

*advanced uses of fluorescent proteins
in the investigation of cells*

GFPs

Principles of Fluorescence Techniques & CONFOCAL 9

Fred S. Wouters

Genoa, June 25-29, 2007

Biochemical Imaging

micro-environment in the cell is maintained

protein state and spatial information

asynchronous processes can be followed in single cells, enabling correlation with other cell state parameters

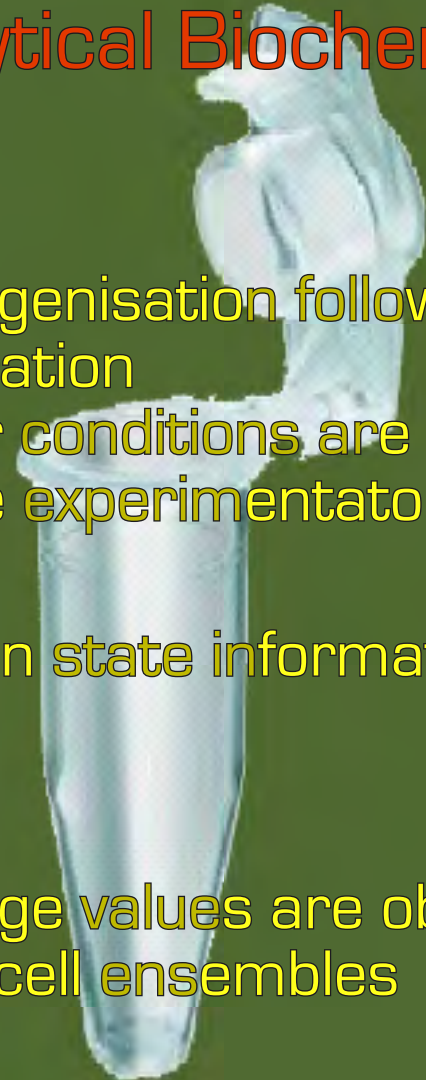


Analytical Biochemistry

homogenisation followed by separation
buffer conditions are chosen by the experimentator

protein state information

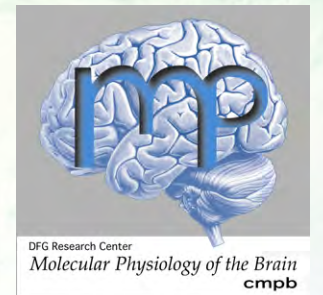
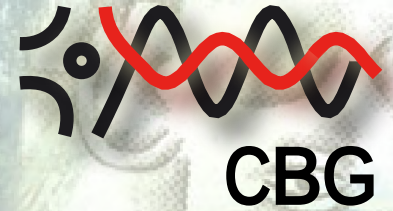
average values are obtained from cell ensembles



If People's Heads were Not so Dense—
If We could Look Inside,



How clear would Show each Mood and
Tense—
How Often have I Tried!



Molecular neurophysiology

the Burgess nonsense book
being a complete collection of the humorous masterpieces of
Frank Gelett Burgess, Esq.
(published by Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York (1901))

Fluorescent Proteins

origins

colors

properties

problems

labeling

multiplexing

dynamic marking
timer

photo-bleaching

FRAP
FLIP
FLAP

complex assays

photo-conversion

reversible photo-switching

sensing

FRET-based

pairs

conditional properties

pH, redox
chaperone

manipulating

reactive oxygen species

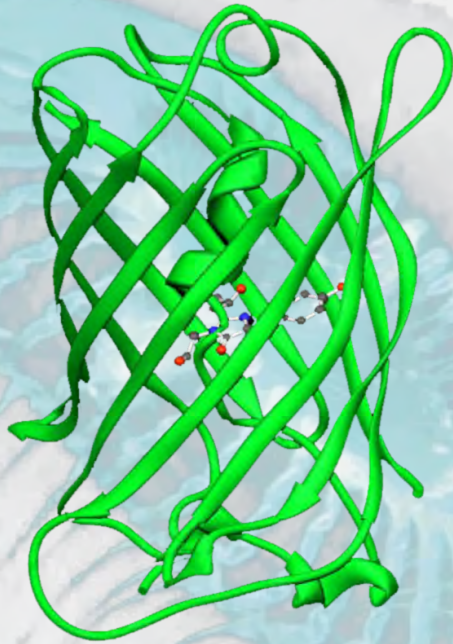
CALI

selective killing

resolft

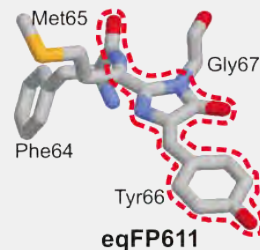
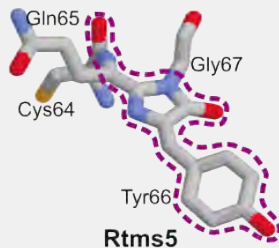
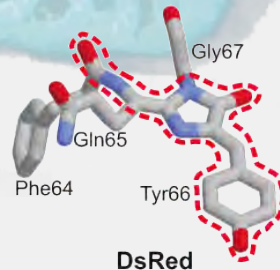
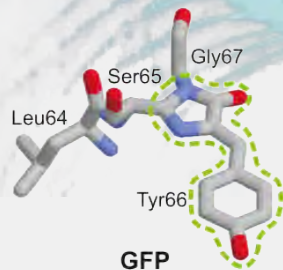
combination

fluorescent proteins



β -can structure

- rel. insensitive to environment
- proteolytically stable
- denaturation stable
- N- & C-terminus free
allow fusion



