, THF, NCS, –70 °C; (c) NaBH<sub>4</sub>, MeOH, rt; (d) *m*-CPBA, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt; (e) H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, THF/H<sub>2</sub>O 2/1, rt.

transfer hydrogenation.<sup>9</sup> The exocyclic double bond was not touched and ketone **5** was isolated as a 10 : 1 diastereomeric mixture favouring the desired 5 $\beta$ -product. Next, introducing the chloride through enolate chemistry was investigated and it was found that treating the lithium enolate of **5** with *N*-chlorosuccinimide (NCS) yields the 4 $\beta$ -chloro product **6** as a single diastereomer in 61% yield.

All other approaches (silyl enol ethers or other sources of electrophilic chlorine) failed or gave complex mixtures. At this stage, the structure of compound **6** was confirmed *via* single crystal X-ray diffraction to ascertain C-4, C-5 configuration.

Next, the reduction of **6** (sodium borohydride) gave a 1 : 1 mixture of alcohols which after separation yielded **7** and **8** in a ratio of 1 : 1.3. The epoxidation of these olefins with *m*-CPBA gives 17 $\alpha$ -epoxy as major (**10**, **12**, not shown in the scheme) and 17 $\beta$ -epoxy as minor (**9**, **11**) products, and the latter were isolated in 25–30% yield. The following rearrangement was carried out with the 17 $\beta$ -epoxides only, since they possess the right stereoelectronic prerequisites.<sup>6b</sup> Accordingly, epoxides **9** and **11** were treated with phosphoric acid to give the first two putative metabolites **3a** (*trans* product:  $J_{H3-H4}$  = 9.6 Hz) and **3b** (*cis* product:  $J_{H3-H4}$  = 2.7 Hz) in 43% and 28% isolated yield, respectively. Additionally, 3 $\beta$  configuration in **7** which yielded **3b** was confirmed by a reduction experiment of **6** with L-Selectride® which is known to give exclusively cyclohexanols with an axial hydroxyl group by the equatorial delivery of the hydride.

After the first two putative metabolites showed some differences in compound **1** found in excretion studies, the synthesis of the remaining stereoisomers was attempted. A number of approaches for the synthesis of 4 $\alpha$ -chloro-5 $\beta$  compounds were unsuccessful (epimerisation, inversion *via* substitution, hydrogenation of a chloroalkenyl). Ultimately, the divergent synthesis outlined in Scheme 1 (Route B) was pursued.



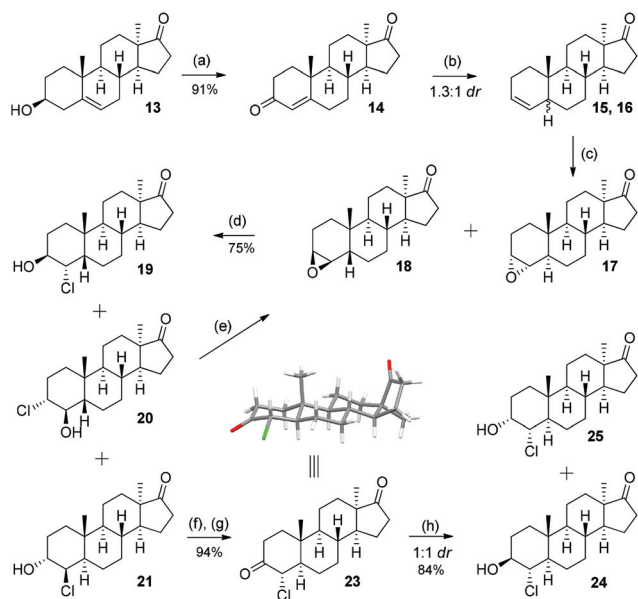
**Scheme 1** Retrosynthetic analysis of compound **3a** and divergent route.



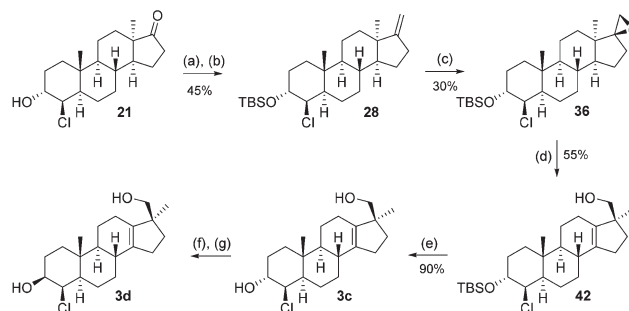
2<sup>nd</sup> generation approach (Route B)

As depicted in Scheme 3, the divergent synthesis started with already known alcohol **13** (2 steps, 80%, from DHEA acetate)<sup>6a</sup> which was oxidized under Oppenauer conditions to give diketone **14** in 91% yield. Subjecting this diketone to excess zinc in acetic acid rapidly reduces the A-ring enone to an olefin<sup>10</sup> giving rise to a new stereocenter at C-5 in a 1.3 : 1 ratio favouring the 5 $\alpha$  isomer. The separation of the diastereomers **15** and **16** was not practical at this stage, instead the mixture of olefins was epoxidized with *m*-CPBA to give compounds **17** and **18** as the only two diastereomers. The epoxides were then treated with concentrated hydrochloric acid and gave a mixture of isomeric chlorohydrins **19**, **20** and **21**. While for the 5 $\alpha$ -isomer the opening proceeded with distinct regioselection, for the 5 $\beta$ -isomer both possible regioisomers were observed. The separation of this three-component mixture was achieved with column chromatography and chlorohydrins **19**, **20** and **21** were isolated in 14%, 19% and 42% yield (over three steps). The configuration and stereochemistry of diastereomer **19** were proved by single crystal X-ray determination. The undesired chlorohydrin **20** can be recycled to pure **18** by treatment with a strong base.<sup>11</sup> Likewise chlorohydrin **21** was used to obtain a pure analytical sample of **17**.

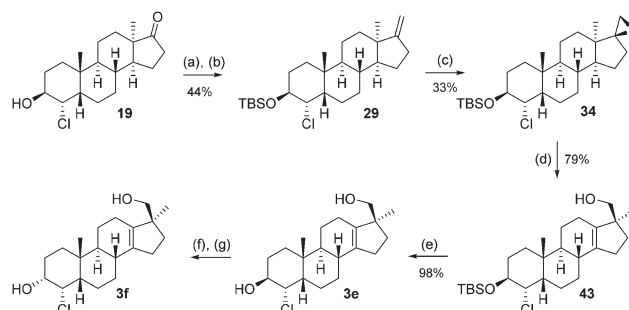
Chlorohydrins **19** and **21**, if further elaborated, can lead to four new putative metabolites (*vide infra* Schemes 4 and 5). The last two of the eight possible diastereomers in this series are the 4 $\alpha$ -chloro-5 $\alpha$  compounds. These were obtained by the oxidation of **21** with DMP (Dess–Martin periodinane) and treatment of the resulting diketone **22** with potassium hydroxide, which effected complete C-4 epimerisation over two steps to give **23** in 94% yield.



**Scheme 3** Synthesis of the 17-keto-chlorohydrins: (a)  $\text{Al}(\text{O}-i\text{Pr})_3$ , cyclohexanone, toluene, reflux; (b)  $\text{Zn}$ ,  $\text{AcOH}$ , reflux; (c) *m*-CPBA,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , rt; (d) conc.  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , rt; (e)  $\text{KOH}$ ,  $\text{MeOH}$ , reflux; (f) DMP,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , rt; (g)  $\text{KOH}$ ,  $\text{MeOH}$ , rt; (h)  $\text{Al}(\text{O}-i\text{Pr})_3$ ,  $i\text{PrOH}$ , toluene, 70 °C.



**Scheme 4** D-ring modifications of chlorohydrin **21**: (a) TBSCl, imidazole, DMF, rt; (b) Nysted reagent,  $\text{TiCl}_4$ , THF, 0 °C to rt; (c) *m*-CPBA,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , rt; (d) TMSOTf, 2,6-lutidine, toluene, –70 °C; (e) 2 M  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{MeOH}$ , rt; (f) DMP,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , rt; (g)  $\text{NaBH}_4$ ,  $\text{MeOH}$ , 0 °C.



**Scheme 5** D-ring modifications of chlorohydrin **19**: (a) TBSCl, imidazole, DMF, rt; (b) Nysted reagent,  $\text{TiCl}_4$ , THF, 0 °C to rt; (c) *m*-CPBA,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , rt; (d) TMSOTf, 2,6-lutidine,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , –70 °C; (e) 2 M  $\text{HCl}$ ,  $\text{MeOH}$ , rt; (f) DMP,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , rt; (g)  $\text{NaBH}_4$ ,  $\text{MeOH}$ , 0 °C.

Its structure was also confirmed by single-crystal XRD. A reduction affecting only the C-3 ketone was needed and it was found that Meerwein–Ponndorf–Verley reduction results in a 1 : 1 mixture of C-3 epimeric alcohols **24** and **25** in 84% yield, which were separated and provides the starting point for the synthesis of the last two potential metabolites.

The synthesis from this point forward is the same for all four chlorohydrins and is discussed in detail for **21**. First, the alcohol is protected as a TBS ether (**26**) and subsequently treated with the Nysted reagent<sup>12</sup> and titanium tetrachloride to give *exo*-methylene product **28**. The double-bond is epoxidized with *m*-CPBA to give a 2 : 1 mixture of diastereomers (major product **37**; *vide infra* Fig. 2) of which again only the minor product **36** was used. The Wagner–Meerwein-rearrangement was initiated by trimethylsilyl triflate/2,6-lutidine in dichloromethane or toluene at low temperatures.<sup>13</sup> This method offers a slight increase in isolated yield compared to the aqueous acidic rearrangement protocol used before (typically 45–55%). Finally, the TBS ether in **42** is cleaved with hydrochloric acid in methanol to furnish the final *trans* ( $J_{\text{H}3-\text{H}4} = 2.61 \text{ Hz}$ ) product **3c**. To arrive at the C-3 epimer global oxidation with DMP, followed by  $\text{NaBH}_4$  reduction, furnished the equatorial *cis* ( $J_{\text{H}3-\text{H}4} = 2.78 \text{ Hz}$ ) alcohol **3d**.



