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(54) Title: SYNTHESIS OF CLASTO-LACTACYSTIN β -LACTONE AND ANALOGS THEREOF			
(57) Abstract The present invention is directed to an improved synthesis of <i>clasto</i>-lactacystin-β-lactone, and analogs thereof, that proceeds in fewer steps and in much greater overall yield than syntheses described in the prior art. The synthetic pathway relies upon a novel stereospecific synthesis of an oxazoline intermediate and a unique stereoselective addition of a formyl amide to the oxazoline. Also described are novel <i>clasto</i>-lactacystin-β-lactones, and analogs thereof and their use as proteasome inhibitors.			