chromophore: aa 65-66-67

- post-translational oxidation
- single gene
- no co-factors required

THE INCREDIBLE

GREEN

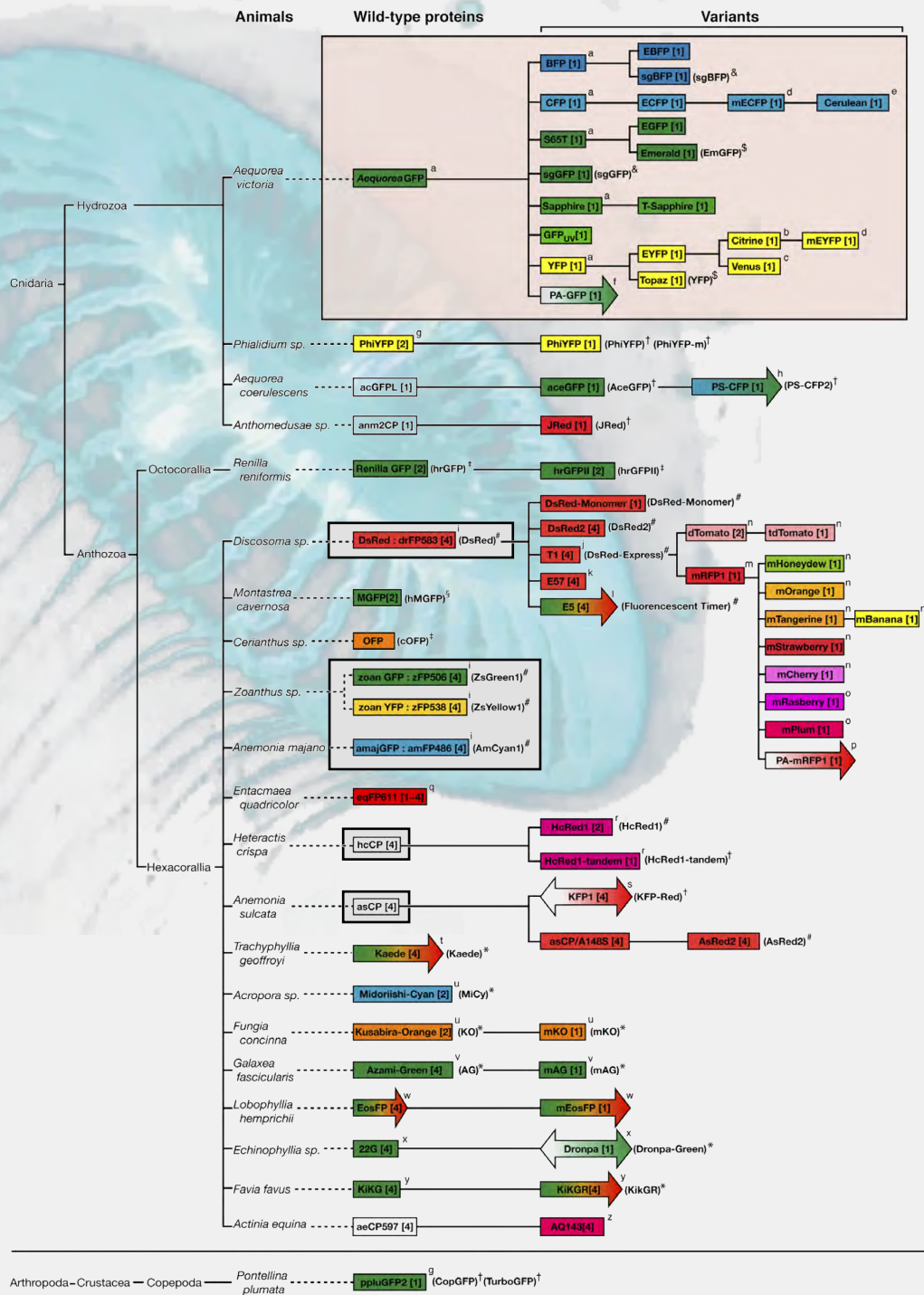
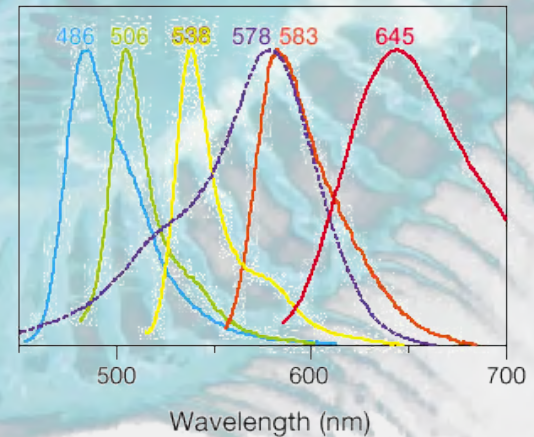
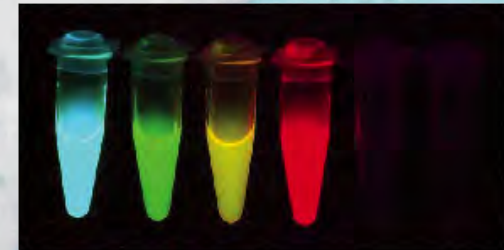
FLUORESCENT

MUTANTS

now
enhanced
!

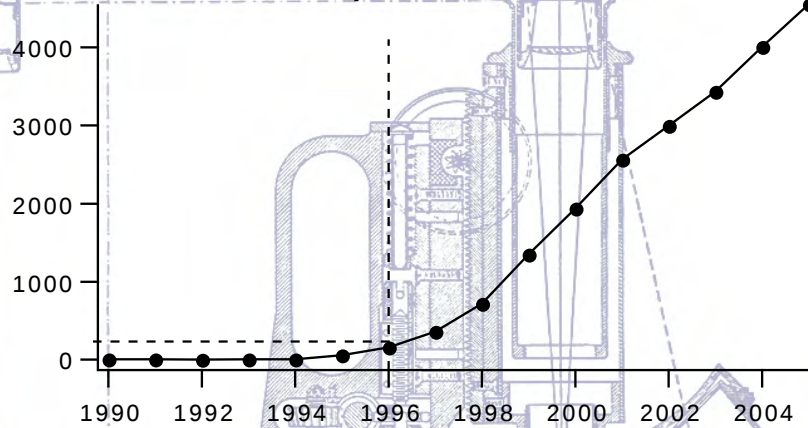


Rainbow

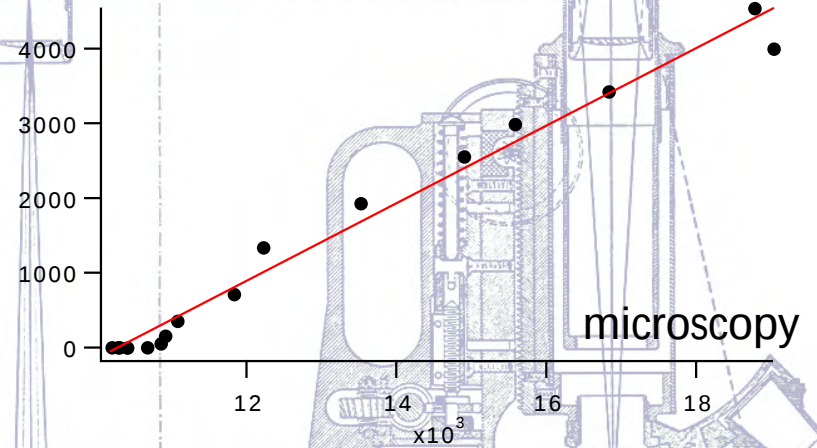


popularity of GFP

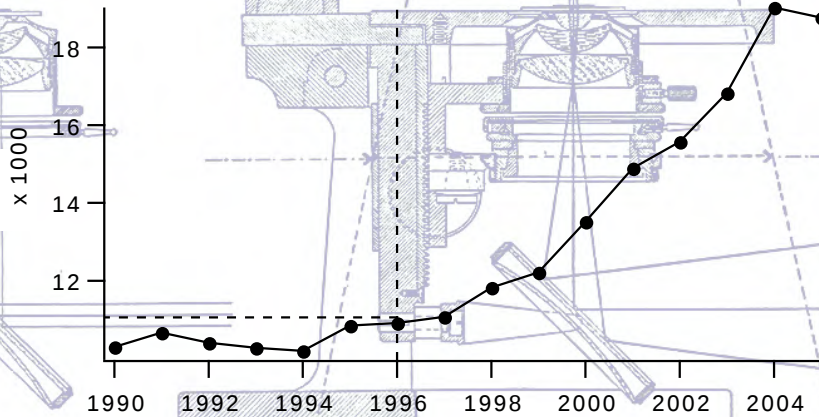
GFP OR "fluorescent protein"