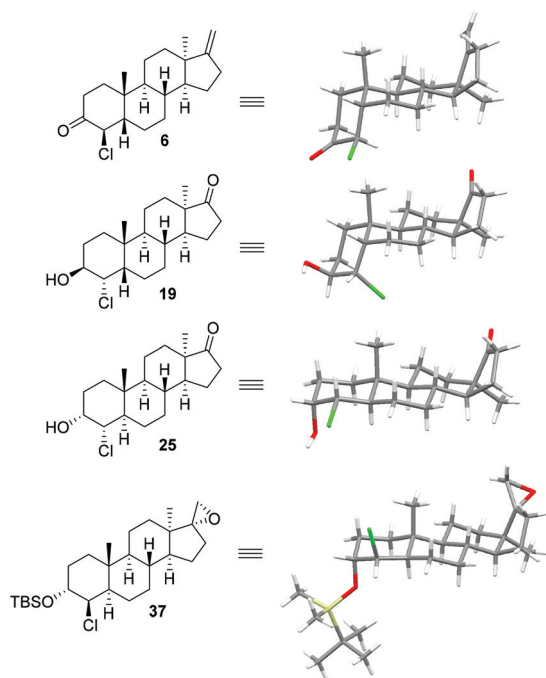
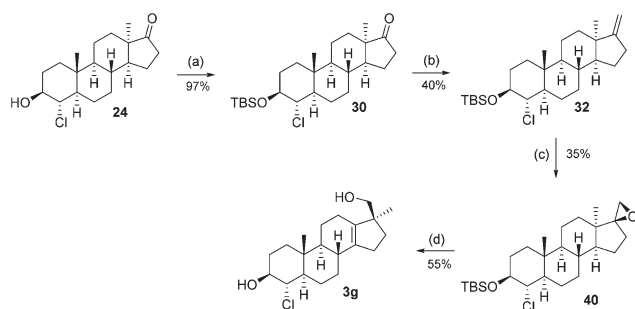
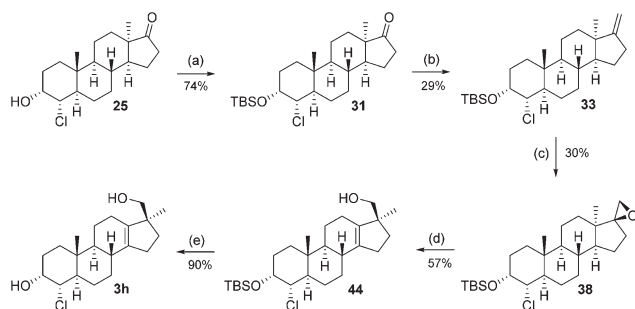


Fig. 2 Molecular structures of relevant intermediates determined from single crystal X-ray diffraction data.



Scheme 6 D-ring modifications of chlorohydrin 24: (a) TBSCl, imidazole, DMF, rt; (b) Nysted reagent,  $\text{TiCl}_4$ , THF, 0 °C to rt; (c) *m*-CPBA,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , rt; (d) TMSOTf, 2,6-lutidine,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , -70 °C, then 2 M HCl.



Scheme 7 D-ring modifications of chlorohydrin 25: (a) TBSCl, imidazole, DMF, rt; (b) Nysted reagent,  $\text{TiCl}_4$ , THF, 0 °C to rt; (c) *m*-CPBA,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , rt; (d) TMSOTf, 2,6-lutidine,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , -70 °C; (e) 2 M HCl, MeOH, rt.

This sequence was also carried out for the previously mentioned chlorohydrins: 19, 24 ( $J_{\text{H3-H4}} = 9.2$  Hz) and 25, giving the isomers 3e–h and completing the synthesis of eight possible isomeric 4-chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-norandrost-13-en-3-ols (see Schemes 5–7; compounds 27, 35, 39, 41, and 45 not depicted). Single crystal X-ray analysis of 25 and 37 was performed to secure structural information on the stereochemistry of the A-ring substituents and the 17-spiroepoxides. The molecular structures resulting from the previously mentioned XRD experiments are depicted in Fig. 2.

## Conclusions

To summarise, we have accomplished the first synthesis of the reported long-term metabolite “M3” of dehydrochloromethyl-testosterone. All possible eight stereoisomers 3a–3h of this material have been synthesized using two different synthetic routes. A straightforward, short approach and a highly divergent second approach, which can deliver all eight stereoisomers from a common precursor, were developed. GC-MS/MS analysis of the products and their comparison with excretion studies of DHCMT have been performed in the laboratories of our collaborators and the identity of 3h was proved (4 $\alpha$ -chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\alpha$ -androst-13-en-3 $\alpha$ -ol) with the *in vivo* metabolite of DHCMT. Details of these studies have been submitted for publication elsewhere.<sup>14</sup>

## Experimental section

### General

Dehydroepiandrosterone was purchased from FluoroChem. Dry toluene, dichloromethane, dimethylformamide and *m*-CPBA are from Acros Organics. HPLC grade solvents (acetonitrile, methanol, isopropanol) were from VWR. All other non-specified chemicals were from Sigma-Aldrich. Anhydrous tetrahydrofuran was pre-dried using an Innovative Technologies PureSolv system, degassed and stored under 3 Å molecular sieves. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AC400 and AC600 using TMS as an internal standard. IR spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Spectrum 65 using thin films (ATR FT-IR). TLC-analysis was performed with pre-coated aluminium-backed plates (Silica gel 60 F254, Merck). Compounds were visualized by submerging in an acidic phosphomolybdic acid/cerium sulphate solution and heating. Melting points were determined with a Kofler hot-stage apparatus. HR-MS analysis was carried out from acetonitrile solutions (concentration: 10 ppm) by using an HTC PAL system autosampler, an Agilent 1100/1200 HPLC with binary pumps, a degasser and a column thermostat and an Agilent 6230 AJS ESI-TOF mass spectrometer.

For single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis, crystals were embedded in perfluorinated polyether and mounted on MITGEN™ loops. X-ray diffraction data were obtained in a cold stream of nitrogen at  $T = 100$  K on a Bruker APEX-II diffr-





actometer with Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation. The collection strategy for the measurement was optimized with APEX-2 using  $\omega$ - and  $\varphi$ -scans. After the integration of the data with SAINT, a semi-empirical absorption correction was performed with SADABS. The crystal structures were solved by direct methods and refined using the SHELXTL program package. All H atoms were placed geometrically and refined in a riding model approximation. The H atoms of hydroxyl groups were taken from difference maps and refined freely. Crystallographic data for the structure(s) reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. CCDC 1586619–1586622 and 1825768.†

#### General procedure A: epoxidation with *m*-CPBA

The olefin is dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.05–0.1 M), and KHCO<sub>3</sub> (3 eq.) and *m*-CPBA (1.25 eq.) are added in this order. The reaction mixture is stirred at room temperature for 1–3 h and quenched by the addition of water and saturated Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solution. The biphasic mixture is transferred to a separatory funnel and is shaken vigorously. The aqueous phase is extracted 3 times with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and the pooled organic phases are washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The crude product after evaporation is purified by column chromatography (60 : 1 silica : product) using LP/EtOAc mixtures as the eluent system. The 17 $\alpha$ -epoxy compound is obtained as the major and the desired 17 $\beta$ -epoxy is obtained as the minor product in all instances.

#### General procedure B: epoxide formation with base

The chlorohydrin starting material is dissolved in methanol (0.1 M) and solid KOH (5 eq.) is added. The base is dissolved by stirring and after a clear solution has been formed the mixture is heated to reflux for 10 hours. After cooling of the reaction mixture half the volume of saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and half the volume water are added, and the solution is transferred to a separatory funnel. This is extracted twice with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and the organic phases are combined, washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The crude product can be purified by recrystallization from *n*-heptane.

#### General procedure C: TBS protection

The chlorohydrin starting material is dissolved in dry DMF (0.3 M) at room temperature and imidazole (2.5 eq.) and TBSCl (1.3 eq.) are added. The reaction mixture is stirred at room temperature for 5–96 h and is then evaporated to dryness *in vacuo*. The solid residue is taken up in EtOAc and 0.2 M HCl. The phases are shaken in a separatory funnel and the aqueous phase is extracted twice with small portions of EtOAc. The pooled organic phases are washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporating the solvent the crude product is purified *via* flash chromatography (10 : 1 silica : product).

#### General procedure D: Nysted methylation

A Schlenk flask under an argon atmosphere was charged with Nysted reagent suspension (20 wt%, 5 eq.), which is diluted

with half the volume of dry THF. The milky suspension is chilled to 0 °C in an ice-bath and TiCl<sub>4</sub> (neat, 2.2 eq.) is added dropwise. The suspension is stirred for 10 minutes before removing the ice-bath and allowed to warm to room temperature. After 5 minutes the starting material dissolved in dry THF is added dropwise to the darkening suspension. After the addition is complete the flask is sealed and stirred for 14–20 hours (overnight). The reaction mixture is then poured onto a 1/1 mixture ice/2 M HCl and diluted by adding the same volume of Et<sub>2</sub>O. This is transferred to a separatory funnel and the mixture is shaken vigorously. After the separation of the phases the aqueous phase is extracted three times with Et<sub>2</sub>O and the combined organic phases are washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, followed by brine and drying over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation the crude product is purified *via* flash column chromatography on silica (15 : 1) using 10/1 → 3/1 LP/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as the eluent.

#### General procedure E: Wagner–Meerwein rearrangement

A Schlenk flask under an argon atmosphere was charged with dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or toluene (0.05 M) and the solvent is cooled to –78 °C. Then 2,6-lutidine (2.5 eq.) and TMSOTf (2 eq.) are added at that temperature. After five minutes, the starting material is dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> or toluene and added dropwise to the chilled reaction mixture. The reaction mixture is stirred at –78 °C for 1 hour and then quenched by the addition of the same volume of methanol followed by 2 M HCl (10 eq.). The reaction vessel is taken out of the cooling bath and stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. The mixture is then transferred to a separatory funnel and diluted with water and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. After the separation of the phases the aqueous phase is extracted twice with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and the pooled organic phases are washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The crude product obtained after evaporation is purified by column chromatography on silica (70 : 1) using between 10/1 and 5/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent.

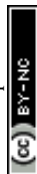
Cleavage of the TBS protecting group was observed under these conditions in some cases.

#### General procedure F: TBS deprotection

The starting material was fully dissolved in the smallest possible amount of methanol (*ca.* 0.1 M) and 2 M HCl (5 eq.) was added. The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 20–96 h. After the reaction is complete saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution is added and the methanol is evaporated *in vacuo*. The reaction mixture is then extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and the extracts are combined and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered over a small pad of silica (*ca.* 1 g). Evaporation of the solvent affords the product.

#### 4 $\beta$ -Chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\beta$ -androst-13-en-3 $\alpha$ -ol (3a)

Epoxide **11** (30 mg, 0.088 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in a mixture of 2/1 THF/water (4 ml) and 0.1 ml concentrated H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> and stirred at room temperature until TLC showed full conversion. The solution was then diluted with water, and



extracted three times with small portions of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . These extracts were washed with brine and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The crude product (45 mg) was purified over a silica gel column with 8/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent to give 13 mg (43%) of diol **3a** as foam.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.16 (2H, dd,  $J$  = 9.6 Hz, 11.8 Hz), 3.59 (1H, td,  $J$  = 9.71 Hz, 16.31 Hz), 3.35 (2H, dd,  $J$  = 63 Hz, 10.6 Hz), 2.06–2.33 (3H, m), 1.81–2.06 (5H, m), 1.65–1.81 (3H, m), 1.43–1.58 (4H, m), 1.04–1.27 (5H, m), 0.95 (3H, s), 0.93 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 141.11, 136.63, 76.55, 69.74, 69.09, 51.72, 49.51, 39.59, 38.33, 37.01, 34.17, 34.16, 30.62, 27.72, 25.16, 23.40, 23.26, 22.61, 22.48, 21.91. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3336, 2929, 1450, 1071, 736.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = 14.0 ( $c$  0.9,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M - \text{OH}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}$ : 321.1980, found: 321.1972 ( $\Delta$  = 2.5 ppm).

