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Development of isotope-enriched phosphatidylinositol-4- and 5-phosphate cellular mass spectrometry probes†

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Synthetic phosphatidylinositol phosphate (PtdIns P_n) derivatives play a pivotal role in broadening our understanding of PtdIns P_n metabolism. However, the development of such tools is reliant on efficient enantioselective and regioselective synthetic strategies. Here we report the development of a divergent synthetic route applicable to the synthesis of deuterated PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P derivatives. The synthetic strategy developed involves a key enzymatic desymmetrisation step using Lipozyme TL-IM®. In addition, we optimised the large-scale synthesis of deuterated *myo*-inositol, allowing for the preparation of a series of saturated and unsaturated deuterated PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P derivatives. Experiments in MCF7 cells demonstrated that these deuterated probes enable quantification of the corresponding endogenous phospholipids in a cellular setting. Overall, these deuterated probes will be powerful tools to help improve our understanding of the role played by PtdIns P_n in physiology and disease.

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Introduction

Phosphatidylinositol phosphates (PtdIns P_n s) are a family of minor membrane phospholipids that regulate a diverse range of important intracellular processes, including membrane trafficking, plasma membrane receptor signalling, cell proliferation, metabolism, and transcription.^{1,2} Structurally, PtdIns comprise a *myo*-inositol headgroup that is linked at the 1-position to the *sn*-3 position of a diacylglycerol backbone *via* a phosphodiester bridge.³ Reversible phosphorylation at the 3-, 4- and/or 5-position of the PtdIns headgroup is tightly regulated by a series of kinases and phosphatases.^{2,4} The resulting set of seven PtdIns P_n s participate in intracellular signalling pathways,^{5,6} at membrane–cytosol interfaces, by interacting with integral membrane proteins or by recruiting effector proteins.^{7,8} Importantly, each PtdIns P_n is characterised by a distinct subcellular distribution and biological function,^{2,9} and therefore contribute to defining organelle identity.¹⁰

Dysregulation of phosphoinositide metabolism and signalling is associated with a number of conditions including

inflammation, cancer, and neurological disorders.¹¹ Notably, phosphatidyl inositol 4-kinase (PtdIns4K) isozymes have been recognised as potential therapeutic targets in a variety of disease settings, including RNA viruses and Alzheimer's disease.^{12,13} However, pharmacological manipulation of the subcellular levels of PtdIns4P is particularly challenging¹⁴ due to the lack of information on the isoform-specific roles and localisation of PtdIns4K.^{17,18} Furthermore, the metabolism and function of less abundant PtdIns P_n s are still poorly understood. For instance, PtdIns5P has recently been proposed to mediate nuclear signalling events and chromatin remodelling.¹⁵ Despite its importance in epigenetics, the localisation and dynamics of PtdIns5P remains to be established, mostly due to the lack of methods to visualise and quantify subcellular levels of this low abundance phosphoinositide.

A number of tools and technologies have been developed to address important questions in PtdIns P_n biology. PtdIns P_n derivatives that encompass fluorescent reporter groups,^{16,17} provide information on PtdIns P_n activity and localisation. Relevant PtdIns P_n binding partners can also be identified using immobilised analogues and photoaffinity-based probes.^{16–19} These chemical probes, however, contain a reporter group appended to the lipid backbone. Such a bulky modification has profound effects on the properties of the lipids. In addition, recent evidence suggests that the nature of the PtdIns P_n s lipids is of particular importance.^{20,21} For instance, enrichment of PtdIns P_n s with 1-stearoyl-2-arachidonoyl lipid chains in mammals affects which proteins they interact with in cells. In an attempt to elucidate the functional significance of different fatty-acyl species, integrated high-performance liquid

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chromatography-mass spectrometry (HPLC-MS)-based methodologies have been developed. While these techniques enable the absolute and relative measurements of subcellular PtdIns P_n , PtdIns P_2 , and PtdIns P_3 levels,^{22,23} the PtdIns P_n positional isomers, cannot be distinguished.

Stable-isotope-enriched inositol derivatives, including PtdIns P_n s, would represent invaluable chemical probes for addressing the shortcomings of existing methodologies. Indeed, stable isotope-labelled biomolecules have become powerful tools in a range of analytical assays, as exogenously supplied metabolic tracers, or as mass-spectrometry internal standards.²⁴ Furthermore, there has recently been a rapid advance in the development of methodologies harnessing stable isotope labelled probes.²⁵ Notably, innovative imaging technologies using D- or ¹³C-labelled metabolites enable metabolism mapping at the single cell level.^{26,27} Despite this, the synthesis of PtdIns P_n s is particularly challenging. Due to the *meso* nature of *myo*-inositol **1**, both stereo- and regiocontrol are required for the synthesis of most inositol derivatives. In addition, previously developed synthetic routes typically involve diastereoisomeric resolutions, are often only applicable to the synthesis of saturated PtdIns P_n derivatives, and can suffer from poor overall yields. These routes are therefore not applicable to the synthesis of expensive isotope-enriched materials.^{28–32} Given the high cost of isotopically labelled materials, synthetic routes must be as concise as possible, scalable, and reproducible.

Here we report the streamlined synthesis of PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P using a key enzymatic desymmetrisation step. This divergent synthetic route is robust and high yielding, and thus applicable to the synthesis of a wide range of stable isotope-enriched PtdIns4P or PtdIns5P analogues (Fig. 1). The new methods described in this work will enable the expedient synthesis of a subset of powerful isotopically-enriched chemical tools to address key questions in PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P biology.

Results and discussion

Retrosynthetic analysis

Our main aim was to develop a high yielding and modular synthetic route to give enantiomerically pure PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P. We envisaged that the fully protected PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P precursors **2** and **3** would be obtained by assembly of two main fragments: the enantiomerically-pure and orthogonally-protected *myo*-inositol cores **4** and **5**, and the phosphoramidite **6** derivatised with a range of saturated and unsaturated lipid chains (Scheme 1). The first consideration for the synthesis of *myo*-inositol cores **4** and **5**, was the optimisation of a high yielding desymmetrisation step.