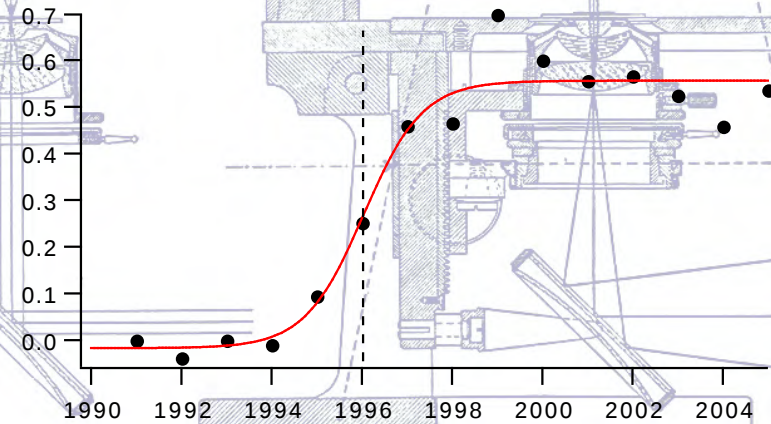
GFP OR "fluorescent protein"

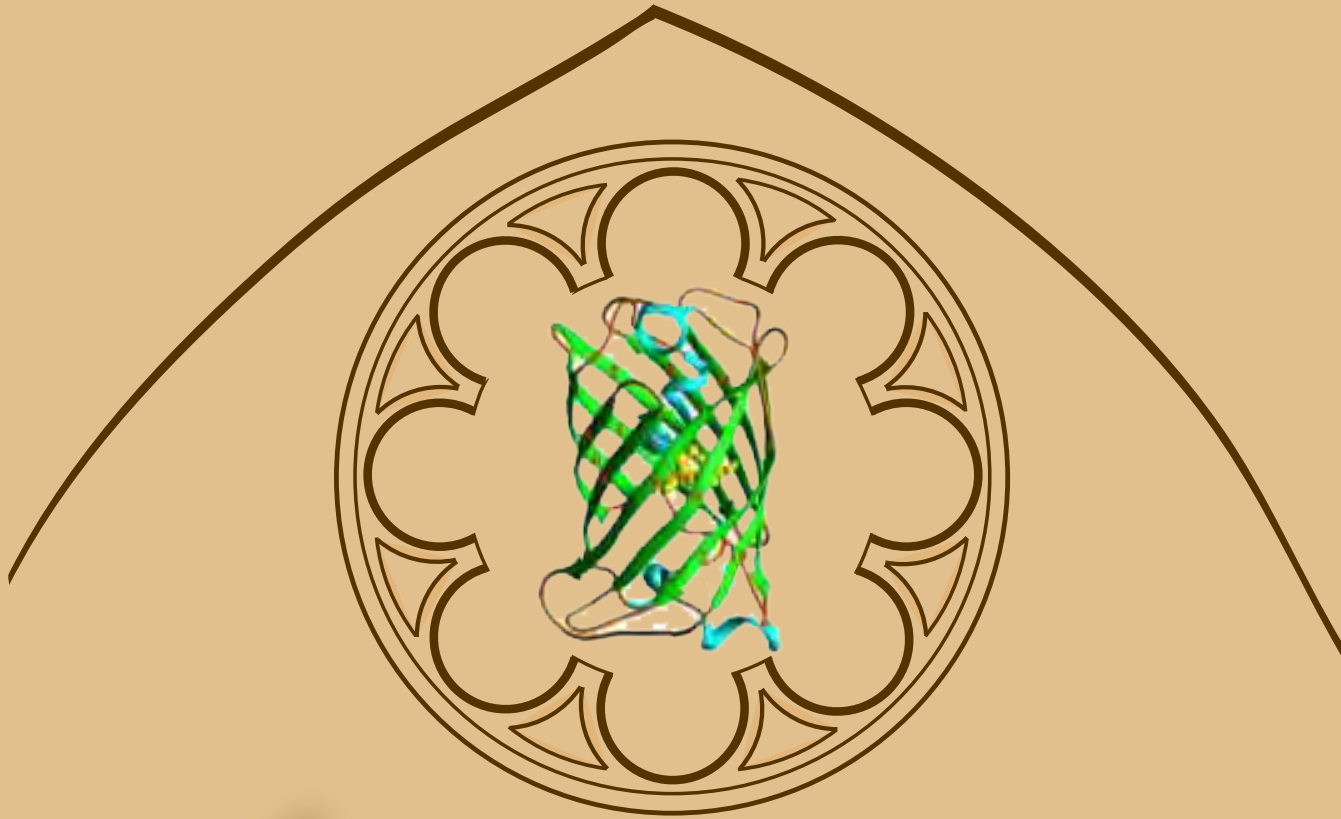


microscopy

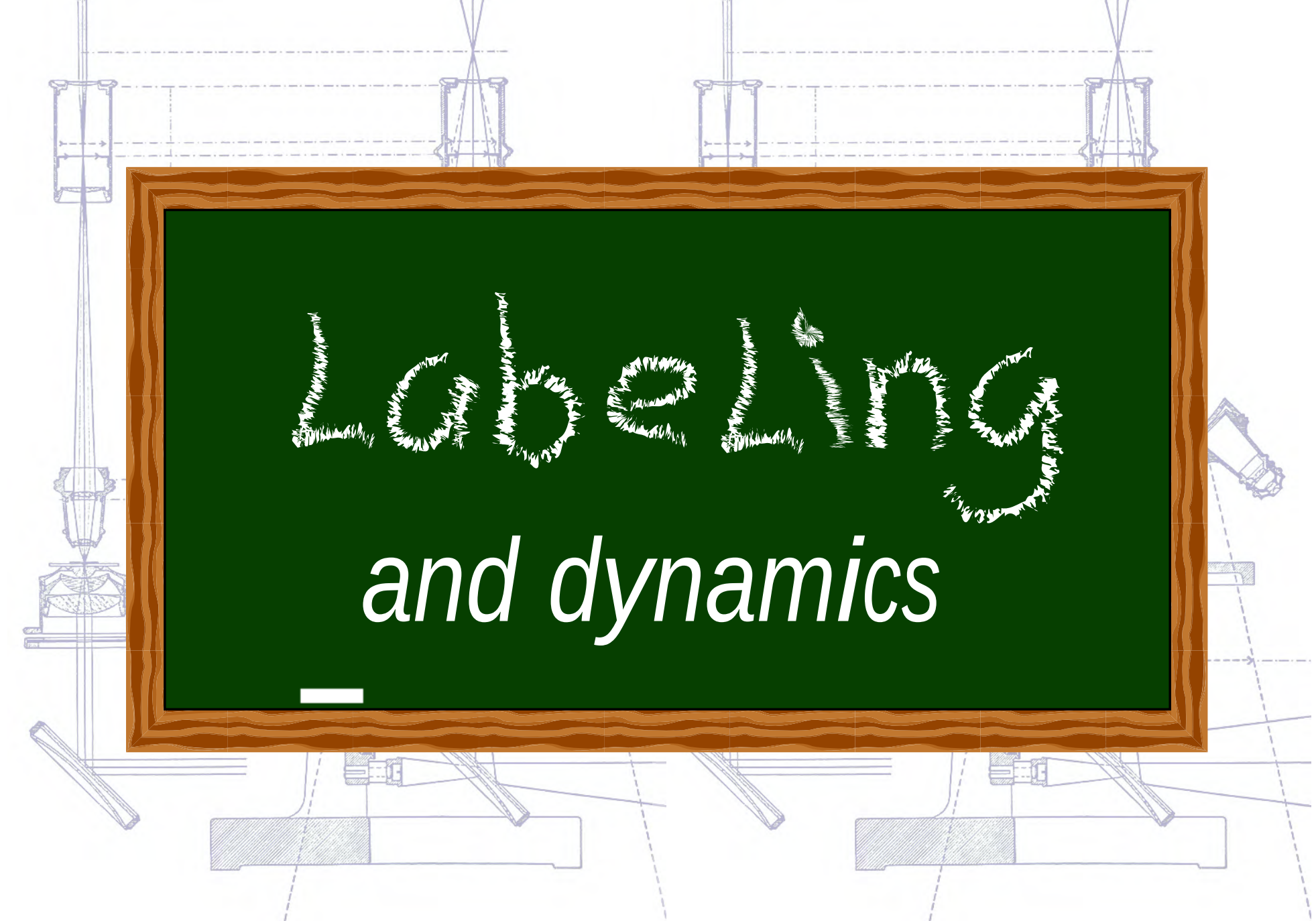


increase in microscopy by GFP





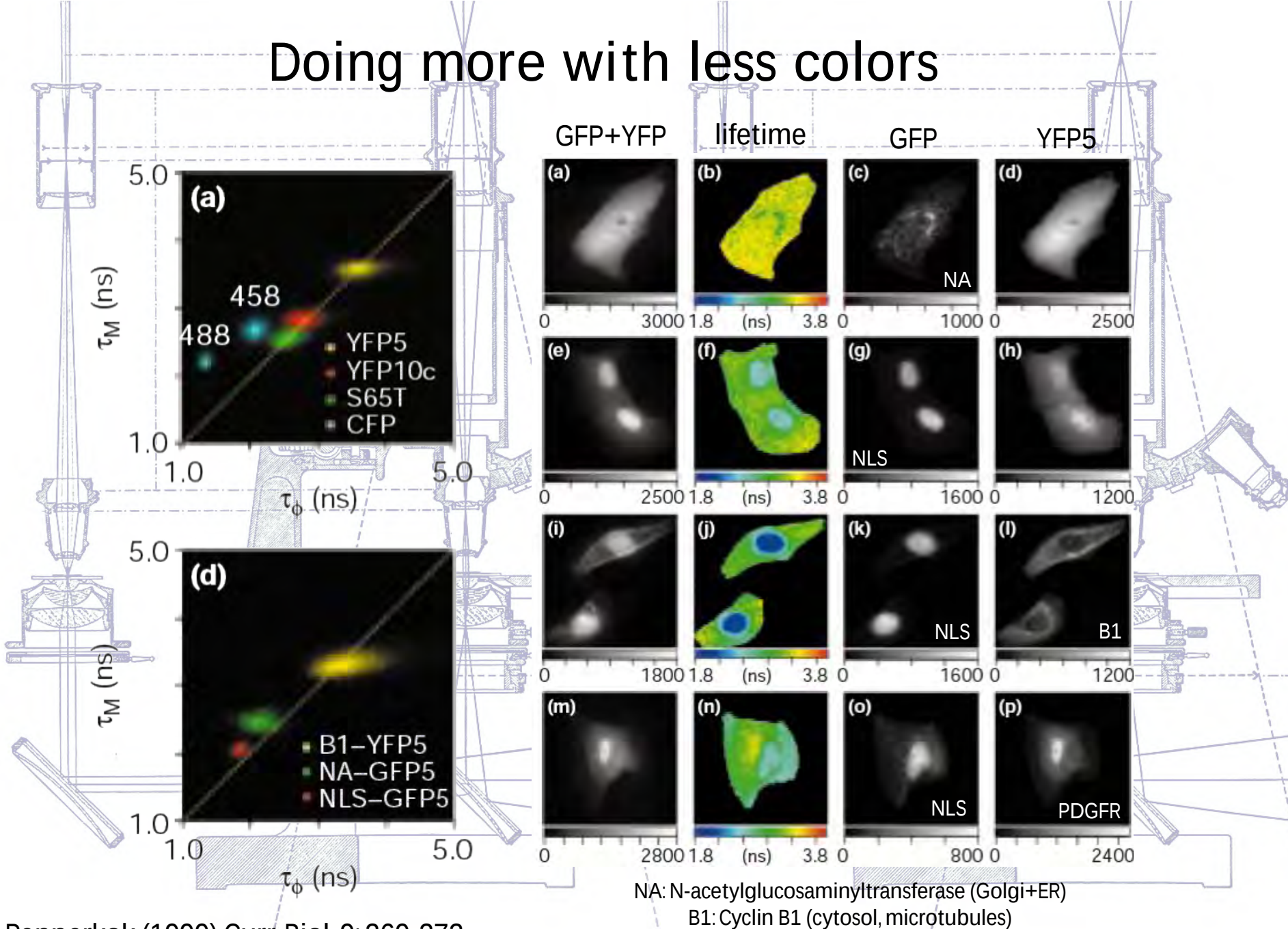
Fluoraisance

The background of the slide is a light blue technical drawing or blueprint. It features various mechanical components, including what