**Synthesis of MK-8742**

**Significance:** MK-8742 is an inhibitor of the hepatitis C nonstructural protein NS5a. Key steps in the synthesis depicted are (1) the asymmetric transfer hydrogenation of the imine B and (2) the crystallization-induced diastereoselection in the formation of the N,O-acetal F.

**Comment:** The dr in the N,O-acetal formation E → F (7:1) improved to >99:1 by conducting the reaction in MeCN as the solvent and with TFA as the acid catalyst. KMnO₄ effects the oxidation of the indoline F without racemization of the N,O-acetal, providing indole G in 83% yield and with >99% ee.

**SYNFACTS Contributors:** Philip Kocienski

SYNFACTS 2014, 10(8), 0783 Published online: 18.07.2014

DOI: 10.1055/s-0034-1378399; Reg-No.: K03414SF