In addition to the elegant work by Miller and co-workers,^{33–35} a few studies have reported efficient desymmetrisations of 4,6-di-*O*-benzyl ether protected *myo*-inositol derivatives, to provide 1-*O*- or 3-*O*-acyl derivatives such as **9**.^{36–39} Indeed, differentiation between the enantiotopic 1- and 3-*O*-positions of the *myo*-inositol ring is known to be promoted by the stereochemical environment of these positions, which comprise both neighbouring axial and equatorial substituents. Furthermore,

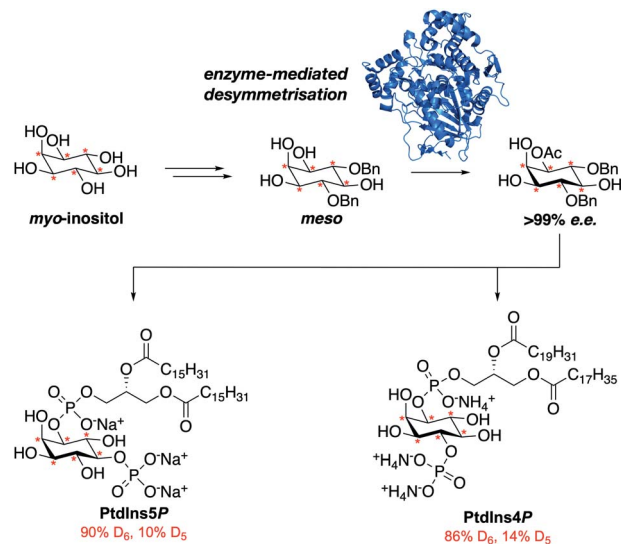
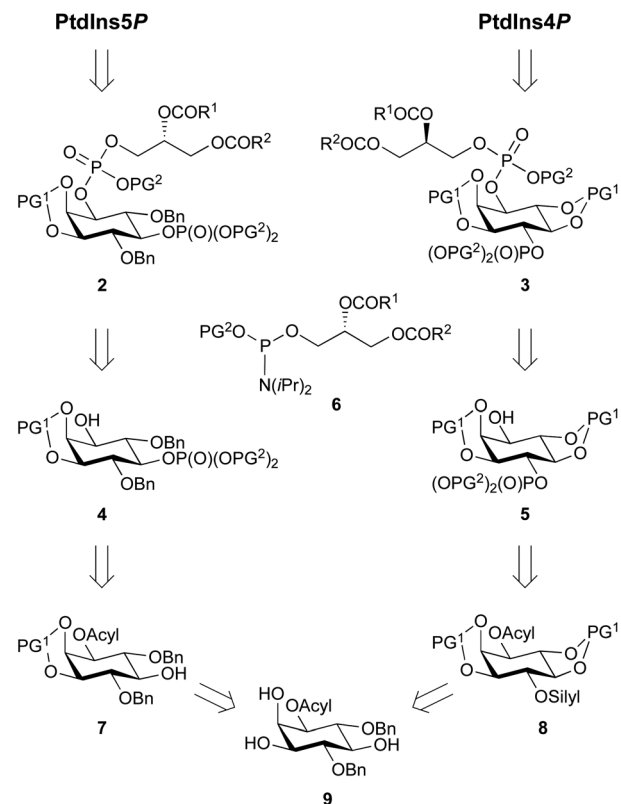


Fig. 1 The streamlined synthesis of PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P using a key enzymatic desymmetrisation step. * = deuterium.

differentiation at the 1-*O*-position is advantageous for the synthesis of PtdIns P_n s, as this eliminates the need for a low yielding, regioselective transformation at this position. We also envisaged that protection of the 2,3-diol would provide PtdIns5P



Scheme 1 Retrosynthetic analysis for PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P. PG¹ = acid labile protecting group; PG² = alkyl phosphate ester protecting group; R¹ and R² = saturated or unsaturated lipid chains. Bn = benzyl.



precursor **7**, without the need for further protecting group manipulations.

Another important consideration is the nature of the hydroxyl and phosphate protecting groups employed, and their compatibility with global deprotection of the sensitive final molecule. We selected benzyl- or 1,2-xylene-derived esters (PG²) to protect the phosphate groups and acid-labile groups (PG¹) to protect positions around the desymmetrised *myo*-inositol ring. Indeed, previous work had shown that these could be simultaneously removed in a global deprotection step under mild conditions.^{30,33,40} In addition, acyl groups can be efficiently deprotected in the presence of alkyl phosphate esters.⁴¹

To synthesise a suitable PtdIns4*P* intermediate, we hypothesised that selective protection of the 4-*O*-position with an orthogonal silyl protecting group (silyl), would be achievable after cleavage of the 4,6-*O*-ether groups. Subsequent protection of the 5- and 6-*O*-positions with acid-labile groups (PG¹) would provide **8**, with the desired differentiated 1- and 4-*O*-positions of the inositol ring. Finally, we postulated that selective silyl deprotection and phosphorylation would give PtdIns4*P* precursor **5** (Scheme 1).

Synthesis of enantiomerically pure building block (–)-**9**

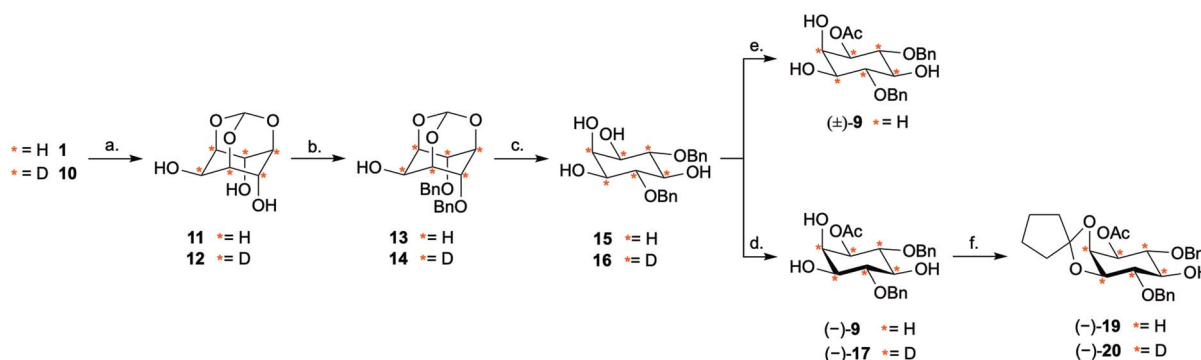
Our investigation started with the optimisation of an appropriate desymmetrisation strategy to give orthogonally protected PtdIns4*P* and PtdIns5*P* building blocks **7** and **8**. First, we prepared *meso*-4,6-di-*O*-benzyl-*myo*-inositol **15** from *myo*-inositol **1**, as described in the literature.^{42,43} Briefly, reaction of *myo*-inositol **1** with triethylorthoformate and substoichiometric PTSA·H₂O in DMF gave the inositol orthoformate **11** in a 65% yield. Regioselective dialkylation of the axial positions on **11** provided the 4,6-di-*O*-benzylated derivative **13** as the major product.⁴⁴ Subsequent methanolysis of this orthoformate, using PTSA·H₂O in methanol, furnished **15** (Scheme 2). Next, differentiation between the enantiotopic 1- and 3-*O*-positions of this *meso* intermediate was achieved *via* an enantioselective desymmetrisation catalysed by the lipase