appear to be structural frames, joints, and possibly a crane or lifting mechanism. Dashed lines and solid lines are used to define the shapes and dimensions of these components. The overall style is that of a traditional engineering drawing.

Labeling

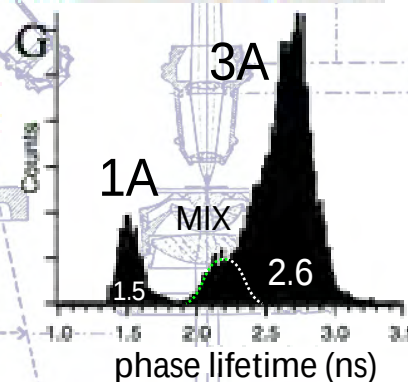
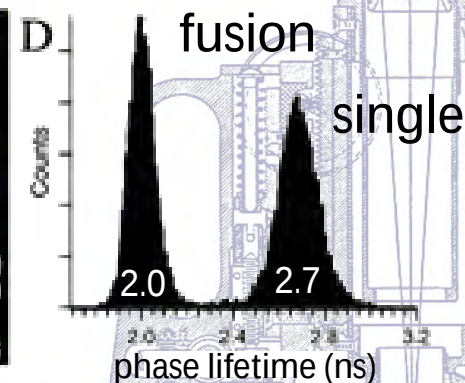
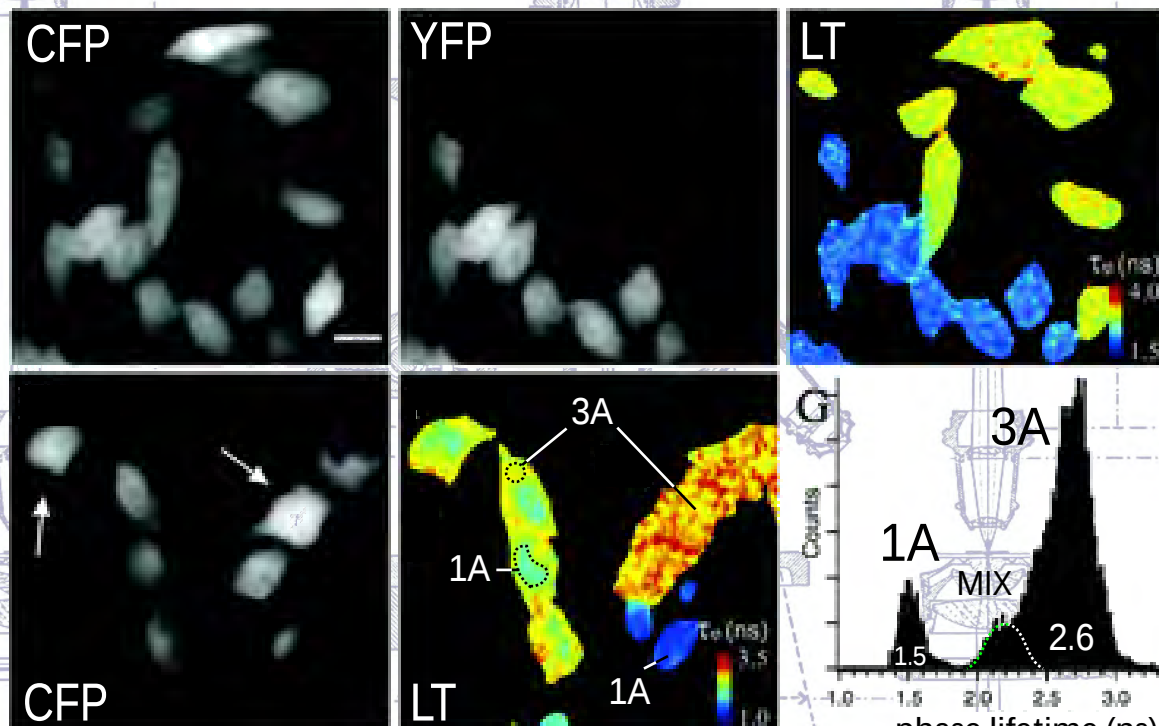
and dynamics