#### 4 $\beta$ -Chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\beta$ -androst-13-en-3 $\beta$ -ol (**3b**)

Epoxide **9** (32 mg, 0.094 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in a mixture of 2/1 THF/water (3 ml) and 0.1 ml concentrated  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  and stirred at room temperature until TLC showed full conversion. The solution was then diluted with water, and extracted three times with small portions of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . These extracts were washed with brine and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The crude product was purified over a silica gel column with 8/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent to give 9 mg (28%) of diol **3b** as a colorless oil.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.46 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 2.75 Hz, 11.88 Hz), 4.04 (1H, m), 3.37 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 63.27 Hz, 10.47 Hz), 1.90–2.02 (3H, m), 1.83–1.90 (3H, m), 1.71–1.79 (4H, m), 1.39–1.66 (5H, m), 1.08–1.24 (5H, m), 1.01 (1H, s), 0.95 (3H, s), 0.92 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 141.11, 136.63, 76.55, 69.74, 69.09, 51.72, 49.51, 39.59, 38.33, 37.01, 34.17, 34.16, 30.62, 27.72, 25.16, 23.40, 23.26, 22.61, 22.48, 21.91. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3419, 2927, 1051, 907, 728.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = 22.84 ( $c$  0.8,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M - \text{OH}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}$ : 321.1980, found: 321.1976 ( $\Delta$  = 1.2 ppm).

#### 4 $\beta$ -Chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\alpha$ -androst-13-en-3 $\alpha$ -ol (**3c**)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure F. 30 mg (90%) of alcohol **3c** was obtained as a white solid (barely soluble in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  or other conventional solvents for steroids).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.98 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 2.61 Hz, 5.19 Hz), 3.90 (1H, m), 3.38 (1H, d,  $J$  = 10.91 Hz), 3.30 (1H, d,  $J$  = 10.91 Hz), 2.28 (1H, m), 2.06–2.17 (3H, m), 1.89–2.06 (4H, m), 1.76–1.88 (3H, m), 1.52–1.63 (2H, m), 1.39–1.50 (2H, m), 1.35 (1H, m), 1.21 (1H, qd,  $J$  = 11.88 Hz, 4.75 Hz), 1.08 (1H, m), 1.03 (3H, s), 0.94 (3H, s), 0.89–0.95 (1H, m).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (150 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 140.21, 138.95, 71.90, 68.96, 66.85, 54.73, 52.24, 44.50, 37.72, 37.49, 35.00, 32.59, 32.28, 30.90, 28.20, 24.24, 23.73, 22.68, 22.17, 14.39. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3280, 2923, 1021. M.p.: 188–190 °C.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –22.60 ( $c$  0.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{ClO}_2$ : 339.2086, found: 339.2054 ( $\Delta$  = 9.4 ppm).

#### 4 $\beta$ -Chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\alpha$ -androst-13-en-3 $\beta$ -ol (**3d**)

To a solution of aldehyde **46** (23 mg, 0.069 mmol, 1 eq.) in 4 ml dry methanol  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (10 mg, 0.274 mmol, 4 eq.) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 90 minutes the reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution and was extracted with EtOAc (4 $\times$ ) and the extracts were washed with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution once and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The crude product after evaporation was purified on silica gel (2.9 g) using 5/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent giving 22 mg (95%) of alcohol **3d** as a white solid.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.29 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 2.78 Hz), 3.70 (1H, m), 3.46 (1H, d,  $J$  = 10.49 Hz), 3.30 (1H, d,  $J$  = 10.49 Hz), 2.29 (1H, m), 2.14 (2H, m), 1.92–2.05 (3H, m), 1.70–1.91 (5H, m), 1.40–1.61 (5H, m), 1.21 (2H, m), 1.08 (2H, m), 1.01 (3H, s), 0.94 (3H, s), 0.87 (1H, m).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 140.88, 136.70, 72.00, 70.77, 69.10, 53.38, 51.71, 49.28, 36.92, 36.52, 36.35, 31.32, 30.66, 27.36, 26.73, 22.53, 22.15, 21.93, 14.78. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3288, 2925, 1443, 1043.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –16.62 ( $c$  0.85,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 178 °C. HRMS ( $M + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{ClO}_2$ : 339.2086, found: 339.2072 ( $\Delta$  = 4.1 ppm).

#### 4 $\alpha$ -Chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\beta$ -androst-13-en-3 $\beta$ -ol (**3e**)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure F. 38 mg (98%) of alcohol **3e** was obtained as white foam.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.25 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 10.66 Hz, 5.53 Hz), 3.58 (1H, td,  $J$  = 10.53 Hz, 4.74 Hz), 3.46 (1H, d,  $J$  = 10.30 Hz), 3.30 (1H, d,  $J$  = 10.30 Hz), 2.47 (1H, br s), 2.26 (1H, m), 1.77–2.13 (9H, m), 1.62–1.76 (2H, m), 1.41–1.61 (3H, m), 1.08–1.35 (5H, m), 0.93 (6H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 141.08, 136.44, 71.35, 71.15, 68.84, 51.46, 48.17, 46.24, 37.75, 34.19, 32.92, 31.16, 30.59, 29.13, 28.30, 24.12, 22.32, 21.91, 19.35, 18.23. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3376, 2924, 1036, 731.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –102.77 ( $c$  0.76,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{ClO}_2$ : 339.2086, found: 339.2037 ( $\Delta$  = 14.4 ppm).

#### 4 $\alpha$ -Chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\beta$ -androst-13-en-3 $\alpha$ -ol (**3f**)

The crude aldehyde **45** (0.062 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in 5 ml dry methanol and  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (12 mg, 0.32 mmol, 5 eq.) was added as a solid in one portion and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour. After quenching with  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution the reaction mixture was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3 $\times$ ), and the extracts were washed with water and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The crude product after evaporation was purified on silica gel (2.5 g) using 5/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent to give 16 mg (76%) of **3f** as a colorless oil.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.46 (1H, m), 3.79 (1H, m), 3.46 (1H, d,  $J$  = 10.66 Hz), 3.29 (1H, d,  $J$  = 10.66 Hz), 2.29 (1H, m), 2.02–2.21 (3H, m), 1.98 (2H, m), 1.68–1.93 (8H, m), 1.51–1.67 (4H, m), 1.09–1.25 (2H, m), 0.95 (3H, s), 0.92 (3H, s), 0.88–1.01 (1H, m).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (150 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 140.94, 137.01, 71.79, 70.71 (br s), 68.95, 51.7, 45.13 (2C), 36.67 (br s),



34.6, 33.81 (br s), 30.71, 30.22 (br s), 27.92 (br s), 26.89 (br s), 23.85 (br s), 23.70, 22.87, 21.96, 21.60 (br s). IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3397, 2930, 1038, 909.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -33.97$  (c 0.8,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M - \text{OH}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}$ : 321.1980, found: 321.1955 ( $\Delta = 7.8$  ppm).

#### 4 $\alpha$ -Chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\alpha$ -androst-13-en-3 $\beta$ -ol (3g)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure E. 27 mg (55%) of alcohol 3g was obtained as colourless foam.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 3.77$  (1H, m), 3.55 (1H, m), 3.46 (1H, d,  $J = 10.40$  Hz), 3.30 (1H, d,  $J = 10.40$  Hz), 2.29 (1H, m), 2.05–2.19 (3H, m), 1.79–2.05 (7H, m), 1.49–1.68 (3H m), 1.07–1.38 (6H, m), 0.89–1.02 (1H, m), 0.94 (3H, s), 0.83 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 140.81, 136.62, 76.57, 72.05, 69.08, 51.90, 51.67, 51.49, 38.88, 36.22, 35.57, 34.11, 30.79, 30.59, 28.72, 25.15, 22.63$  (2C), 21.90, 12.79. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3396, 2933, 1037, 750.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -59.20$  (c 1.2,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{ClO}_2$ : 339.2086, found: 339.2008 ( $\Delta = 22.7$  ppm).

#### 4 $\alpha$ -Chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\alpha$ -androst-13-en-3 $\alpha$ -ol (3h)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure F. 24 mg (90%) of alcohol 3h was obtained as white foam.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.02$  (1H, dd,  $J = 12.26$  Hz, 2.58 Hz), 3.96 (1H, m), 3.39 (1H, d,  $J = 10.54$  Hz), 3.23 (1H, d,  $J = 10.54$  Hz), 2.19–2.34 (2H, m), 2.06 (2H, m), 1.67–1.95 (9H, m), 1.38–1.52 (3H, m), 1.04–1.21 (3H, m), 0.92–1.01 (2H, m), 0.88 (3H, s), 0.76 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 141.05, 136.46, 70.07, 69.79, 69.08, 51.77, 51.67, 45.93, 39.37, 36.40, 34.06, 31.13, 30.79, 30.56, 27.56, 25.00, 22.62, 22.39, 21.90, 12.03$ . IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3403, 2925, 1049, 1031.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -66.70$  (c 1.17,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{32}\text{ClO}_2$ : 339.2086, found: 339.2065 ( $\Delta = 6.2$  ppm).

#### 17-Methylene-5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-one (5)

To (S)-(2-pyrrolidinylmethyl)pyrrolidine (73.21 mg, 474  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.25 eq.) dissolved in 20 mL acetonitrile was added (1S)-(+)-10-camphorsulfonic acid (110.25 mg, 474  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 0.25 eq.) and the mixture was then stirred at room temperature for 5 min. Ketone 4 (540 mg, 1.9 mmol, 1 eq.) was added to the solution and it was stirred for 15 minutes before adding the Hantzsch ester (diethyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylate) (961.75 mg, 3.8 mmol, 2 eq.). The solution was heated to 70  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h and then evaporated. The crude product was purified *via* column chromatography on 22 g silica gel with 12/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent. 440 mg of ketone 5 was obtained as a white solid (81%), dr = 10 : 1 (determined *via*  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.81$  (1H, dd), 4.68 (1H, dd), 2.66 (1H, m), 2.47 (1H, dddd), 2.29–2.41 (2H, m), 2.14 (1H, dddd,  $J = 14.63$  Hz, 4.28 Hz, 3.16 Hz, 2.31 Hz), 1.89–2.09 (3H, m), 1.87–1.69 (4H, m), 1.56 (1H, ddd,  $J = 13.24$  Hz, 8.95 Hz, 2.02 Hz), 1.29–1.44 (4H, m), 1.28–1.20 (2H, m), 0.97–1.11 (2H, m), 0.94 (4H, s), 0.86 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 213.55, 157.11, 103.13, 54.04, 46.18, 44.10, 42.23, 39.51,$

37.44, 37.06, 36.78, 35.25, 34.69, 31.48, 29.43, 26.86, 25.52, 24.54, 22.83, 21.4. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2946, 1720, 1652, 1472, 1266, 875.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -41.33$  (c 1.5,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}$ : 287.2370, found: 287.2344 ( $\Delta = 9$  ppm).