from *Thermomyces lanuginosus*, Lipozyme TL-IM®.⁴⁵ Following the procedure reported by Simas *et al.*,³⁷ **15** was stirred with Lipozyme TL-IM® in hexane and vinyl acetate at 45 °C for 15 hours, generating the desired acetylated product (–)-**9** in 98% yield (Scheme 2). The racemate (±)-**9** was prepared under standard conditions, and analysis using chiral HPLC revealed that the e.e. of (–)-**9** was greater than 99% (Fig. S1†). We found that this enzymatic transformation is also applicable to 4,6-di-*O*-(4-methoxybenzyl) derivatives (Fig. S3 and Scheme S2†). Importantly, these desymmetrisations can be carried out on gram scale, without concurrent reduction of the yields or e.e. values (Fig. S1 and S3†).

Next, the 2- and 3-*O*-position of (–)-**9** were simultaneously protected with the acid labile cyclopentylidene group, using **18**, to provide (–)-**19** in 92% yield (Scheme 2). Assignment of the absolute configuration of the protected derivative (–)-**19** was undertaken by ¹H NMR analysis of the corresponding (*R*)- and (*S*)-methoxyphenylacetic acid (MPA) esters (ESI Results and discussion 4.1†).⁴⁶ Based on this study, the absolute configuration of (–)-**9** was assigned as (–)-1*D*-1-*O*-acetyl-4,6-di-*O*-benzyl-*myo*-inositol, which is in agreement with previous work.⁴⁷ Thus, enantioselective acetylation at the 1-*O*-position of 4,6-di-*O*-protected *myo*-inositols can be achieved enzymatically, providing the versatile PtdIns*P_n* precursor (–)-**9**.

Synthesis of deuterated *myo*-inositol **10**

Having completed the enantioselective desymmetrisation of **15** with Lipozyme TL-IM®³⁷ and confirmed the absolute configuration of (–)-**9**, we considered the applicability of this methodology to stable isotope-enriched *myo*-inositol derivatives. While a low-cost and large-scale synthesis of [¹³C₆]-*myo*-inositol had previously been reported by the Fiedler group,²⁵ the cost of D₆-*myo*-inositol **10** remains prohibitively high. Indeed, previously reported synthetic routes required laborious separation of epimers.⁴⁸ To expand the scope of isotope-enriched *myo*-inositol derivatives applicable to our synthesis, we developed a robust and efficient multi-gram synthesis of D₆-*myo*-inositol.



Scheme 2 Synthesis of enantiomerically pure (–)-**19** and D₆ (–)-**20** via an enzymatic desymmetrisation step using Lipozyme TL-IM®. *Reagents and conditions:* (a) CH(OEt)₃, PTSA·H₂O, DMF, 105 °C, 3 d, 31%, 89% D₆, 11% D₅, D₆ **11**; 7 d, 65% **11**; 7 d, 31%, 89% D₆, 11% D₅, D₆ **12**. (b) (i) LiH, DMF, RT, 30 min, (ii) BnBr, RT, 48 h, 71% **13**; 77%, 91% D₆, 9% D₅, D₆ **14**. (c) PTSA·H₂O, MeOH, RT, 24 h, 92% **15**; 86%, 92% D₆, 8% D₅, D₆ **16**. (d) Lipozyme TL-IM®, vinyl acetate/hexane (1 : 1), 45 °C, 15 h, 98%, >99% e.e. (–)-**9**; 84%, >99% e.e., 89% D₆, 11% D₅, D₆ (–)-**17**. (e) Ac₂O, Et₃N, 4-DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, –20 °C to –10 °C, 30 h, 7% (±)-**9**. (f) 1,1-Dimethoxycyclopentane **18**, PTSA·H₂O, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 18 h, 92% (–)-**19**; 87%, 91% D₆, 9% D₅, D₆ (–)-**20**. Ac = acetyl; Bn = benzyl; 4-DMAP = 4-dimethylaminopyridine; DMF = dimethylformamide; PTSA = 4-toluene sulfonic acid; * = deuterium.



We began this synthesis from quinol **21**, as its deuterated analogues can be readily synthesised, and converted into *myo*-inositol derivatives. Following a procedure reported by Zimmermann *et al.*, quinol **21** was treated with D₂SO₄ in D₂O, and the deuterated quinol **22** generated was isolated by extraction with Et₂O (Scheme 3).⁴⁹ This procedure was repeated three times to give an overall incorporation of 93% D₄ and 7% D₃ (Scheme 3). Deuterated quinol **22** was then oxidised using aqueous H₂O₂ in isopropanol with catalytic iodine at 45 °C,⁵⁰ providing pure D₄ *p*-benzoquinone **23** in 85% yield over two steps, with no loss of deuterium incorporation (Scheme 3, 93% D₄, 7% D₃). D₄-*p*-Benzoquinone **23** was then brominated using Br₂ and reduced with NaBD₄ to give (±)-**25**. Subsequent reaction under conditions reported by Trost *et al.* produced (±)-**26** with a 90% D₆- and 10% D₅-enrichment.⁵¹ The structure of (±)-**26** was confirmed using single crystal X-ray diffraction studies (Fig. 2A, ESI†). Intermediate (±)-**26** was subsequently subjected to a *syn*-dihydroxylation to produce the tetracetylinositol derivative (±)-**27** (Scheme 3). Analysis of the crude reaction mixture obtained from this transformation revealed that acetyl migration had occurred to give an inseparable mixture of (±)-**27** and (±)-**28**. Acetyl deprotection of this mixture and crystallisation provided D₆-*myo*-inositol **10**. Given the nature of the ¹H and ¹³C

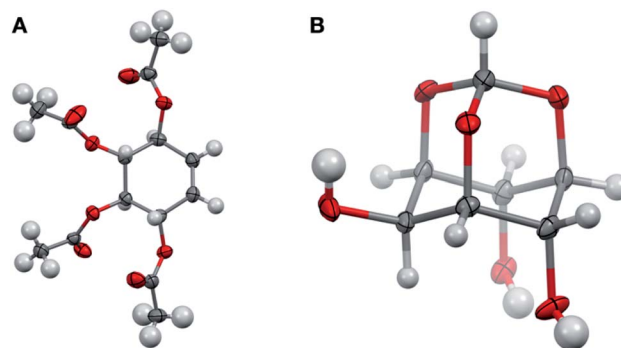


Fig. 2 Structures of D₆-(±)-**26** (A) CCDC 2049549) and orthoformate D₆-**12** (B) CCDC 2049548) from single crystal X-ray diffraction studies (ESI†) Key: carbon, grey; oxygen red; hydrogen or deuterium, white, displacement ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability.