Doing more with less colors



Lifetime contrasting

SYFP2-SCFP3A



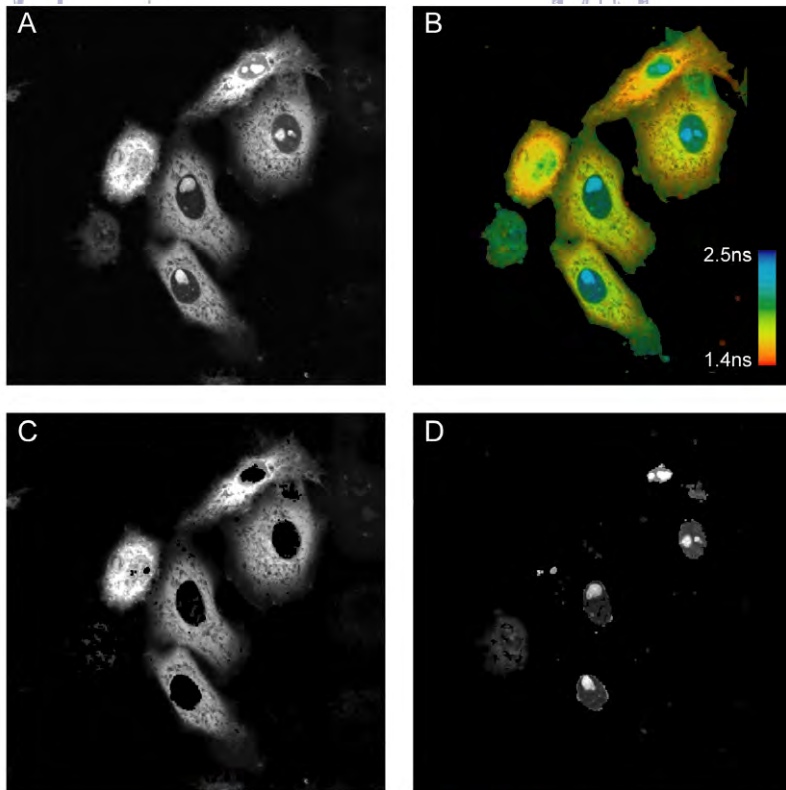
$$QY_{\text{FRET}} = (1-E) \cdot Q_{\text{non-FRET}}$$

$$QY = \frac{\tau_{\text{obs}}}{\tau_{\text{rad}}}$$

SCFP3A-NES (τ_{ϕ} =2.6 ns)

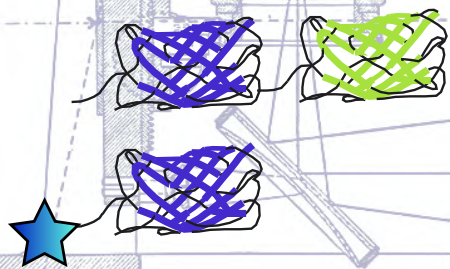
SCFP1A-NLS (τ_{ϕ} =1.5 ns, QY =0.7)

changing lifetime by FRET



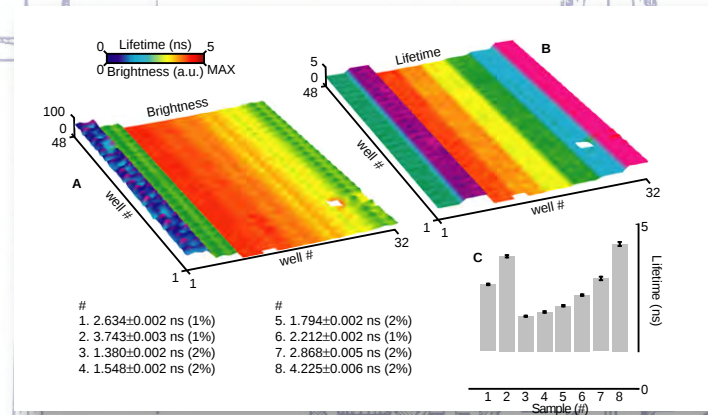
cytoplasmic

nucleolar
targeting signal

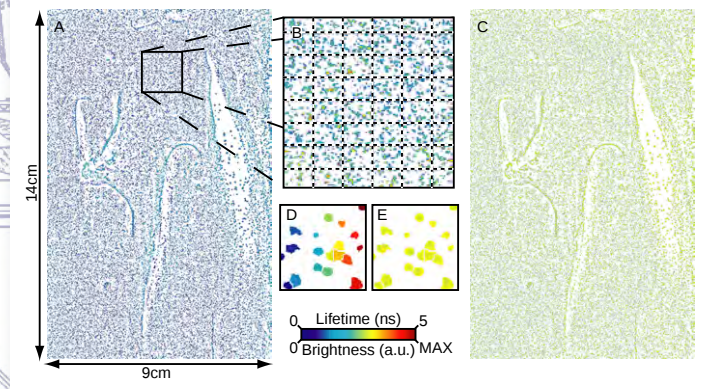


Esposito A & Wouters FS (2004) Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging (Unit 4.14). In Current Protocols in Cell Biology. J. Wiley & Sons, NY, USA.

mutational screening for
changed lifetime



8 groups of 96 wells:
EGFP, R6G+EGFP, R6G+KI (63, 50, 38, 25, 13, 0 mM) 20 min.