#### 4 $\beta$ -Chloro-17-methylene-5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-one (6)

To ketone 5 (800 mg, 2.79 mmol, 1 eq.) dissolved in 10 mL dry THF and cooled to  $-78$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 1 M LiHMDS (584.16 mg, 3.49 mmol, 1.25 eq.) was added dropwise and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 hour. Then, the solution was taken out of the cooling bath and stirred at 0  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min. The mixture was then again chilled to  $-70$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and solid *N*-chlorosuccinimide (466.16 mg, 3.49 mmol, 1.25 eq.) was added. After 2 hours, the reaction was quenched with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and was extracted three times with 40 mL  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The pooled organic phases were washed with brine, dried over  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified over 45 g silica gel with 1/1 LP/ $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  as the eluent to give 548 mg of chloro-ketone 6 (61%) as colorless crystals.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.84$  (1H, dd,  $J = 2.10$  Hz), 4.80 (1H, d,  $J = 6.07$  Hz), 4.70 (1H, dd), 2.32–2.62 (4H, m), 2.10–2.19 (1H, m), 1.94–2.09 (2H, m), 1.69–1.93 (4H, m), 1.51–1.68 (3H, m), 1.37–1.49 (3H, m), 1.28–1.37 (1H, m), 1.06–1.17 (1H, m), 0.99–1.06 (1H, m), 0.97 (3H, s), 0.93 (2H, s), 0.91 (1H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 203.42, 156.80, 103.25, 65.16, 53.93, 53.77, 46.11, 40.68, 38.23, 37.09, 36.84, 36.66, 34.57, 31.31, 29.28, 25.76, 24.34, 23.96, 23.28, 21.50$ . IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3066, 2950, 1735, 1648, 1471, 1359, 872, 861.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -8.48$  (c 1,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 133–135  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . HRMS ( $M - \text{Cl}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}$ : 285.2213 found: 285.2201 ( $\Delta = 4.2$  ppm).

Crystal data (CCDC 1586619†).  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{29}\text{ClO}$ ,  $M = 320.88$ , monoclinic,  $a = 8.5588(6)$ ,  $b = 6.9137(5)$ ,  $c = 15.0132(11)$  Å,  $\beta = 99.591(2)^{\circ}$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 100$  K, space group  $P2_1$  (no. 4), 27 999 reflections measured, 6622 unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.036$ ), which were used in all calculations. The Flack parameter using 2651 quotients is  $-0.021(17)$ , the final  $wR(F^2)$  is 0.0829.

#### 4 $\beta$ -Chloro-17-methylene-5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-3-ol (7, 8)

Chloroketone 6 (339 mg, 1.06 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in a 50 mL round bottom flask in a 1/1 mixture of THF/MeOH (10 mL) and stirred at 0  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . To this solution was added  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (46 mg, 1.22 mmol, 1.15 eq.) as a solid in small portions over the course of 5 minutes. The reaction was complete in 1 hour after complete addition and was quenched by adding solid  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and concentrating the mixture *in vacuo*. The residue was taken up in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  and water and extracted 3 times with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The pooled organic phases were washed with saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The crude product after evaporating was purified on 20 g silica gel using 10/1 LP/EtOAc giving 102 mg (29%) of alcohol 7 and 131 mg (38%) of alcohol 8.

**3 $\alpha$ -Alcohol (7).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.79$  (1H, dd), 4.65 (1H, t,  $J = 2.21$  Hz), 4.17 (1H, dd,  $J = 9.77$  Hz, 11.85 Hz), 3.58 (1H, td,  $J = 9.7$  Hz, 16.2 Hz), 2.61 (1H, s), 2.27–2.50 (2H, m), 1.94–2.03 (1H, m), 1.60–1.93 (6H, m),





1.43–1.60 (4H, m), 1.17–1.36 (4H, m), 1.10 (1H, m), 0.91 (3H, s), 0.89–1.00 (2H, m), 0.84 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 157.18, 102.94, 76.55, 69.57, 53.98, 49.40, 46.09, 40.40, 38.38, 37.24, 34.58, 33.79, 31.37, 29.33, 27.76, 26.21, 24.31, 23.87, 22.88, 21.17. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3218, 2935, 2865, 1448, 1072, 974.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  =  $-16.08$  ( $c$  0.75,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 133–134 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ): calcd for  $\text{NaC}_{20}\text{H}_{31}\text{ClO}$ : 345.1955, found: 345.1926 ( $\Delta$  = 8.4 ppm).

**3 $\beta$ -Alcohol (8).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.79 (1H, s), 4.56 (1H, dd), 4.47 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 2.72 Hz, 11.8 Hz), 4.05 (1H, m), 2.25–2.50 (3H, m), 1.46–1.95 (12H, m), 1.13–1.42 (6H, m), 0.92 (3H, s), 0.85 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 157.27, 103.09, 76.67, 69.66, 54.10, 49.54, 46.20, 40.52, 38.50, 37.37, 34.70, 33.93, 31.49, 29.45, 27.91, 26.33, 24.44, 23.99, 23.00, 21.24. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3463, 2930, 1452, 1143.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = 218.66 ( $c$  0.55,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ): calcd for  $\text{NaC}_{20}\text{H}_{31}\text{ClO}$ : 345.1955, found: 345.1901 ( $\Delta$  = 15.6 ppm).

#### (5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ )-4 $\beta$ -Chlorospiro[androstane-17 $\xi$ ,2'-oxiran]-3 $\beta$ -ol (9, 10)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure A. 32 mg 17 $\beta$ -epoxy product **9** (28%) was obtained as a grey foam and 57 mg 17 $\alpha$ -epoxy product **10** (49%) was obtained as a white solid.

**17 $\beta$ -Isomer (9).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 4.48 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 2.54 Hz, 12.07 Hz), 4.04 (1H, m), 2.61 (2H, dd,  $J$  = 4.72 Hz, 34.11 Hz), 2.33 (1H, s), 2.09–2.17 (1H, m), 1.70–1.92 (5H, m), 1.45–1.55 (3H, m), 1.12–1.37 (5H, m), 0.91 (3H, s), 0.89 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 70.44, 68.48, 66.83, 54.19, 47.72, 44.36, 41.47, 38.85, 37.30, 37.26, 32.14, 32.09, 30.18, 28.94, 28.43, 26.83, 26.42, 24.35, 23.04, 22.60. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3466, 2927, 1495, 1379, 917.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = 9.87 ( $c$  1.5,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $\text{M} - \text{OH}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}$ : 321.1980, found: 321.1989 ( $\Delta$  = 2.8 ppm).

**17 $\alpha$ -Isomer (10).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.44 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 2.57 Hz, 12.1 Hz), 4.04 (1H, m), 2.73 (2H, dd,  $J$  = 7.27 Hz, 12.08 Hz), 2.36 (1H, s), 1.92–2.03 (2H, m), 1.70–1.91 (5H, m), 1.53–1.70 (3H, m), 1.32–1.53 (3H, m), 1.28 (1H, dt,  $J$  = 3.78 Hz, 7.25 Hz), 1.15–1.24 (3H, m), 1.03–1.15 (2H, m), 0.95 (3H, s), 0.88 (4H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 70.30, 66.83, 66.49, 55.36, 54.07, 44.24, 41.14, 39.07, 38.71, 37.63, 32.36, 29.42, 28.83, 26.74, 26.54, 26.36, 24.17, 23.84, 22.53, 22.23. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3401, 2932, 1374, 1143, 905.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = 9.22 ( $c$  1.1,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 110–111 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} - \text{OH}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}$ : 321.1980, found: 321.1976 ( $\Delta$  = 1.2 ppm).

#### (5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ )-4 $\beta$ -Chlorospiro[androstane-17 $\xi$ ,2'-oxiran]-3 $\alpha$ -ol (11, 12)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure A. 30 mg 17 $\beta$ -epoxy product **11** (29%) was obtained as a white solid and 46 mg 17 $\alpha$ -epoxy product **12** (44%) was obtained as off-white crystals.

**17 $\beta$ -Isomer (11).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.17 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 9.53 Hz, 11.9 Hz), 3.57 (1H, td,  $J$  = 9.7 Hz, 16.2 Hz), 2.69 (1H, s), 2.60 (2H, dd,  $J$  = 4.6 Hz, 17.12 Hz), 2.08–2.17 (1H, m), 1.94–2.03 (1H, m), 1.61–1.94 (8H, m), 1.43–1.55 (2H, m), 1.16–1.37 (6H, m), 0.99–1.14 (2H, m), 0.90 (3H, s), 0.88 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 76.56, 69.54, 68.41, 53.97,

49.48, 47.62, 41.39, 39.23, 38.40, 37.22, 33.87, 31.91, 30.08, 28.30, 27.91, 26.35, 24.26, 24.02, 22.76. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3477, 2929, 2861, 1443, 1073, 923.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = 10.81 ( $c$  1.5,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 145–147 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} - \text{OH}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}$ : 321.1980, found: 321.1986 ( $\Delta$  = 1.9 ppm).

**17 $\alpha$ -Isomer (12).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.13 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 9.6 Hz, 11.43 Hz), 3.56 (1H, td,  $J$  = 9.96 Hz, 15.08 Hz), 2.71 (2H, dd,  $J$  = 6.8, 11.75), 1.91–2.05 (3H, m), 1.79–1.89 (3H, m), 1.44–1.77 (5H, m), 1.17–1.44 (4H, m), 1.02–1.15 (4H, m), 0.94 (4H, s), 0.87 (4H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 76.51, 69.29, 66.76, 55.33, 53.94, 49.46, 41.13, 39.52, 38.34, 37.66, 33.85, 32.21, 29.40, 27.91, 26.51, 26.36, 23.93, 23.82, 22.77, 22.05. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3492, 2989, 1449, 1142.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = 3.06 ( $c$  0.88,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 150–152 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} - \text{OH}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}$ : 321.1980, found: 321.1982 ( $\Delta$  = 0.6 ppm).

