

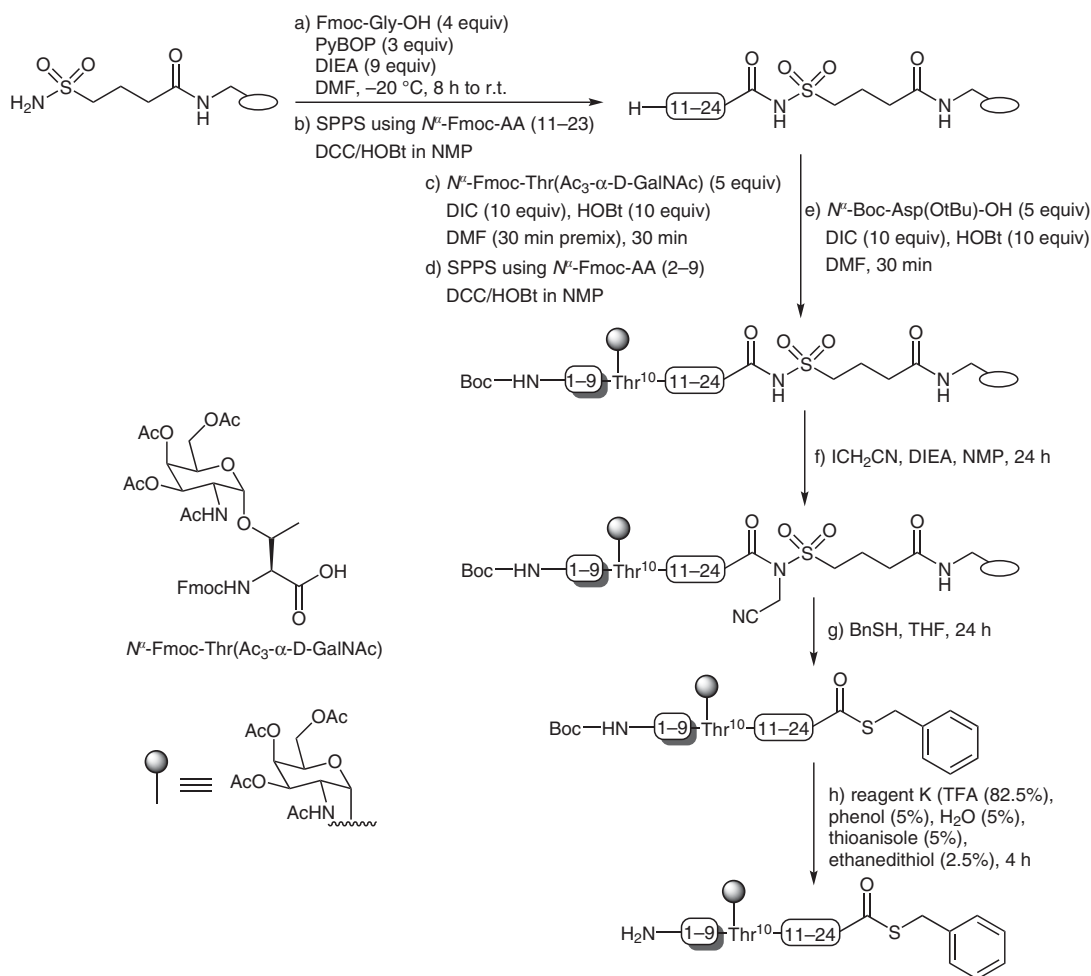
Y. SHIN, K. A. WINANS, B. J. BACKES, S. B. H. KENT, J. A. ELLMAN, C. R. BERTOZZI\*  
(UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY AND GRYPHON SCIENCES, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, USA)

Fmoc-Based Synthesis of Peptide- $\alpha$ Thioesters: Application to the Total Chemical Synthesis of a Glycoprotein by Native Chemical Ligation

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## Total Chemical Synthesis of a Glycoprotein by Native Chemical Ligation

Synthesis of glycopeptide- $\alpha$ thioester using the alkanesulfonamide "safety-catch" linker:



**Significance:** The authors have developed a new approach for the synthesis of unprotected  $\alpha$ thioesters by using Fmoc-based solid-phase peptide synthesis and have demonstrated its utility in the total synthesis of a glycosylated protein, the antimicrobial O-linked glycoprotein diptericin, by the native chemical ligation method. This method utilizes an alkanesulfonamide 'safety-catch' linker, which circumvented the problems associated with the incompatibility of glycosidic linkages with Boc chemistry and of thioesters with Fmoc chemistry.

**SYNFACTS Contributors:** Hisashi Yamamoto, Manthena Chaithanya  
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**Comment:** The C-terminal residue of the peptide is attached to the resin through an acid- and base-stable *N*-acyl sulfonamide linkage. After peptide synthesis, the sulfonamide is activated by cyanomethylation and then cleaved with a thiol nucleophile. This general synthetic approach permits access to unprecedented quantities of homogeneous glycoproteins.