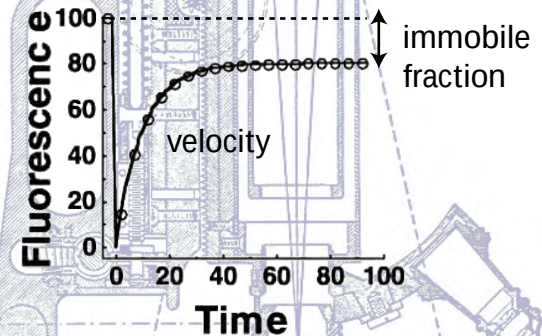
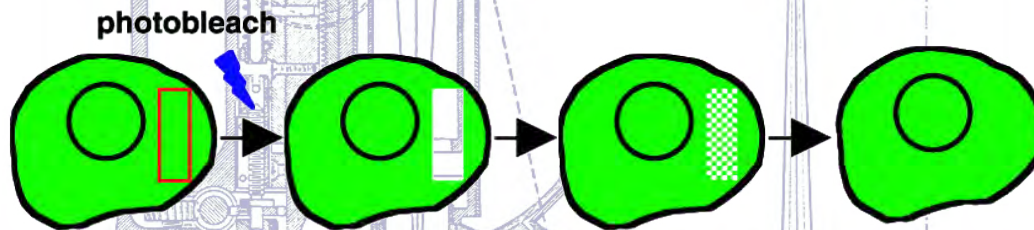


±20,000 colonies of *E. coli* expressing EYFP on a 9x14 cm agar plate. 1900 FOV, ±1 h.

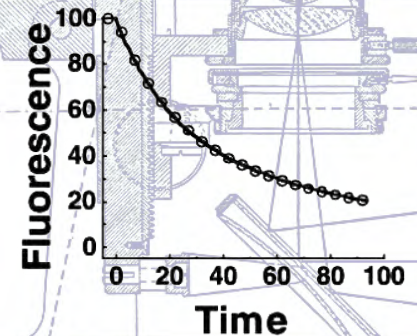
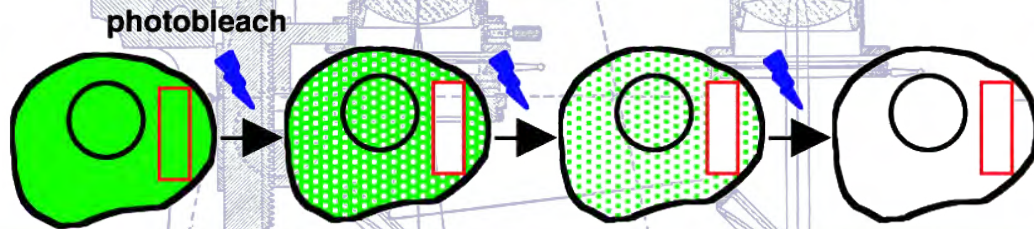
Photobleaching tools: synchronizing populations

Diffusion
rates

Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching (FRAP)

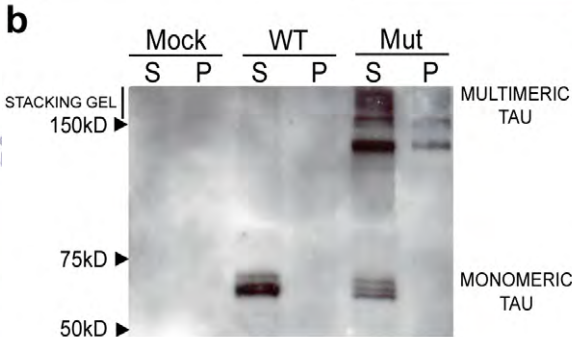
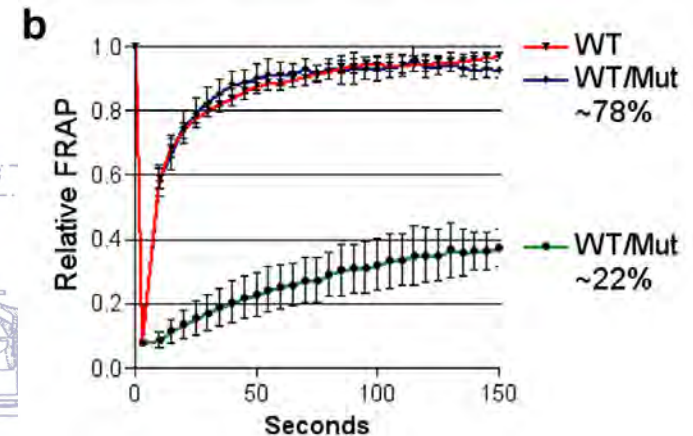
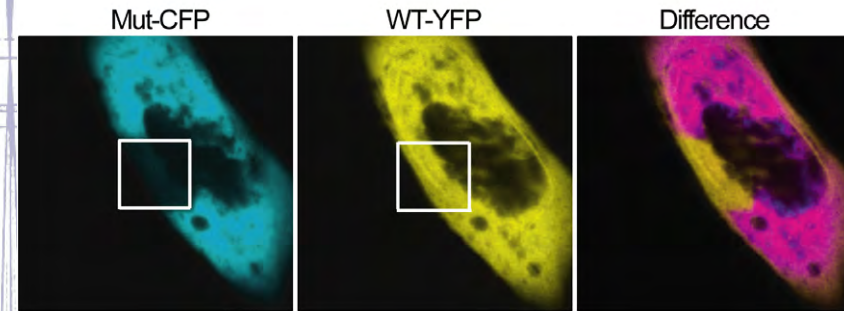
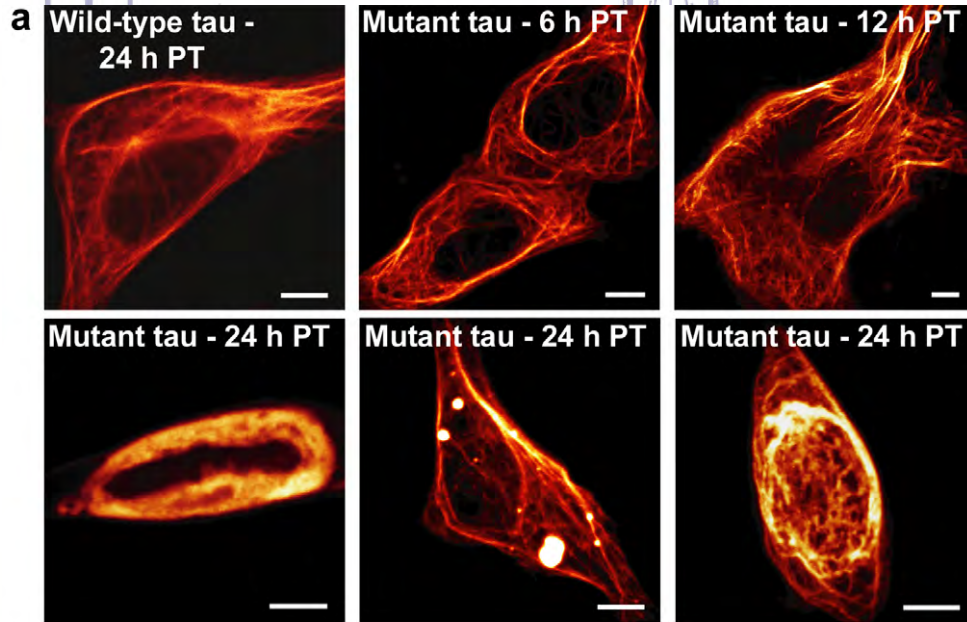


Fluorescence Loss in Photobleaching (FLIP)



Diffusion
continuities

aggregation of structurally-optimized tau



Hyper-aggregating tau mutant was created by optimization of internal oligomerization sequences