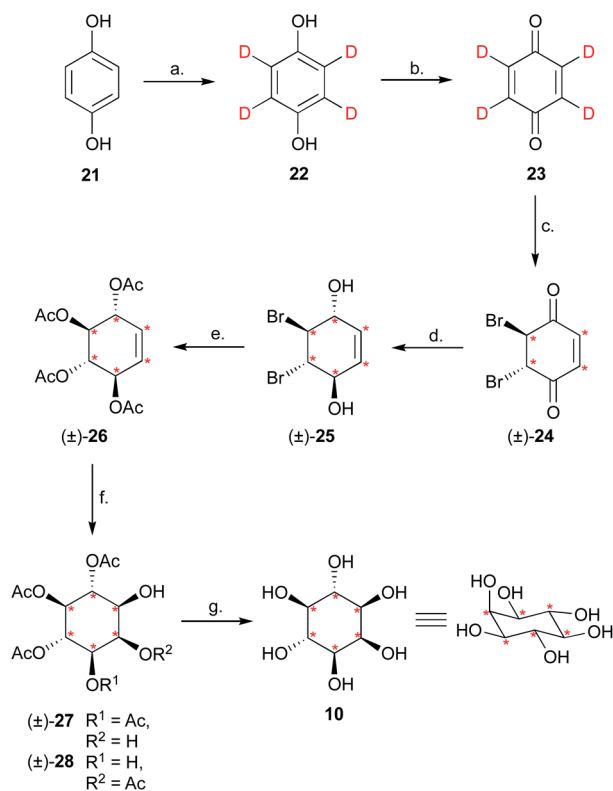
NMR spectra obtained for these deuterated molecules, the protonated analogues were synthesised in a similar manner and used to aid structure confirmation (ESI†). This novel synthetic route therefore allows for the synthesis of D₆-*myo*-inositol with high isotopic enrichment (84–90% D₆, 10–16% D₅) on a gram scale and at low cost.

Synthesis of deuterated intermediate (–)-**20**

Next, we explored whether D₆-*myo*-inositol **10** could be used as a starting material for the synthesis of D₆-*meso*-4,6-disubstituted *myo*-inositols **16**, and whether Lipozyme TL-IM® could tolerate the desymmetrisation of deuterated inositol derivatives. Similar to the synthesis of H₆-(–)-**9**, D₆-*myo*-inositol **10** was converted to the corresponding D₆-inositol orthoformate **12** (Scheme 2), and the structure of this compound was established using single crystal X-ray diffraction (Fig. 2B, ESI†). However, this reaction was slow and, after seven days stirring at 105 °C, significant amounts of starting material remained. Although low yields were obtained (31%), mass spectrometry studies showed that there had been no change in the deuterium incorporation (89% D₆, 11% D₅). Importantly, the remaining starting material was recovered (45%) and could be recycled. The inositol ring undergoes a conformational flip to enable formation of a stable orthoformate structure. The observed difference in reaction efficiencies between protonated and deuterated material could be due to the shorter C–D bonds in **10**, resulting in a higher energy barrier to this conformational change. It is also possible that the slower reaction rate, and lower yield of **12** (compared to **11**), results from secondary kinetic isotope effects.

Regioselective alkylation of the 4- and 6-*O*-axial positions, followed by acidic methanolysis, proceeded smoothly to give *meso*-**16**. Desymmetrisation of this derivative using Lipozyme TL-IM® was successful, yielding (–)-**17** in 86% yield, without loss of deuterium incorporation. Notably, as for the protonated analogues, the e.e. of the acetylated product (–)-**17** was found to be >99% using chiral HPLC (Fig. S1†).

The deuterated intermediate (–)-**20** was obtained by protection of the 2- and 3-*O* positions of (–)-**17** with



Scheme 3 Synthesis of D₆-*myo*-inositol **10**. Reagents and conditions: (a) D₂SO₄, D₂O, reflux, 3 × 24 h, 95%, D₄ 93%, D₃ 7%. (b) 35% w/w H₂O₂(aq), I₂, ¹PrOH, 45 °C, 2 h, 89%, 93% D₄, 7% D₃. (c) Br₂, CHCl₃, 0 °C, 3 h. (d) NaBD₄, D₂O, Et₂O, 0 °C, 2 h. (e) (i) Ac₂O, K₂CO₃, 2 h, (ii) AcOH, reflux, 45 h, 29% over 3 steps, 90% D₆, 10% D₅. (f) NaIO₃, RuCl₃·H₂O, MeCN, H₂O, 0 °C, 4–8 min. (g) Et₃N, MeOH/H₂O, RT, 2 h, 55% over 2 steps, 84–90% D₆, 10–16% D₅. Ac = acetyl; * = deuterium.



a cyclopentylidene group. Overall, enzymatic desymmetrisation of H₆- and D₆-*meso*-4,6-di-substituted *myo*-inositols was accomplished to provide enantiomerically pure PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P precursors (–)-19 and (–)-20 in high yields.