#### 13 $\alpha$ -Androst-4-en-3,17-dione (14)

A 500 mL round bottom flask was charged with 1.5 g 3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-13 $\alpha$ -androst-5-en-17-one<sup>7</sup> (**13**) (5.2 mmol, 1 eq.), 250 ml dry toluene and 10.75 ml cyclohexanone (104 mmol, 20 eq.). The solution was heated to reflux and after 15 minutes 2.65 g aluminium isopropoxide (13 mmol, 2.5 eq.) were added, upon which the solution turned yellow. After refluxing for 1 hour, the reaction was complete and was allowed to cool to room temperature. The mixture was then washed with 50 ml 0.1 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  twice and once with saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution and brine. After drying over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and evaporating the volatiles the product was left to crystallize at 4 °C overnight. The crystals (390 mg) were filtered, and washed with small amounts of LP. The mother liquor was concentrated and purified on 55 g silica gel using 2/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent. In total 1.36 g of diketone **14** (91%) were obtained as colorless needles.

Analytical data were in accordance with the literature.<sup>15</sup>

#### 13 $\alpha$ ,5 $\xi$ -Androst-3-en-17-one (15, 16)

A 250 ml round bottom flask was charged with 50 ml acetic acid and 2.85 g diketone **14** and heated to reflux. Zinc (20.15 g, 0.3 mol, 31 eq.) was added in portions over 25 minutes. The reaction was complete after the addition and was allowed to cool. The solids were filtered and washed thoroughly with ethyl acetate (100 ml). The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and taken up in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and washed with water (25 ml). The aqueous phase was extracted once with 25 ml  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and the combined organic phases were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and evaporated to dryness. The crude mixture of ketones **15** and **16** (1.3 : 1 dr, 2.61 g, 96%, determined *via*  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ) was used directly in the next step.

#### 3 $\xi$ ,4 $\xi$ -Epoxy-13 $\alpha$ ,5 $\xi$ -androst-17-one (17, 18)

The mixture of **15** and **16** (2.61 g, 9.6 mmol) from the previous step was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (100 ml) in a 250 ml round bottom flask. To this solution 2.02 g  $\text{KHCO}_3$  (19.2 mmol, 2 eq.) as well as 2.6 g *meta*-chloroperbenzoic acid (10.5 mmol, 1.1 eq.) were added over 5 minutes and the resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 hours. The reaction was flooded with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  solutions (25 ml each)





and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The combined organic phases were washed once with small portions of water and brine (10 ml) and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . After evaporating and drying under high vacuum 2.83 g of crude epoxides **17** and **18** (102% yield, approx. 95% purity) were obtained. These were used in the next step directly.

Analytical samples were obtained by the treatment of isolated chlorohydrins **20** and **21** according to general procedure B.

**5 $\alpha$ -Epoxide (17).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.13 (t, 1H,  $J$  = 2.67 Hz), 2.66 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 3.93 Hz), 2.29–2.36 (m, 1H), 1.98–2.19 (m, 6H), 1.59–1.86 (m, 4H), 1.23–1.53 (m, 7H), 1.12 (m, 1H), 0.94 (s, 3H), 0.83 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 5.84,  $J$  = 12.48), 0.57 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.38, 55.79, 52.46, 50.79, 50.29, 49.78, 46.42, 37.81, 34.26, 33.83, 32.88, 32.17, 30.25, 26.72, 25.33, 22.83, 21.36, 21.21, 13.28. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2920, 1726, 1038, 821.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  =  $-73.67$  ( $c$  1.0,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 125–126 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}_2$ : 289.2162, found: 289.2153 ( $\Delta$  = 3.1 ppm).

**5 $\beta$ -Epoxide (18).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.18 (s, 1H), 2.81 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 3.74 Hz), 2.27–2.36 (m, 1H), 1.98–2.18 (m, 4H), 1.74–1.89 (m, 5H), 1.66–1.72 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.44–1.48 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 9.36,  $J$  = 5.86), 1.23–1.35 (m, 2H), 1.0–1.21 (m, 4H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.67 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.16, 56.30, 53.18, 50.36, 50.19, 42.51, 40.17, 37.38, 33.93, 32.69, 32.19, 29.68, 28.67, 26.89, 25.34, 22.29, 22.21, 21.63, 20.66. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2929, 1733, 1201, 838.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  =  $-96.45$  ( $c$  1.01,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 137–139 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{29}\text{O}_2$ : 289.2162, found: 289.2149 ( $\Delta$  = 4.5 ppm).

### 3 $\xi$ -Hydroxy-4 $\xi$ -chloro-5 $\xi$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-17-one (**19**, **20**, **21**)

The isomeric mixture of epoxides **17** and **18** (2.83 g, 9.8 mmol, 1 eq.) was charged in a 250 ml round bottom flask and dissolved in 50 ml chloroform. 25 ml concentrated HCl (32%, 29 g, 254 mmol, 26 eq.) were added over the course of 5 minutes and the resulting biphasic mixture was stirred vigorously. After 30 minutes, the solution was transferred to a separatory funnel and the phases were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with 25 ml  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and the pooled organic phases were washed with saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution and brine. The extracts were dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and evaporated. The residue was purified on silica gel (100:1) using 40/40/1 LP/ $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ / $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  and subsequently recrystallized from *n*-heptane or diisopropylether to give 445 mg 5 $\beta$ -isomer **19** (14%), 600 mg chlorohydrin **20** (19%), and 1.33 g of 5 $\alpha$ -isomer **21** (42%).

### 3 $\beta$ -Hydroxy-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-17-one (**19**)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.12 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 7.80,  $J$  = 5.12), 3.68 (m, 1H), 2.25–2.36 (m, 1H), 2.14–2.19 (m, 1H), 1.85–2.14 (m, 6H), 1.69–1.78 (m, 2H), 1.49–1.59 (m, 3H), 1.26–1.48 (m, 5H), 1.09–1.24 (m, 2H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.78 (s, 3H), 0.62–0.74 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.50, 71.82, 69.85, 52.65, 50.34, 44.79 (2C), 37.41, 34.62, 34.15, 32.01, 31.81, 30.75, 27.09, 25.19, 24.23, 21.87, 21.61, 20.91. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3482, 1721, 1178, 832.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  =  $-114.34$  ( $c$  1.03,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).

M.p.: 136–139 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}_2$ : 325.1929, found: 325.1925 ( $\Delta$  = 1.2 ppm).

Crystal data (CCDC 1586620†).  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{29}\text{ClO}_2$ ,  $M$  = 324.87, monoclinic,  $a$  = 7.1254(5),  $b$  = 11.6665(8),  $c$  = 10.8645(8) Å,  $\beta$  = 103.497(2)°,  $Z$  = 2,  $T$  = 100 K, space group  $P2_1$  (no. 4), 22 481 reflections measured, 6706 unique ( $R_{\text{int}}$  = 0.040), which were used in all calculations. The Flack parameter using 2340 quotients is 0.00(3), and the final  $wR(F^2)$  is 0.1013.

### 3 $\alpha$ -Chloro-4 $\beta$ -hydroxy-5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-17-one (**20**)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.73–3.87 (m, 2H), 2.40 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 2.34 Hz), 2.30–2.38 (m, 1H), 2.09–2.21 (m, 2H), 1.93–2.06 (m, 3H), 1.77–1.88 (m, 4H), 1.55–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.47 (m, 1H), 1.27–1.32 (m, 1H), 1.0–1.36 (m, 5H), 0.97 (s, 3H), 0.80 (s, 3H), 0.57–0.70 (m, 1H).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.23, 72.14, 69.34, 50.87, 50.39, 49.30, 40.23, 38.20, 37.16, 35.91, 33.90, 32.38, 30.23, 26.86, 25.41, 23.53, 22.86, 21.48, 21.42. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3446, 1727, 1056, 878.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  =  $-77.18$  ( $c$  1.41,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 148–151 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}_2$ : 325.1929, found: 325.1928 ( $\Delta$  = 0.3 ppm).

### 3 $\alpha$ -Hydroxy-4 $\beta$ -chloro-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-17-one (**21**)

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.09 (s, 1H), 3.91 (m, 1H), 2.28–2.38 (m, 1H), 1.97–2.21 (m, 5H), 1.78–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.63–1.77 (m, 2H), 1.40–1.61 (m, 5H), 1.23–1.35 (m, 2H), 0.98–1.17 (m, 2H), 0.94 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H), 0.64–0.73 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.59, 71.33, 65.29, 53.21, 51.03, 50.29, 43.00, 37.76, 36.72, 34.12, 33.27, 32.18, 31.17, 26.61, 25.48, 23.81, 21.82, 21.63, 13.86. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3353, 1719, 1251, 1133.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  =  $-91.31$  ( $c$  1.02,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 191–193 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClO}_2$ : 325.1929, found: 325.1923 ( $\Delta$  = 1.8 ppm).

### 4 $\beta$ -Chloro-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-3,17-dione (**22**)

A 100 ml round bottom flask was charged with 1.8 g ketone **21** (5.54 mmol, 1 eq.) and 60 ml  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . To this solution 3.17 g Dess–Martin periodinane (7.48 mmol, 1.35 eq.) was added in small portions over 15 minutes. After 1 hour, the reaction was quenched by adding aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  solution and saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . The biphasic system was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted three times with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The pooled organic phases were washed with water and dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The crude product after evaporation (1.9 g, 90% purity) was used in the next step without purification. An analytical sample of diketone **22** was obtained by recrystallizing from diisopropylether.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.88 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 3.48 Hz,  $J$  = 1.56 Hz), 2.81–2.93 (m, 1H), 2.19–2.23 (m, 1H), 1.92–2.19 (m, 7H), 1.63–1.78 (m, 3H), 1.17–1.45 (m, 5H), 1.02–1.03 (m, 1H), 0.98 (s, 3H), 0.84 (s, 3H), 0.54–0.73 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 221.69, 204.79, 63.50, 52.45, 50.39, 49.97, 38.52, 37.34, 36.15, 33.71, 33.25, 32.66, 31.69, 25.61, 25.10, 22.08, 21.39, 13.41. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2979, 1716, 1142, 744.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  =  $-147.84$  ( $c$  1.06,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 165–168 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{28}\text{ClO}_2$ : 323.1773, found: 323.17714 ( $\Delta$  = 0.5 ppm).