$\pm 1/4$ cells expressing hyper-aggregating tau exhibit WT tau immobilization

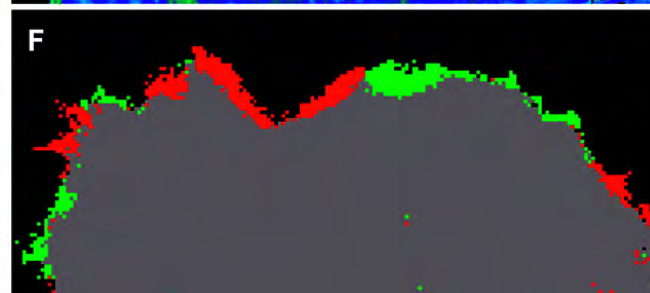
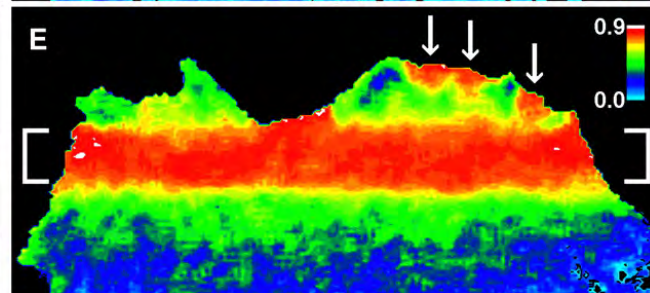
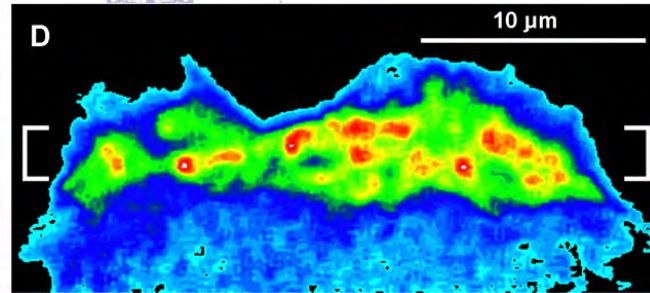
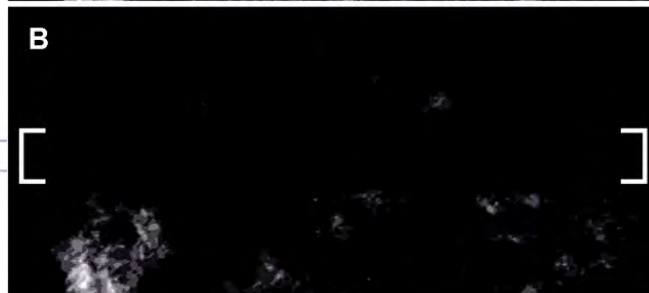
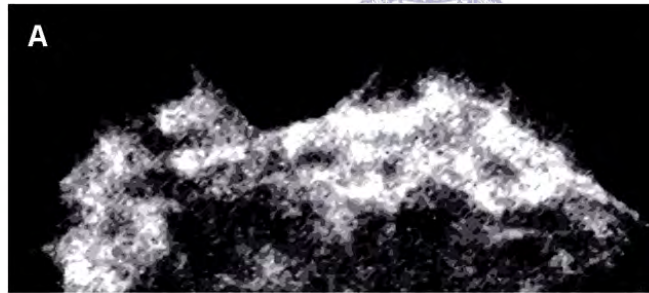
Fluorescence Localization After Photobleaching

rapid actin transport during cell protrusion

CFP-actin

YFP-actin

phase
contrast

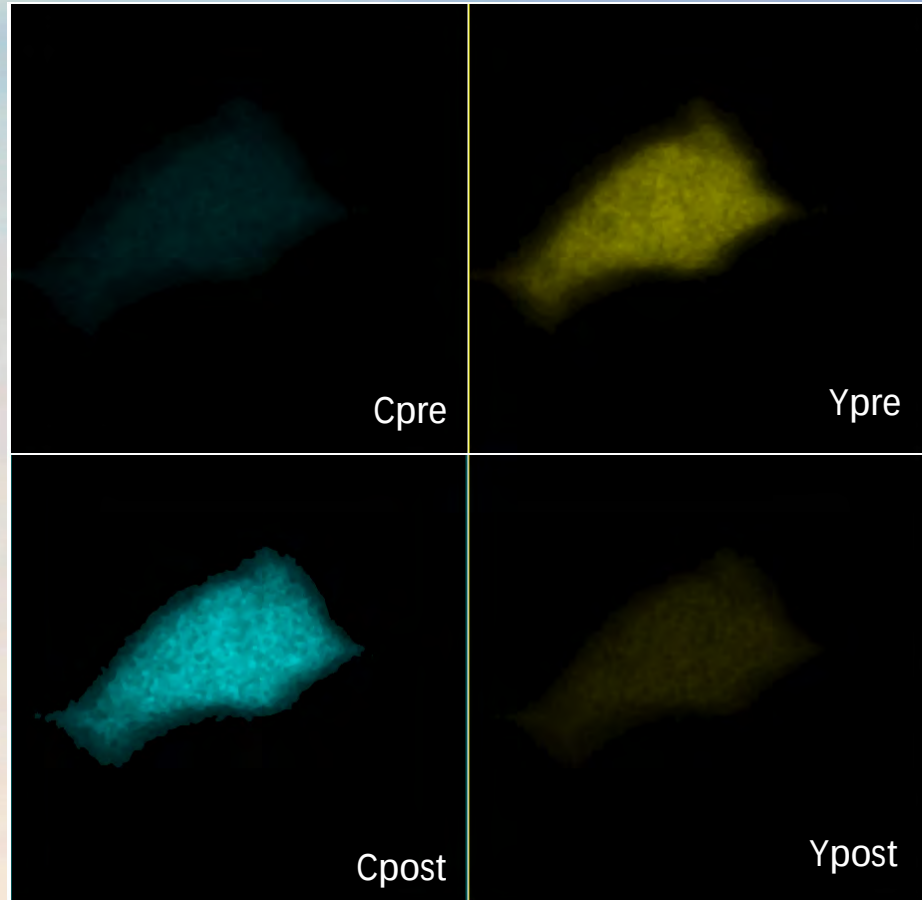
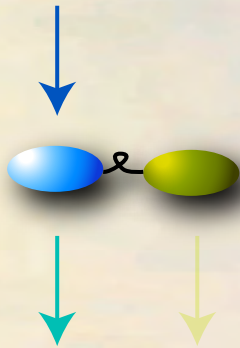
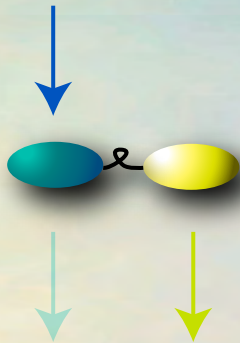


FLAP
(CFP-YFP)