Synthesis of saturated and unsaturated phosphoramidite fragments (+)-35, (+)-36, (+)-44 and (+)-45

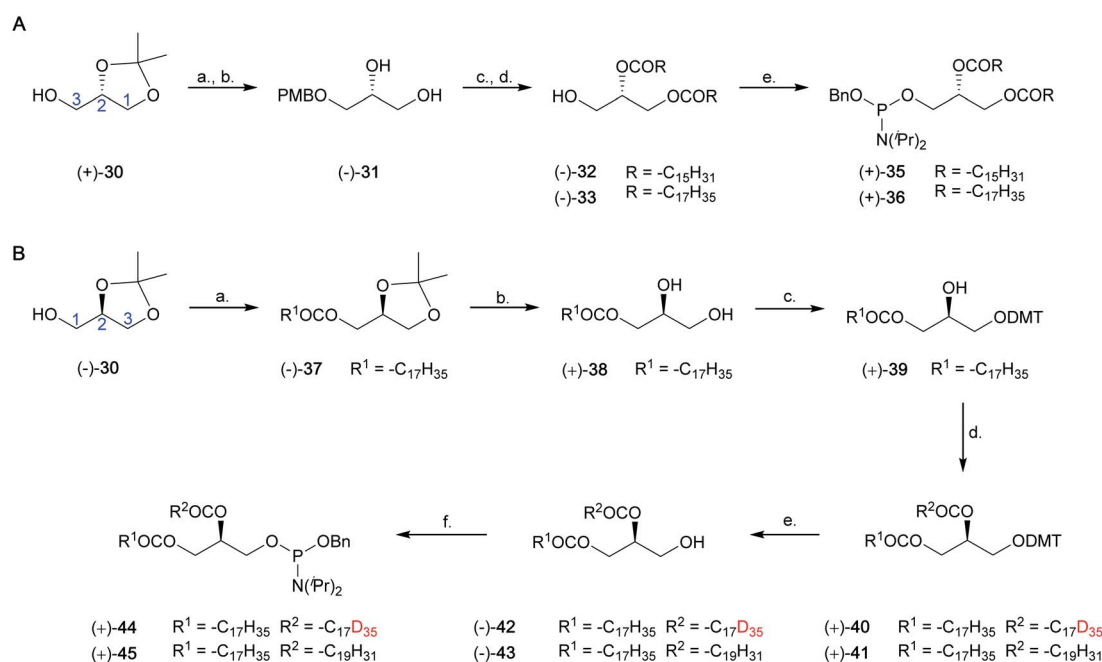
We have developed a general approach for the synthesis of enantiomerically pure saturated and unsaturated phosphoramidite fragments, including (+)-35, (+)-36, (+)-44 and (+)-45. This synthesis is shown in Scheme 4, and a full discussion is provided in the ESI (Results and discussion 4.2–4.3†).

Synthesis of dipalmitoyl PtdIns4P, D₆-dipalmitoyl PtdIns4P, D₄₁-distearoyl PtdIns4P, 1-stearoyl-2-arachidonoyl PtdIns4P, dipalmitoyl PtdIns5P and D₆-dipalmitoyl PtdIns5P

The synthesis of PtdIns4P derivatives commenced with the cleavage of the 4- and 6-*O*-benzyl ethers of (–)-19, *via* hydrolysis catalysed by 10% Pd/C under an atmosphere of H_{2(g)} (Scheme 5). Conditions for regioselective protection of the 4-*O*-position of inositol ring (–)-46 were then optimised (ESI Results and discussion 4.4†). While standard silylation conditions using *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (TBDMSCl) and imidazole were unsuccessful, the more reactive silylating agent

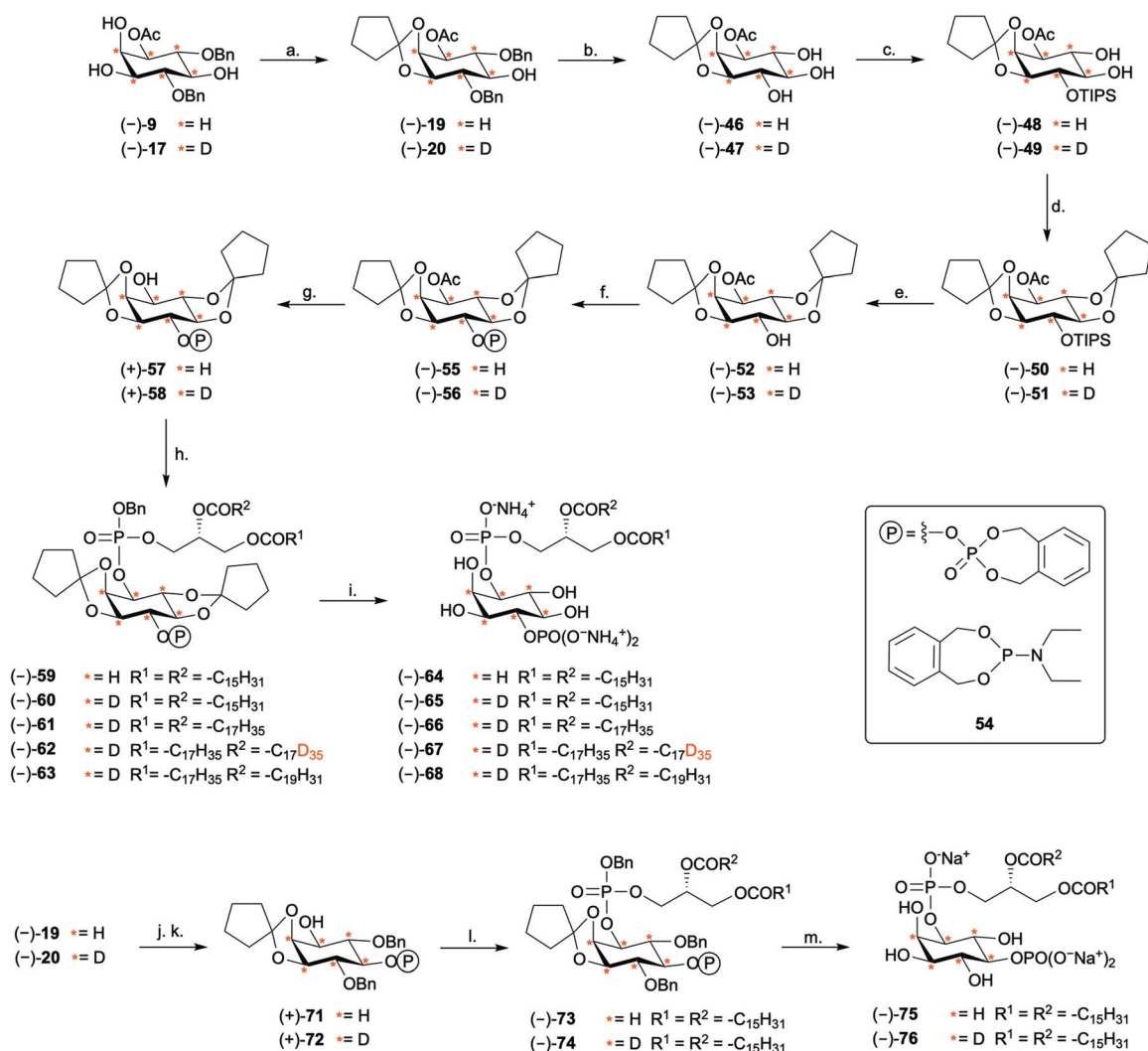
TBDMSOTf led to the formation of the expected 4-*O*-silylated product (Table S3†). Regioselectivity of the reaction was further improved by using the bulkier TIPS group (Scheme S5†). The 4-*O*-TIPS ether (–)-48 was thus obtained in 71% yield using TIP-SOTf in the presence of 2,6-lutidine at –78 °C, and regioselectivity was confirmed by ¹H–²⁹Si Heteronuclear Multiple Bond Correlation (HMBC) NMR analysis (Fig. S4†).