**4 $\alpha$ -Chloro-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstane-3,17-dione (23)**

140 ml methanol and 1.4 g of crude product **22** (4.34 mmol, 1 eq.) were charged in a 250 ml round bottom flask. At room temperature, 2.43 ml of a 10% solution of KOH was added in methanol (4.34 mmol, 1 eq.) dropwise. The solution turned yellow when the addition was complete and was stirred for 5 minutes, followed by 1 ml of acetic acid to neutralize. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the resulting white precipitate was dissolved in water/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and after shaking, the aqueous phase was again extracted twice with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The pooled organic phases were washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The crude product obtained after evaporating the solvent was purified on silica (60 g) using 10/1 to 4/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent. 1.31 g (94%) of diketone **23** was obtained as a fine microcrystalline solid.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.38 (d, 1H,  $J$  = 12.67 Hz), 2.44–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.32–2.41 (m, 1H), 2.02–2.23 (m, 6H), 1.79–1.89 (m, 1H), 1.50–1.62 (m, 4H), 1.34–1.43 (m, 1H), 1.22–1.33 (m, 1H), 1.13–1.21 (m, 1H), 0.97 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.74–0.84 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 221.88, 202.19, 67.88, 54.76, 51.33, 50.40, 50.09, 38.64, 38.29, 37.36, 37.33, 33.74, 32.34, 31.89, 26.02, 25.14, 22.89, 21.32, 12.55. IR [cm<sup>-1</sup>]: 2955, 1717, 1255, 752. [ $\alpha_{\text{D}}^{20}$ ] = -109.54 ( $c$  0.68, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 217–220 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>28</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>: 323.1773, found: 323.17721 ( $\Delta$  = 0.3 ppm).

Crystal data (CCDC 1586621†). C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>,  $M$  = 322.85, orthorhombic,  $a$  = 7.4333(17),  $b$  = 13.538(3),  $c$  = 16.411(4) Å,  $Z$  = 4,  $T$  = 100 K, space group  $P2_12_12_1$  (no. 19), 33 711 reflections measured, 7201 unique ( $R_{\text{int}}$  = 0.037), which were used in all calculations. The Flack parameter using 2852 quotients is -0.038(14), and the final  $wR(F^2)$  is 0.0731.

**4 $\alpha$ -Chloro-3 $\xi$ -hydroxy-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-17-one (24, 25)**

In a 100 ml round bottom flask 860 mg (2.66 mmol, 1 eq.) diketone **23** were dissolved in 32 ml dry toluene under an argon atmosphere. Half the volume of isopropanol (213 mmol, 80 eq.) was added and the solution was warmed to 60 °C. At this temperature, 272 mg Al(O-*i*Pr)<sub>3</sub> (1.33 mmol, 0.5 eq.) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 60–70 °C for 4 hours and was subsequently quenched by adding 50 ml 0.1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and shaking vigorously in a separatory funnel. After separation of the phases the aqueous phase was extracted twice with toluene. The pooled organic phases were washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to dryness. The crude residue was purified on silica gel (60 : 1) using 12/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent giving 365 mg (42%) 3 $\beta$ -alcohol **24** and 361 mg (42%) 3 $\alpha$ -alcohol **25** as white crystalline solids.

**3 $\beta$ -Isomer (24).** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.73 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 11.37 Hz,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz), 3.51 (m, 1H), 2.41–2.8 (br s, 1H), 2.34 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 9.2 Hz), 1.89–2.21 (m, 6H), 1.72–1.87 (m, 2H), 1.43–1.58 (m, 3H), 1.26 (td, 1H,  $J$  = 12.04 Hz,  $J$  = 2.77 Hz), 0.99–1.19 (m, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.8–0.94 (m, 2H), 0.68 (s, 3H), 0.61–0.71 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.20, 76.39, 71.99, 51.76, 51.19, 50.67, 50.13, 38.89, 37.38, 35.62,

33.84, 32.54, 32.09, 28.58, 25.26, 24.70, 22.63, 21.35, 13.00. IR [cm<sup>-1</sup>]: 3540, 2941, 1721, 749. [ $\alpha_{\text{D}}^{20}$ ] = -132.41 ( $c$  0.7, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 187–189 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>30</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>: 325.1929, found: 325.19242 ( $\Delta$  = 1.5 ppm).

**3 $\alpha$ -Isomer (25).** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.06 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 11.93 Hz,  $J$  = 2.77 Hz), 4.0 (m, 1H), 2.29–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.11–2.21 (m, 2H), 2.00–2.11 (m, 2H), 1.87–1.98 (m, 2H), 1.83 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 13.3 Hz,  $J$  = 8.9 Hz), 1.64–1.77 (m, 2H), 1.59 (s, 1H), 1.38–1.56 (m, 4H), 1.05–1.22 (m, 2H), 0.97 (s, 3H), 0.75–0.95 (m, 2H), 0.68 (s, 3H), 0.62–0.7 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.51, 69.91, 69.78, 51.67, 50.79, 50.15, 45.71, 39.40, 37.60, 33.92, 32.15, 31.16, 27.41, 25.30, 24.59, 22.47, 21.33, 12.30. IR [cm<sup>-1</sup>]: 3449, 2925, 1725. [ $\alpha_{\text{D}}^{20}$ ] = -151.35 ( $c$  0.75, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 194–195 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>30</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>: 325.1929, found: 325.19282 ( $\Delta$  = 0.2 ppm).

Crystal data (CCDC 1586622†). C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>29</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>,  $M$  = 324.87, orthorhombic,  $a$  = 7.5312(3),  $b$  = 20.9084(8),  $c$  = 21.2244(9) Å,  $Z$  = 8 ( $Z'$  = 2),  $T$  = 100 K, space group  $P2_12_12_1$  (no. 19), 31 190 reflections measured, 10 688 unique ( $R_{\text{int}}$  = 0.022), which were used in all calculations. The Flack parameter using 4448 quotients is -0.021(9), and the final  $wR(F^2)$  is 0.0760.

**3 $\alpha$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\beta$ -chloro-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-17-one (26)**

The reaction was carried out following general procedure C. 976 mg (97%) of TBS protected ketone **26** was obtained as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.97 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz), 3.76 (s, 1H), 2.27–2.37 (m, 1H), 1.95–2.20 (m, 5H), 1.62–1.74 (m, 2H), 1.38–1.55 (m, 5H), 1.21–1.38 (m, 3H), 1.08–1.21 (m, 1H), 0.96–1.06 (m, 1H), 0.94 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.61–0.68 (m, 2H), 0.03 (d, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.59, 71.66, 66.17, 53.20, 50.89, 50.22, 42.96, 37.71, 36.55, 34.07, 33.32, 32.09, 31.23, 26.59, 25.93 (3C), 25.39, 24.19, 21.73, 21.58, 18.17, 13.89, -4.69, -4.71. IR [cm<sup>-1</sup>]: 2930, 1739, 1046, 832. [ $\alpha_{\text{D}}^{20}$ ] = -76.44 ( $c$  0.74, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 159–160 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>44</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>Si: 439.2794, found: 439.2774 ( $\Delta$  = 4.5 ppm).

**3 $\beta$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstan-17-one (27)**

The reaction was carried out following general procedure C. 662 mg (83%) ketone **27** as white crystals as well as 68 mg (11%) recovered starting material **19** were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.93–3.97 (m, 1H), 3.87 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 6.24 Hz,  $J$  = 4.28 Hz), 2.26–2.35 (m, 1H), 2.07–2.21 (m, 2H), 1.91–2.06 (m, 4H), 1.76–1.86 (m, 3H), 1.63–1.71 (m, 1H), 1.43–1.61 (m, 6H), 1.13–1.32 (m, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 9H), 0.76 (s, 3H), 0.03 (d, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.65, 72.71, 67.67, 51.64, 50.40, 40.19, 36.69, 35.94, 33.92, 32.36, 28.89, 28.37, 25.85, 25.28, 24.91, 24.10, 23.86, 23.62, 21.26, 18.11, -4.75, -4.77. IR [cm<sup>-1</sup>]: 2931, 1733, 1109, 835. [ $\alpha_{\text{D}}^{20}$ ] = -190.84 ( $c$  1.03, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 165–168 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>44</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>Si: 439.2794, found: 439.2788 ( $\Delta$  = 1.4 ppm).



### 3 $\alpha$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\beta$ -chloro-17-methylene-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstane (28)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure D. 360 mg (45%) of olefin 28 as well as 445 mg (55%) recovered starting material 26 were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.66 (s, 1H), 3.97 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 5.46 Hz,  $J$  = 2.73 Hz), 3.76 (s, 1H), 2.28–2.49 (m, 2H), 1.94–2.09 (m, 2H), 1.72–1.93 (m, 4H), 1.58–1.71 (m, 1H), 1.47–1.57 (m, 2H), 1.39–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.27–1.38 (m, 3H), 1.12–1.26 (m, 4H), 0.92 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.05 (d, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 157.56, 102.93, 71.78, 66.43, 54.25, 54.21, 46.02, 43.09, 36.92, 36.57, 34.49, 33.28, 31.59, 31.35, 29.63, 26.84, 25.96, 24.73, 24.30, 20.30, 18.18, 14.04, –4.75, –4.78. IR [cm<sup>–1</sup>]: 2931, 1257, 1052, 833. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = –28.77 (c 0.88, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 110–112 °C. HRMS (M + Na): calcd for NaC<sub>26</sub>H<sub>45</sub>ClOSi: 459.2820, found: 459.2840 ( $\Delta$  = 4.4 ppm).

### 3 $\beta$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-17-methylene-5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstane (29)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure D. 141 mg (47%) of olefin 29 as well as 145 mg (48%) recovered starting material 27 were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.79 (s, 1H), 4.65 (s, 1H), 3.94–3.98 (m, 1H), 3.82–3.87 (dd, 1H,  $J$  = 7.02 Hz,  $J$  = 4.68 Hz), 1.94–2.03 (m, 2H), 1.83–1.92 (m, 2H), 1.74–1.80 (m, 1H), 1.68–1.72 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.67 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.57 (m, 3H), 1.37–1.43 (m, 3H), 1.31–1.36 (m, 1H), 1.22–1.30 (m, 4H), 0.92 (s, 3H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 0.80 (s, 3H), 0.03 (d, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 157.86, 102.81, 72.92, 67.99, 55.09, 46.28, 41.44, 40.92, 36.24, 35.61, 34.77, 31.50, 29.80, 29.61, 29.38, 28.61, 25.97, 24.80, 24.54, 23.88, 22.27, 18.23, –4.70, –4.72. IR [cm<sup>–1</sup>]: 2929, 1249, 1107, 836. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = –25.43 (c 0.68, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 125–127 °C. HRMS (M + Na): calcd for NaC<sub>26</sub>H<sub>45</sub>ClOSi: 459.2820, found: 459.2918 ( $\Delta$  = 0.4 ppm).

### 3 $\beta$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstane-17-one (30)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure C. 698 mg (97%) ketone 30 were obtained as white crystals.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.66 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.26 Hz, 9.12 Hz), 3.51 (1H, m), 2.35 (1H, m), 2.01–2.22 (5H, m), 1.69–1.89 (3H, m), 1.45–1.61 (3H, m), 1.00–1.28 (4H, m), 0.97 (3H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.84–0.92 (2H, m), 0.68 (3H, s), 0.61–0.76 (2H, m), 0.11 (3H, s), 0.07 (3H, s). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.30, 77.38, 70.15, 51.89, 51.85, 50.77, 50.19, 38.59, 37.50, 35.91, 33.91, 32.73, 32.21, 31.44, 26.00, 25.32, 24.96, 22.74, 21.40, 18.29, 13.13, –4.27, –4.36. IR [cm<sup>–1</sup>]: 2929, 1730, 1091. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = –76.74 (c 0.75, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 185–186 °C. HRMS (M + H): calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>44</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>Si: 439.2794, found 439.28126 ( $\Delta$  = 4.2 ppm).

