Discussion Section 2: Aromaticity

1. Aromatic rings are crucial structures in biologically active compounds. Their prevalence is particularly evident when you look at the top pharmaceutical products in the U.S. (see attached page).

- (a) Find the aromatic rings in the top 20 pharmaceutical products.
- (b) For each aromatic system, please give the number of electrons in the π system.

2. In the Watson research group, we are developing reactions of oxocarbenium ion intermediates. These intermediates are formed from acetal starting materials. Oxocarbenium ions are a special class of carbocation, in which the positive charge is stabilized by the lone pair of electrons on oxygen.



- (a) Draw an arrow-pushing mechanism for the formation of an oxocarbenium ion from an acetal. Include arrows to show explain the resonance stabilization of the oxocarbenium ion.
- (b) What do you think the hybridization of the oxygen atom in the oxocarbenium ion is? What is the hybridization of the cationic carbon atom?
- (c) In our research, we have found that oxocarbenium ions form easily from chromene and isochroman acetals, but not as easily from tetrahydropyranyl acetals. Please explain these observations. (Hint: You may find it helpful to use resonance structures to justify parts of your answer.)

OMe

chromene acetal

OMe isochroman acetal

tetrahydropyranyl acetal

3. Which of the following molecules is expected to be most acidic? Please explain.



4. Consider the S_N1 reaction of the following substituted benzyl halides in formic acid:



(a) Predict the order of reactivity of the three substrates shown below (1 = fastest, 3 = slowest):



(b) For the most reactive substrate in (a), draw the significant resonance structures that contribute to the stability of the derived intermediate carbonium ion.

5. Consider the acid-base reaction of substituted phenols with aqueous hydroxide:



(a) Predict the acidity order for the three phenols shown below (1 = most acidic, 3 = least acidic):



(b) For the most acidic substrate in (a), draw the significant resonance structures that contribute to the stability of the derived conjugate base.

Top 20 Pharmaceutical Products by US Retail Sales in 2012

Adapted from Top 200 Pharmaceutical Products by the Njardarson Group at the University of Arizona



15 Spiriva HandiHaler	16 OxyContin	17 Januvia	18 Avastin	19 Lantus	20 Truvada
(Tiotropium)	(Oxycodone)	(Sitagliptin)	(Bevacizumab)	(Insulin Glargine)	(Emtricitabine & Tenofovir)
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Boehringer Ingelheim	PURDUE	S MERCK	Genentech	sanofi aventis	🚺 GILEAD
\$2,833 Million	\$2,808 Million	\$2,670 Million	\$2,661 Million	\$2,327 Million	\$2,305 Million
CHR. OBS. PULMONARY DIS.	NARCOTIC ANALGESICS	DPP-IV INHIBITOR A-DIABS	ALL OTH. ANTINEOPLASTICS	HUMAN INSULIN+ANALOGUES	hiv antivirals