Next, we postulated that a second cyclopentylidene moiety could be employed to mask the *trans*-5,6-diol on (–)-48. As expected for a *trans*-diequatorial diol, the rate of protection at these positions was slower than protection of the *cis* 2,3-diol. Despite this, the 2,3:5,6-di-*O*-cyclopentylidene acetal (–)-50 was obtained in 85% yield by heating to 30 °C for 18 hours. This fully protected inositol derivative (–)-50 was found to be unstable under desilylation conditions using Et₃N·3HF. Furthermore, silyl deprotection using pyridine·HF facilitated partial intermolecular *trans*-esterification of the 1-*O*-acetyl ester (Table S4†). As an alternative, we found that the soluble, mild, and anhydrous source of nucleophilic fluoride, tris(dimethylamino) sulfonium difluorotrimethylsilicate (TAS-F), was effective in the desilylation of (–)-50, providing intermediate (–)-52 in good yields (Scheme 5). We envisaged that the less bulky *o*-xylylene-based phosphate protecting group (XEPA) on phosphoramidite 54^{52,53} would be preferable for the phosphorylation of (–)-52. This protecting group is base stable and can be removed



Scheme 4 Synthesis of a library of phosphoramidite fragments. (A) Synthesis of enantiomerically pure dipalmitoyl and distearoyl phosphoramidites (+)-34 and (+)-35. *Reagents and conditions:* (a) (i) NaH, DMF, 0 °C to RT, 1 h, (ii) PMBCl, 0 °C to RT, 14 h, 98%. (b) PTSA·H₂O, MeOH, RT, 2 h, 81%. (c) Palmitoyl chloride or stearoyl chloride, pyridine, 4-DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to RT, 14 h, 91–99%. (d) 10% Pd/C, H_{2(g)}, EtOAc, RT, 2 h, 91–96%. (e) P(OBn)(NⁱPr)₂ 34, 1*H*-tetrazole, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 19 h, 87–90%. (B) Synthesis of 1-*O*-stearoyl-2-*O*-(D₃₅-stearoyl)-*sn*-glycerol (–)-44 and 1-*O*-stearoyl-2-*O*-(arachidonoyl)-*sn*-glycerol (–)-45. *Reagents and conditions:* (a) stearic acid, DCC, 4-DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C to RT, 13 h, 76%. (b) AcOH/H₂O (4 : 1), 50 °C, 2 h, 70%, >99% e.e. (c) DMTCl, pyridine, RT, 50 min, 67%. (d) D₃₅ stearic acid (Sigma Aldrich, 98 atom% D) or arachidonic acid, DCC, 4-DMAP, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 24 h, 91%, 70% D₃₅, 30% D₃₄ (+)-40; 86% (+)-41. (e) AcOH/formic acid/H₂O (7 : 2 : 1), RT, 4 h, 94%, 72% D₃₅, 28% D₃₄, 95% e.e. (–)-42; 92%, 95% e.e. (+)-43. (f) P(OBn)(NⁱPr)₂ 34, 1*H*-tetrazole, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 19 h, 90%, 70% D₃₅, 30% D₃₄, (+)-44; 88%, (+)-45. Ac = acetyl; Bn = benzyl; DCC = *N,N*-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide; 4-DMAP = 4-dimethylaminopyridine; DMF = dimethylformamide; DMT = 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl; PMB = 4-methoxybenzyl; * = deuterium.





Scheme 5 Synthesis of PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P derivatives. *Reagents and conditions:* (a) 1,1-dimethoxycyclopentane **18**, PTSA·H₂O, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 18–19 h, 92% (–)-**19**; 87%, 91% D₆, 9% D₅ (–)-**20**. (b) 10% Pd/C, H₂(g), EtOAc, RT, 2 h, 94% (–)-**46**; 76%, 84% D₆, 16% D₅ (–)-**47**. (c) TIPSOTf, 2,6-lutidine, THF, –78 °C, 16–16.5 h, 71% (–)-**48**; 74%, 84% D₆, 16% D₅ (–)-**49**. (d) 1,1-Dimethoxycyclopentane **18**, PTSA·H₂O, CH₂Cl₂, 30 °C, 16–18 h, 85% (–)-**50**; 71%, 85% D₆, 15% D₅ (–)-**51**. (e) TAS-F, DMF, RT, 1.5–3 h, 77% (–)-**52**; 88%, 84% D₆, 16% D₅ (–)-**53**. (f) (i) **54**, 1*H*-tetrazole, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 1–1.5 h, (ii) *m*CPBA, –78 °C to RT, 1.5 h, 79% (–)-**55**; 88%, 84% D₆, 16% D₅ (–)-**56**. (g) K₂CO₃, MeOH, RT, 1 h, 74% (+)-**57**; 86%, 84% D₆, 16% D₅ (+)-**58**. (h) (i) (+)-**35**, (+)-**36**, (+)-**44** or (+)-**45**, 1*H*-tetrazole, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 4–22 h, (ii) *m*CPBA, –78 °C to RT, 3–19 h, 55% (–)-**59**; 55% 87% D₆, 13% D₅ (–)-**60**; 64% 87% D₆, 13% D₅ (–)-**61**; 65%, 62% D₄₁, 29% D₄₀, 9% D₃₉ (–)-**62**; 79%, 82% D₆, 18% D₅ (–)-**63**. (i) (i). TMSBr, toluene, RT, 12 h, (ii) MeOH, 0 °C, 1 h, 68% (–)-**64**; 75%, 86% D₆, 14% D₅ (–)-**65**; 36%, 84% D₆, 16% D₅ (–)-**66**; 58%, 59% D₄₁, 31% D₄₀, 10% D₃₉ (–)-**67**; 53%, 86% D₆, 14% D₅ (–)-**68**. (j) (i) **54**, 1*H*-tetrazole, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 1 h, (ii) *m*CPBA, –78 °C to RT, 1.5 h, 92% (–)-**69**; 61%, 88% D₆, 12% D₅ (–)-**70**. (k). K₂CO₃, MeOH, RT, 1 h, 74% (+)-**71**; 89%, 89% D₆, 11% D₅ (+)-**72**. (l) (i) (+)-**35** 1*H*-tetrazole, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 20–22 h, (ii) *m*CPBA, –78 °C to RT, 3–4 h, 82% (–)-**73**; 46%, 88% D₆, 12% D₅ (–)-**74**. (m) (i) Pd black, H₂(g), ^tBuOH/H₂O, RT, 17–21 h, (ii) NaHCO₃, RT, 4 h or 2 min, 94% (–)-**75**; 86%, 90% D₆, 10% D₅ (–)-**76**. Ac = acetyl; Bn = benzyl; DMF = dimethylformamide; *m*CPBA = *meta*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid; PTSA = 4-toluene sulfonic acid; TAS-F = tris(dimethylamino)sulfonium difluorotrimethylsilylate; Tf = triflyl; TIPS = triisopropylsilyl; TMS = tetramethylsilane; * = deuterium.