### 3 $\alpha$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstane-17-one (31)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure C. 529 mg (74%) ketone 31 as a white crystalline solid as well as 135 mg (25%) recovered starting material 25 were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.96 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 2.51 Hz), 3.83 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.87 Hz, 2.63 Hz), 2.23–2.33 (1H, m), 1.86–2.19 (5H, m), 1.79 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 13.28 Hz, 9.05 Hz), 1.69 (1H, td,  $J$  = 12.07 Hz, 2.8 Hz), 1.57–1.64 (2H, m), 1.45–1.53 (2H, m), 1.33–1.41 (2H, m), 1.14 (1H, td,  $J$  = 13.15 Hz, 4.05 Hz), 0.96–1.07 (1H, m), 0.92 (3H, s), 0.79–0.95 (2H, m), 0.88 (9H, s), 0.55–0.74 (2H, m), 0.61 (3H, s), 0.05 (3H, s), 0.01 (3H, s). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 222.11, 71.07, 67.15, 51.73, 50.64, 49.96, 45.45, 39.08, 37.50, 33.78, 32.54, 32.05, 31.34, 29.70, 25.98, 25.17, 24.38, 22.38, 21.24, 18.27, 12.38, –4.58, –4.70. IR [cm<sup>–1</sup>]: 2950, 1729, 1082. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = –124.81 (c 0.7, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 147–148 °C. HRMS (M + H): calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>44</sub>ClO<sub>2</sub>Si: 439.2794, found 439.27985 ( $\Delta$  = 1 ppm).

### 3 $\beta$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-17-methylene-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstane (32)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure D. 178 mg (40%) olefin 32 as colorless crystals as well as 250 mg (56%) recovered starting material 30 were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.82 (1H, s), 4.68 (1H, s), 3.67 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.34 Hz, 9.10 Hz), 3.52 (1H, m), 2.24–2.53 (2H, m), 2.11 (1H, ddd,  $J$  = 13.13 Hz, 3.23 Hz), 1.95–2.02 (1H, m), 1.91 (1H, dt,  $J$  = 13.64 Hz, 3.16 Hz), 1.70–1.87 (3H, m), 1.48–1.62 (2H, m), 0.97–1.41 (6H, m), 0.94 (3H, s), 0.90 (9H, s), 0.61–0.88 (3H, m), 0.71 (3H, s), 0.12 (3H, s), 0.08 (3H, s). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 157.32, 102.99, 77.45, 70.37, 54.04, 52.88, 52.01, 45.99, 38.63, 36.63, 36.02, 34.57, 32.64, 31.57, 31.41, 29.48, 26.03, 25.17, 24.49, 21.28, 18.29, 13.32, –4.27, –4.34. IR [cm<sup>–1</sup>]: 2857, 1095, 841. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = –58.36 (c 0.5, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 137–138 °C. HRMS (M + H): calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>46</sub>ClOSi: 437.3001, found 437.2923 ( $\Delta$  = 17.8 ppm).

### 3 $\alpha$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-17-methylene-5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ -androstane (33)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure D. 143 mg (29%) olefin 33 as white crystals as well as 340 mg (68%) recovered starting material 31 were obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.81 (1H, s), 4.68 (1H, s), 4.01 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 2.73 Hz), 3.90 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.90 Hz, 2.73 Hz), 2.25–2.53 (2H, m), 1.87–2.02 (3H, m), 1.62–1.86 (4H, m), 1.58 (1H, m), 1.30–1.47 (2H, m), 1.19–1.28 (2H, m), 0.97–1.11 (2H, m), 0.95 (3H, s), 0.93 (9H, s), 0.71–0.90 (4H, m), 0.69 (3H, s), 0.11 (3H, s), 0.07 (3H, s). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 157.62, 102.86, 71.32, 67.67, 54.09, 52.91, 45.95, 45.69, 39.31, 36.80, 34.57, 32.58, 31.56, 31.45, 29.95, 29.54, 26.10, 24.72, 24.49, 21.09, 18.42, 12.68, –4.45, –4.58. IR [cm<sup>–1</sup>]: 2950, 1381, 1089. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = –95.90 (c 0.65, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). M.p.: 128–129 °C.

### (5 $\beta$ ,13 $\alpha$ )-3 $\beta$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chlorospiro[androstane-17 $\xi$ ,2'-oxirane] (34, 35)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure A. 67 mg (33%) of the desired 17 $\beta$ -epoxy product 34 and 133 mg (66%) of 17 $\alpha$ -epoxy product 35 were obtained.

**17 $\beta$ -Isomer (34).** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.99 (1H, td,  $J$  = 3.88 Hz, 1.21 Hz), 3.89 (1H, m), 2.63 (2H, dd,  $J$  = 35.52 Hz, 4.54 Hz), 1.94–2.18 (4H, m), 1.70–1.88 (5H, m),





1.52–1.68 (3H, m), 1.27–1.49 (7H, m), 1.14 (1H, m), 0.92 (3H, s), 0.90 (3H, s), 0.88 (9H, s), 0.06 (3H, s), 0.05 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 72.86, 68.63, 67.88, 54.84, 47.78, 41.42, 40.51 (br s), 39.66 (br s), 36.05, 35.68, 32.01, 30.25, 29.85 (br s), 29.07, 28.35, 28.31, 25.90, 24.96 (br s), 24.31, 24.17, 23.65, 18.16, –4.72, –4.73. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2933, 1065, 835.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –4.43 (c 0.55,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 141–143 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.2905 ( $\Delta$  = 9.9 ppm).

**17 $\alpha$ -Isomer (35).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.98 (1H, m), 3.88 (1H, m), 2.76 (2H, dd,  $J$  = 28.42 Hz, 5.11 Hz), 1.93–2.08 (4H, m), 1.86 (1H, m), 1.65–1.80 (3H, m), 1.38–1.63 (6H, m), 1.10–1.36 (5H, m), 0.99 (3H, s), 0.88 (9H, s), 0.86 (3H, s), 0.83–0.91 (1H, m), 0.05 (6H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 72.75, 67.61, 66.99, 55.37, 54.83, 41.15, 40.52 (br s), 39.90 (br s), 36.04, 35.96, 32.33, 29.57, 28.99 (br s), 28.32, 26.40, 25.89, 24.88 (br s), 24.19 (br s), 24.01, 23.78, 22.90, 18.14, –4.74, –4.76. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2929, 1111, 1059.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –15.17 (c 1.00,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 145–147 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.2955 ( $\Delta$  = 1.1 ppm).

#### (5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ )-3 $\alpha$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\beta$ -chlorospiro[androstane-17 $\xi$ ,2'-oxirane] (36, 37)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure A. 84 mg (26%) of the desired 17 $\beta$ -epoxy product **36** and 182 mg (57%) of 17 $\alpha$ -epoxy product **37** were obtained.

**17 $\beta$ -Isomer (36).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.95 (1H, m), 3.77 (1H, m), 2.56 (1H, d,  $J$  = 4.71 Hz), 2.48 (1H, d,  $J$  = 4.71 Hz), 1.92–2.10 (3H, m), 1.72–1.84 (2H, m), 1.59–1.71 (3H, m), 1.10–1.42 (9H, m), 1.01 (1H, m), 0.90 (3H, s), 0.84 (3H, s), 0.83 (9H, s), 0.81–0.85 (1H, m), 0.59 (1H, td,  $J$  = 10.85 Hz, 3.91 Hz), 0.00 (6H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 72.25, 68.59, 67.02, 47.94, 43.51, 41.55, 37.34, 36.97, 33.80, 32.15, 31.74, 30.69, 28.62, 27.13, 26.11, 24.88, 24.66, 22.13, 18.47, 14.26, –4.91. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2930, 1050, 833.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –28.17 (c 1.3,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 125–126 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.2920 ( $\Delta$  = 6.6 ppm).

**17 $\alpha$ -Isomer (37).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.00 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 3.01 Hz, 2.36 Hz), 3.81 (1H, m), 2.75 (1H, d,  $J$  = 5.08 Hz), 2.67 (1H, d,  $J$  = 5.08 Hz), 1.92–2.07 (4H, m), 1.76–1.87 (2H, m), 1.69 (1H, td,  $J$  = 13.23 Hz, 3.99 Hz), 1.51–1.60 (1H, m), 1.35–1.46 (4H, m), 1.20–1.34 (4H, m), 1.02–1.16 (2H, m), 0.94 (3H, s), 0.92 (3H, s), 0.90–0.95 (1H, m), 0.88 (9H, s), 0.67 (1H, td,  $J$  = 11.11 Hz, 3.33 Hz), 0.05 (6H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 72.18, 66.92, 55.45, 54.61, 53.59, 43.44, 41.34, 37.56, 36.92, 33.72, 32.51, 31.69, 30.07, 27.07, 26.75, 26.10, 24.63, 24.41, 21.38, 18.47, 14.23, –4.52. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2928, 1052, 834.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –36.42 (c 1.1,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 136–138 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.2937 ( $\Delta$  = 2.9 ppm).

Crystal data (CCDC 1825768†).  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{45}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ ,  $M$  = 453.16, monoclinic,  $a$  = 13.2696(16),  $b$  = 7.0208(8),  $c$  = 28.171(3) Å,  $\beta$  = 97.170(2)°,  $Z$  = 4,  $T$  = 100 K, space group  $C2$ , 24 646 reflections measured, 6247 unique ( $R_{\text{int}}$  = 0.0576), which were used in all calculations. The Flack parameter using 2512 quotients is –0.02(4), and the final  $wR(F^2)$  is 0.1434.

#### (5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ )-3 $\alpha$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chlorospiro[androstane-17 $\xi$ ,2'-oxirane] (38, 39)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure A. 40 mg (30%) of the desired 17 $\beta$ -epoxy product **38** and 83 mg (62%) of 17 $\alpha$ -epoxy product **39** were obtained.

