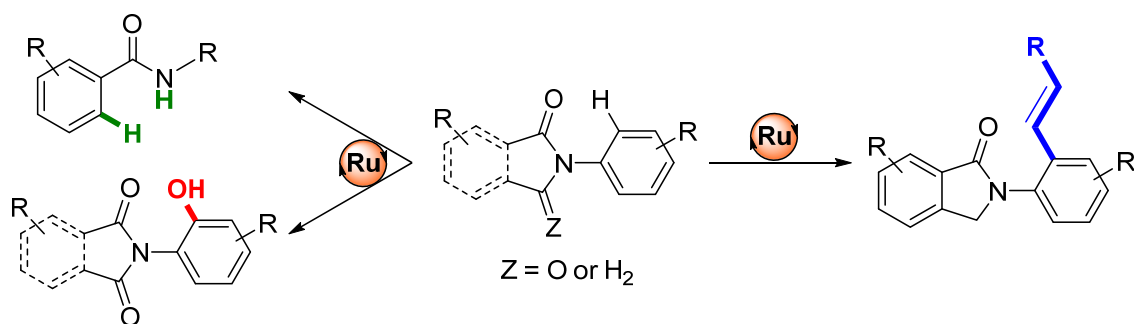


# SELECTIVE FUNCTIONALIZATION OF CYCLIC IMIDES AND AMIDES WITH RUTHENIUM CATALYSTS

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Cyclic imides and amides are one of the most widely used functional groups in chemical synthesis and they are also present in many relevant molecules from pharmacology to materials sciences.<sup>[1]</sup> As such, the development of selective and efficient functionalizations within this backbone is highly attractive although it remains scarce to date.<sup>[2]</sup> In this contribution, I will show the use of benchmark and robust ruthenium catalysts to tackle unprecedented transformations with cyclic  $\alpha$ -imides. In particular, we have found a single step protocol leading to amides starting from phthalimides *via* selective scission of C-C and C-N bonds with unexpected CO<sub>2</sub> release.<sup>[3]</sup> Furthermore, I will present the first use of cyclic amides as weak directing groups in transition metal-catalyzed C-H bond functionalizations. Regio- and site-selective hydroxylation and alkenylation reactions have been accomplished, including the late-stage derivatization of a drug.<sup>[4]</sup>



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