simultaneously to acid-labile groups *via* hydrogenolysis or using TMSBr.³³ Therefore, phosphitylation of (–)-**52** was carried out with three equivalents of **54** in the presence of 1*H*-tetrazole, followed by *m*CPBA oxidation of the intermediate, providing (–)-**55** in excellent yield. Subsequent deacetylation under standard basic conditions furnished alcohol (–)-**57** (Scheme 5).

Coupling of the inositol core (–)-**57** to the phosphoramidite fragment (+)-**35** provided the corresponding phosphite intermediate and oxidation with *m*CPBA yielded the fully-protected inositol intermediate (–)-**59**. Final global deprotection was

then achieved by treatment with TMSBr in toluene. Methanalysis of the resulting silyl phosphate esters was accomplished by stirring the residue obtained in MeOH at 0 °C for 1 hour. Purification using column chromatography over silica gel^{33,54} furnished PtdIns4P (–)-**64** as its presumed ammonium salt, in 68% yield (Scheme 5).

To validate the versatility of the route developed, we synthesised the equivalent D₆-core, (–)-**58**, starting from D₆-*myo*-inositol (Scheme 5). We used ²H NMR and 2D NMR to characterise the deuterated compounds, as compared to their



protonated counterparts (Fig. S5†). Subsequent coupling of (–)-58 to phosphoramidites (+)-35, (+)-36, (+)-44 and (+)-45, provided a range of H₆- and D₆-PtdIns4P derivatives (Scheme 5), including D₆-dipalmitoyl PtdIns4P (–)-65 (86% D₆, 14% D₅), D₆-distearoyl PtdIns4P (–)-66 (84% D₆, 16% D₅), D₄₁-distearoyl PtdIns4P (–)-67 (59% D₄₁, 31% D₄₀, 10% D₃₉), and D₆-1-stearoyl-2-arachidonoyl PtdIns4P (–)-68 (86% D₆, 14% D₅).

The versatility of our synthetic approach was further demonstrated by the synthesis of H₆- and D₆-PtdIns5P derivatives. The synthesis started from the key inositol building blocks (–)-19 and (–)-20 and proceeded *via* a sequence of steps similar to those outlined in the synthesis of PtdIns4P analogues. Phosphitylation with excess XEPA 54 and catalytic 1*H*-tetrazole followed by *m*CPBA oxidation and deacetylation, furnished (+)-71 and (+)-72 in excellent yields. Assembly of these inositol precursors with phosphoramidite (+)-35 gave the fully protected PtdInsP_{*n*}s (–)-73 and (–)-74. Global deprotection of these precursors was accomplished using palladium black-catalysed hydrogenolysis in a mixture of ^tBuOH and H₂O. Conveniently, these conditions were found to cleave all protecting groups, including the acid-labile 2,3-*O*-cyclopentylidene acetal to give dipalmitoyl PtdIns5P (–)-75 and (–)-76, as their presumed sodium salt. Importantly, the D₆-PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P derivatives synthesised revealed a distinct shift of +6 mass units when analysed by high resolution mass-spectrometry (Fig. S6 and S7†), as compared to their protonated counterpart, as well as a loss of the ¹H NMR signals corresponding to *myo*-inositol headgroup protons (Fig. S8 and S9†).

The synthetic route optimised in this work therefore enables the synthesis of a range of isotopically-labelled, saturated and unsaturated, PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P derivatives in 13 and 8 steps, respectively, using an enzymatic desymmetrisation strategy.

Deuterated PtdInsP_{*n*}s (–)-65, (–)-67, and (–)-76 to probe intracellular levels of the endogenous phospholipids

Finally, we investigated whether the deuterated PtdInsP_{*n*}s (–)-65, (–)-67, and (–)-76 could be used to probe intracellular levels of the endogenous phospholipids. Each deuterated probe was delivered into MCF-7 cells by forming a complex with the polyamine carrier neomycin B sulfate, as previously described.⁵⁵ The complexes of deuterated PtdInsP_{*n*} and carrier were incubated with MCF-7 cells for 1 h. Following extraction, the deuterated and endogenous PtdInsP_{*n*} species were quantified using LC-MS.²² Each deuterated PtdInsP_{*n*} probe was clearly detected following extraction from the MCF-7 cells that had been treated with the complex. In contrast, the deuterated probes were not detected in the carrier only and untreated controls (Fig. 3A). The level of detected deuterated PtdInsP_{*n*} probe was found to be directly proportional to the concentration of the PtdInsP_{*n*}/carrier complex with which the MCF-7 cells were treated. In addition, the level of each deuterated PtdInsP_{*n*} probe detected from the MCF-7 cells was higher than the level of endogenous PtdInsP_{*n*} species detected in the MCF-7 cells under these conditions (Fig. 3B). Importantly, the mass shift of +6 afforded by the D₆-labelled PtdInsP_{*n*} is sufficient to avoid interference with the signal for the endogenous species, even