**17 $\beta$ -Isomer (38).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.01 (1H, m), 3.94 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.86 Hz, 2.57 Hz), 2.61 (1H, d,  $J$  = 4.71 Hz), 2.53 (1H, d,  $J$  = 4.71 Hz), 2.13 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.43 Hz, 9.57 Hz), 2.04 (1H, dq,  $J$  = 13.29 Hz, 3.71 Hz), 1.91 (1H, dq,  $J$  = 12.94 Hz, 3.19 Hz), 1.83 (1H, m), 1.63–1.76 (5H, m), 1.37–1.45 (3H, m), 1.21–1.34 (3H, m), 1.03–1.19 (3H, m), 0.91 (9H, s), 0.89 (3H, s), 0.79–0.88 (1H, m), 0.75 (3H, s), 0.68–0.76 (1H, m), 0.09 (3H, s), 0.05 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 71.87, 68.62, 68.38, 54.54, 52.13, 47.84, 46.27, 41.52, 39.77, 37.17, 33.18, 32.28, 32.00, 30.63, 30.30, 28.50, 26.26, 25.04, 24.70, 22.98, 18.72, 12.96, –4.36, –4.44. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2950, 1384, 1253, 1074, 827.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –54.09 (c 0.5,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 149–151 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.29505 ( $\Delta$  = 0.1 ppm).

**17 $\alpha$ -Isomer (39).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 4.01 (1H, m), 3.93 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.87 Hz, 2.39 Hz), 2.74 (1H, d,  $J$  = 5.09 Hz), 2.66 (1H, d,  $J$  = 5.09 Hz), 1.86–2.06 (4H, m), 1.63–1.83 (4H, m), 1.58 (1H, m), 1.40–1.51 (3H, m), 1.22–1.36 (3H, m), 1.01–1.18 (3H, m), 0.93 (3H, s), 0.91 (9H, s), 0.73 (3H, s), 0.73–0.88 (4H, m), 0.09 (3H, s), 0.06 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 71.81, 68.16, 66.96, 55.49, 54.51, 52.33, 46.19, 41.26, 39.69, 37.47, 33.12, 32.61, 31.97, 30.28, 29.95, 26.68, 26.28, 24.99, 24.23, 22.24, 18.73, 12.93, –4.34, –4.42. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2930, 2852, 1250, 1077, 827.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –75.01 (c 0.55,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.29513 ( $\Delta$  = 0.3 ppm).

#### (5 $\alpha$ ,13 $\alpha$ )-3 $\beta$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chlorospiro[androstane-17 $\xi$ ,2'-oxirane] (40, 41)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure A. 66 mg (35%) of the desired 17 $\beta$ -epoxy product **40** and 111 mg (58%) of 17 $\alpha$ -epoxy product **41** were obtained.

**17 $\beta$ -Isomer (40).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.67 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.27 Hz, 9.26 Hz), 3.52 (1H, m), 2.62 (1H, d,  $J$  = 4.64 Hz), 2.54 (1H, d,  $J$  = 4.64 Hz), 2.02–2.17 (3H, m), 1.65–1.88 (5H, m), 1.53 (1H, m), 0.96–1.44 (10H, m), 0.89 (3H, s), 0.88 (9H, s), 0.75 (3H, s), 0.64 (1H, td,  $J$  = 10.81 Hz, 3.14 Hz), 0.09 (3H, s), 0.06 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 77.90, 71.14, 68.55, 54.45, 52.50, 52.07, 47.79, 41.59, 39.08, 37.02, 36.41, 33.23, 32.26, 31.99, 30.59, 28.46, 26.20, 25.48, 24.72, 23.18, 18.58, 13.59, –4.09, –4.21. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2948, 1384, 1251, 934.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$  = –35.10 (c 0.9,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 156 °C. HRMS ( $\text{M} + \text{H}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.29510 ( $\Delta$  = 0.2 ppm).

**17 $\alpha$ -Isomer (41).**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  = 3.66 (1H, dd,  $J$  = 11.65 Hz, 8.91 Hz), 3.52 (1H, m), 2.74 (1H, d,  $J$  = 5.07 Hz), 2.66 (1H, d,  $J$  = 5.07 Hz), 1.92–2.11 (4H, m), 1.69–1.86 (3H, m), 1.43–1.62 (3H, m), 0.94–1.34 (8H, m), 0.93 (3H, s), 0.88 (9H, s), 0.74 (3H, s), 0.63–0.90 (2H, m), 0.10 (3H, s), 0.07 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ): 77.83, 70.94, 66.90,





55.45, 52.40, 52.25, 41.32, 39.00, 37.33, 36.34, 33.17, 32.58, 31.96, 29.91, 26.66, 26.21, 25.44, 24.26, 22.45, 18.59, 13.55, -4.08, -4.20. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2930, 1251, 1090, 834, 775.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -44.15$  ( $c$  0.58,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 149–150 °C. HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.29505 ( $\Delta = 0.1$  ppm).

### 3 $\alpha$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\beta$ -chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\alpha$ -androst-13-ene (42)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure E. 17 mg (65%) of alcohol **42** were obtained as colourless crystals.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.01$  (1H, m), 3.78 (1H, m), 3.46 (1H, d,  $J = 10.36$  Hz), 3.30 (1H, br d,  $J = 10.36$  Hz), 2.28 (1H, m), 2.04–2.18 (3H, m), 1.93–2.03 (2H, m), 1.84–1.93 (3H, m), 1.72–1.83 (2H, m), 1.50–1.61 (2H, m), 1.29–1.47 (3H, m), 1.03–1.21 (3H, m), 1.00 (3H, s), 0.95 (3H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.85–0.93 (1H, m), 0.06 (3H, s), 0.06 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 141.38, 136.40, 71.75, 69.17, 66.39, 53.23, 51.72, 43.32, 36.56, 36.49, 34.18, 31.38, 31.25, 30.68, 27.05, 25.93, 24.35, 22.51, 21.92, 18.17, 14.00, -4.76, -4.81$ . IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3343, 2927, 1040, 774. M.p.: 168–170 °C.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -25.12$  ( $c$  0.85,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.2947 ( $\Delta = 0.7$  ppm).

### 3 $\beta$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\beta$ -androst-13-ene (43)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure E. 53 mg (79%) of alcohol **43** was obtained as colourless oil.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.10$  (1H, dd,  $J = 8.40$  Hz, 5.35 Hz), 3.66 (1H, td,  $J = 8.46$  Hz, 3.92 Hz), 3.46 (1H, d,  $J = 10.03$  Hz), 3.29 (1H, d,  $J = 10.03$  Hz), 2.28 (1H, m), 2.02–2.17 (3H, m), 1.97 (1H, m), 1.77–1.93 (5H, m), 1.60–1.75 (2H, m), 1.49–1.59 (2H, m), 1.30–1.47 (4H, m), 1.10–1.28 (2H, m), 0.94 (3H, s), 0.92 (3H, s), 0.89 (9H, s), 0.09 (3H, s), 0.06 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 141.56, 136.24, 72.60, 69.01, 68.59, 51.59, 45.66$  (br s), 44.59 (br s), 36.89, 34.25, 32.72 (br s), 31.79 (br s), 30.66, 29.20 (br s), 28.04, 25.96 (3C), 23.93, 22.49, 21.97, 20.81 (2C, br s), 18.29, -4.46, -4.55. IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3373, 2927, 1111, 733.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -56.40$  ( $c$  1.0,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.2941 ( $\Delta = 2$  ppm).

### 3 $\alpha$ -(*t*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-4 $\alpha$ -chloro-17 $\beta$ -hydroxymethyl-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-5 $\alpha$ -androst-13-ene (44)

The reaction was carried out following general procedure E. 38 mg (57%) of alcohol **44** was obtained as colourless oil.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.04$  (1H, m), 3.92 (1H, dd,  $J = 11.83$  Hz, 2.66 Hz), 3.46 (1H, d,  $J = 10.50$  Hz), 3.30 (1H, d,  $J = 10.50$  Hz), 2.30 (1H, m), 2.05–2.19 (2H, m), 1.76–2.05 (5H, m), 1.67–1.75 (2H, m), 1.45–1.65 (6H, m), 1.01–1.23 (3H, m), 0.97 (3H, s), 0.92 (9H, s), 0.80 (3H, s), 0.89–0.95 (1H, m), 0.11 (3H, s), 0.07 (3H, s).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 141.45, 136.24, 71.37, 69.21, 67.36, 51.90, 51.73, 45.79, 39.21, 36.48, 34.21, 31.44, 30.91, 30.65, 30.02, 26.09, 24.93, 22.63, 22.49, 21.91, 18.42, 12.25, -4.47, -4.57$ . IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 3350, 2927, 1079, 832.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -55.72$  ( $c$  0.76,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). HRMS ( $M + H$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{46}\text{ClO}_2\text{Si}$ : 453.2950, found 453.2946 ( $\Delta = 0.9$  ppm).

### 4 $\alpha$ -Chloro-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-3-oxo-5 $\beta$ -androst-13-en-17 $\beta$ -carbaldehyde (45)

In a 50 ml round bottom flask alcohol **3e** (21 mg, 0.062 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in 6 ml  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at room temperature and DMP ( $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{13}\text{IO}_8$ , 79 mg, 0.19 mmol, 3 eq.) was added in one portion and the solution was stirred for 20 minutes. The reaction mixture was then washed with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution followed by  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  solution and the organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and evaporated to dryness. The compound decomposes (epimerizes) on silica gel, so the crude product was instead used directly in the next step.

### 4 $\beta$ -Chloro-17 $\alpha$ -methyl-18-nor-3-oxo-5 $\alpha$ -androst-13-en-17 $\beta$ -carbaldehyde (46)

In a 25 ml round bottom flask alcohol **3c** (30 mg, 0.088 mmol, 1 eq.) was dissolved in 7 ml  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at room temperature and DMP (112 mg, 0.26 mmol, 3 eq.) was added in one portion and the solution was stirred for 60 minutes. The reaction mixture was then washed with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution followed by  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$  solution and the organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel (2.5 g) using 25/1 LP/EtOAc as the eluent giving 21 mg (71%) aldehyde **46** as small crystals.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}} = 9.39$  (1H, s), 4.02 (1H, dd,  $J = 3.89$  Hz, 1.77 Hz), 3.06 (1H, td,  $J = 14.94$  Hz, 5.90 Hz), 2.42 (1H, m), 2.32 (1H, m), 2.19–2.28 (2H, m), 2.03–2.18 (2H, m), 1.93 (1H, td,  $J = 12.80$  Hz, 4.14 Hz), 1.73–1.86 (3H, m), 1.67 (1H), 1.24–1.50 (4H, m), 1.22 (3H, s), 1.17 (1H, m), 1.12 (3H, s), 0.95 (1H, m), 0.87 (1H, m).  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta_{\text{C}} = 205.17, 203.14, 143.49, 134.15, 63.82, 61.85, 52.45, 50.31, 38.73, 36.64, 36.28, 33.54, 32.59, 31.21, 30.76, 26.17, 23.16, 22.19, 18.04, 13.68$ . IR [ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ]: 2930, 2855, 1717, 1455.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -268.46$  ( $c$  0.7,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). M.p.: 148–151 °C. HRMS ( $M - \text{CHO}$ ): calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{ClO}$ : 305.1667, found: 305.1663 ( $\Delta = 1.3$  ppm).

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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