METAL ALKOXIDE ADDITIONS TO SACCHARIDE SUBSTRATES CONTAINING METAL CHELATING LEAVING GROUPS. Susovan Jana, Mare Cudic, and Salvatore D. Lepore. Department of Chemistry, Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431.

Arylsulfonate-based nucleophile assisting leaving groups (NALGs) have been previously demonstrated to enhance speed and precision in a variety of bond-forming reactions. These leaving groups contain oligomeric ether units (including crown ethers) attached at the *ortho* position of the arylsulfonyl ring for transition state stabilization in reactions involving nucleophilic metal salts. Seeking to further exploit the utility of NALGs, we are currently examining saccharide coupling reactions where the anomeric position contains a metal chelating leaving group. Using this unprecedented approach, we seek to form the anomeric bond through reactions with metal alkoxides ultimately to control of the configuration at that position (alpha/beta).