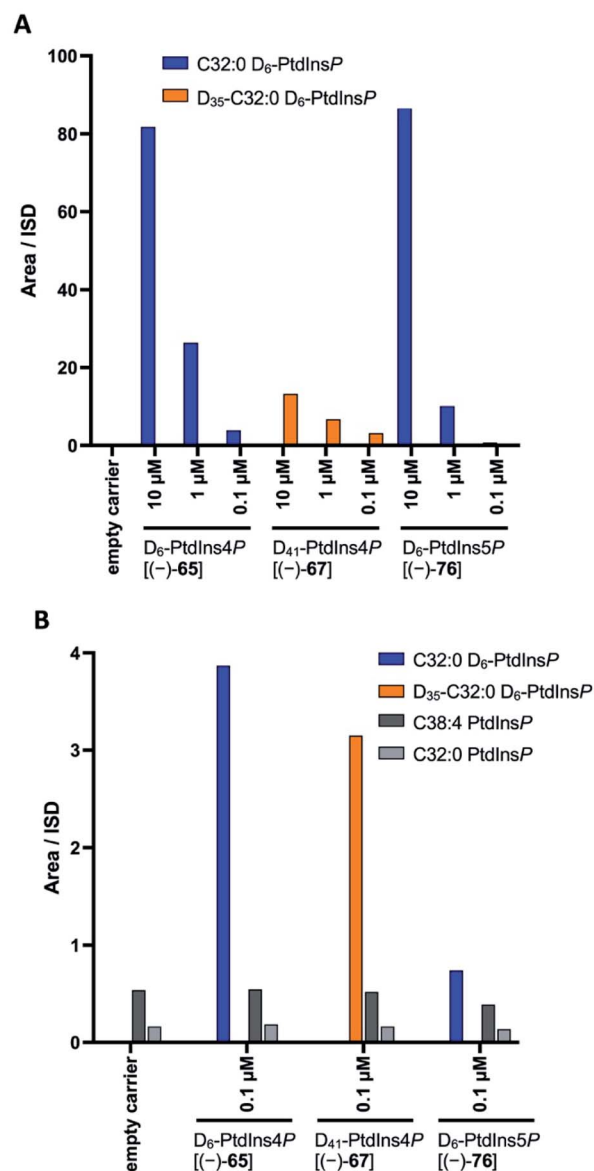


Fig. 3 Delivery of D₆-PtdIns4P [(–)-65], D₄₁-PtdIns4P [(–)-67], and D₆-PtdIns5P [(–)-76] to MCF-7 cells by a polyamine carrier and detection of deuterated and endogenous PtdInsP_{*n*}s using LC-MS. (A) Serum starved MCF-7 cells were treated with a complex of each deuterated PtdInsP_{*n*} and the polyamine carrier neomycin B sulfate for 1 h. The final concentration for both PtdInsP_{*n*} and carrier was 10 μM, 1 μM or 0.1 μM. Control cells were either untreated or treated with the polyamine carrier for 1 h at a final concentration of 1 μM. The levels of D₆-PtdIns4P [(–)-65], D₄₁-PtdIns4P [(–)-67], and D₆-PtdIns5P [(–)-76] in the indicated treatment conditions are presented as their peak area relative to the internal standard. (B) Serum starved MCF-7 cells were treated with a complex of each deuterated PtdInsP_{*n*} and the polyamine carrier neomycin B sulfate for 1 h. The final concentration for both PtdInsP_{*n*} and carrier was 0.1 μM. Control cells were either untreated or treated with the polyamine carrier for 1 h at a final concentration of 0.1 μM. The levels of D₆-PtdIns4P [(–)-65], D₄₁-PtdIns4P [(–)-67], D₆-PtdIns5P [(–)-76], and endogenous C38:4 and C32:0 in the indicated treatment conditions are presented as their peak area relative to the internal standard.

when the probe is in large excess and has the same LC retention time. Overall, these data demonstrate that the deuterated PtdIns4P derivative (–)-65, and the deuterated PtdIns5P



derivative (–)-76, are powerful probes for quantifying intracellular levels of endogenous PtdIns P_n s. These compounds will be important in furthering our understanding of the biological role of these important signalling molecules.

Conclusions

In summary, we have developed robust, and efficient synthetic routes towards saturated and unsaturated PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P derivatives. To our knowledge, this work represents both the first synthesis of unsaturated PtdIns4P derivatives that relies on a desymmetrisation strategy,^{28–30} and the most efficient synthesis of enantiomerically pure PtdIns5P described so far, with an overall yield of 20%.^{35,56,57} As a result of the high yielding enzymatic desymmetrisation strategy employed, these routes are amenable to the synthesis of a versatile set of stable-isotope labelled PtdInsP derivatives. This is demonstrated through the optimisation of a large-scale synthesis of deuterated myo-inositol, and the synthesis of a set of deuterated PtdIns4P and PtdIns5P derivatives. In addition to the deuterated analogues synthesised herein, this synthetic route could be readily extended to the synthesis of [¹³C]-labelled PtdInsP derivatives.²⁵

We have demonstrated that the stable isotope-labelled PtdIns P_n probes synthesised represent powerful tools for quantifying PtdIns P_n levels in a cellular setting. Application of these compounds to MCF7 cells enable quantification of endogenous PtdIns P_n levels in a manner that was previously impossible. Further applications for these probes include their use as exogenously-supplied tracers for PtdIns P_n metabolism. In addition, isotopically-labelled PtdIns P_n s could reveal positional isomer-specific details of the phospholipid metabolism, using previously developed HPLC-MS-based methods.²² Finally, the C–D bond has been recognised as an ideal bioorthogonal chemical label for highly sensitive imaging techniques, including stimulated Raman scattering (SRS)^{58,59} and hyperspectral SRS (hsSRS) microscopy. These innovative technologies could allow quantitative imaging of isotopically-labelled PtdIns P_n *in vitro* and *in vivo* with subcellular resolution.^{26,27,60} Therefore, important information regarding the dynamics and intracellular spatial localisation of PtdIns P_n in living cells and organisms could be obtained using these isotopically-labelled probes.

Overall, the efficient synthetic routes developed gave deuterated PtdIns P_n , which were validated as powerful probes for determining cellular levels of endogenous PtdIns P_n . This work promises to significantly expand the scope of isotopically-labelled PtdIns P_n probes available to the scientific community, which will enable a deeper understanding of PtdIns P_n metabolism and biology.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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