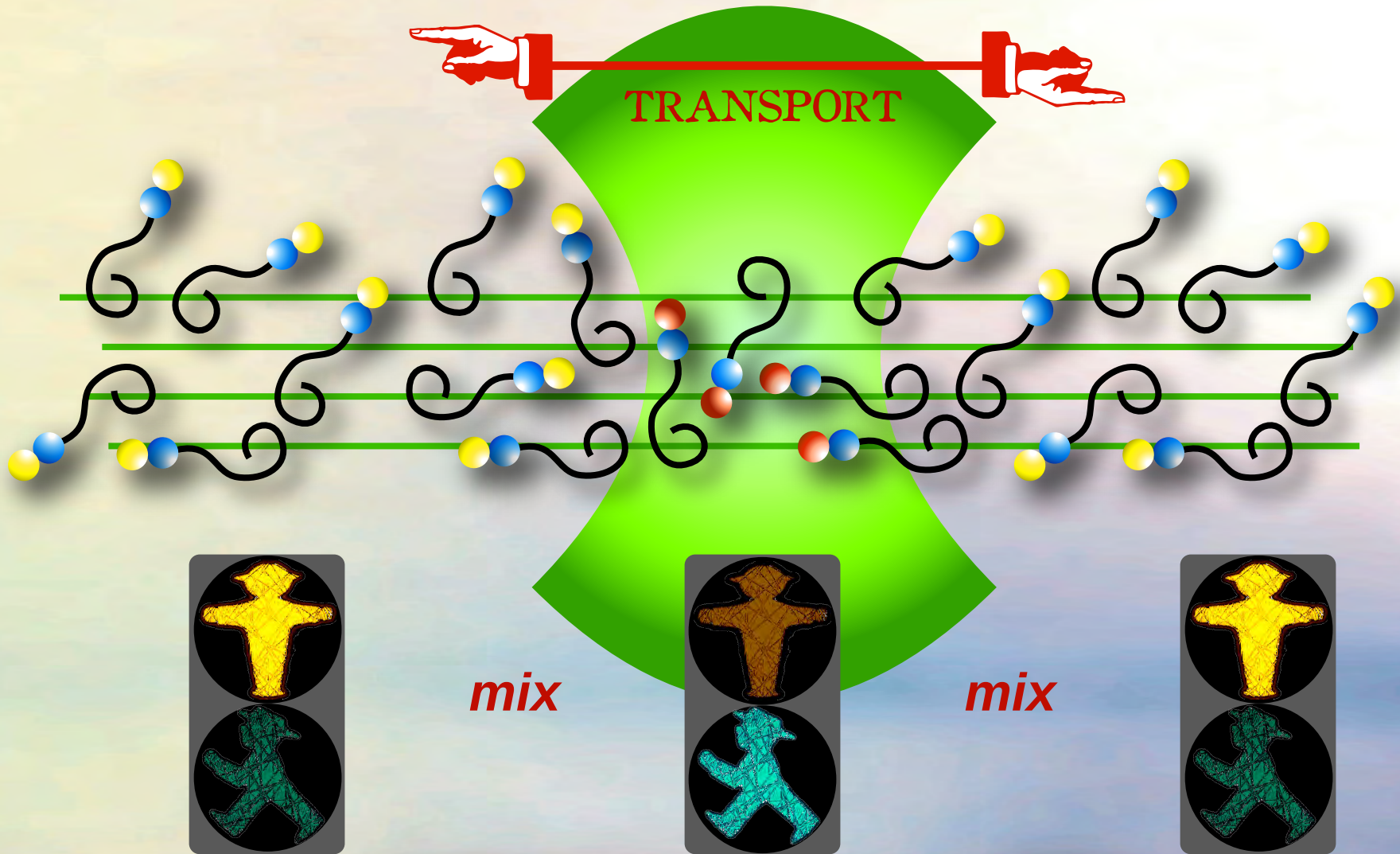
rFLAP
 $1 - \frac{\text{YFP}}{\text{CFP}}$

protrusion
retraction

FLIPping THE SWITCH

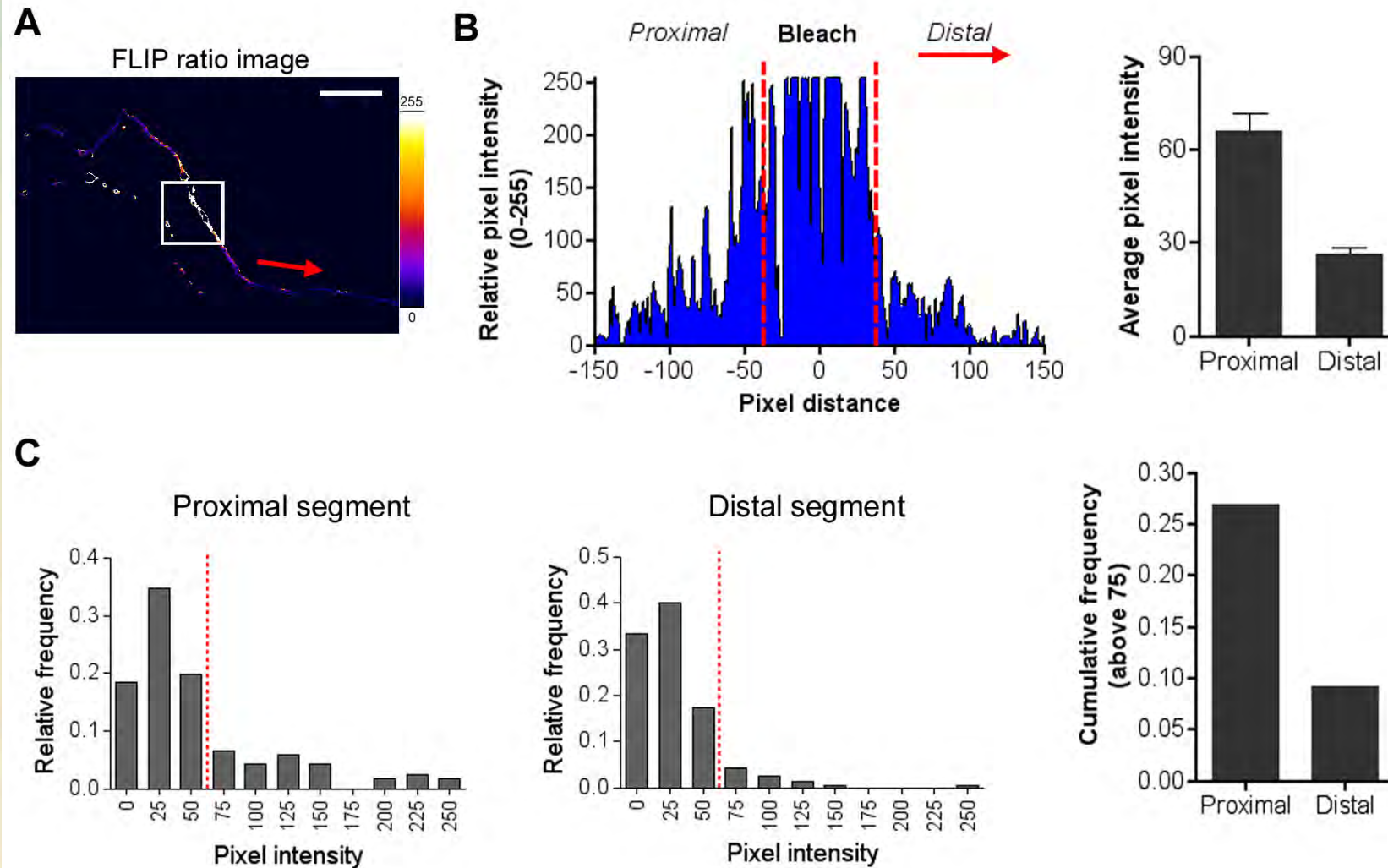


FRAP, FLIP, FLAP WITH A FRET DYE

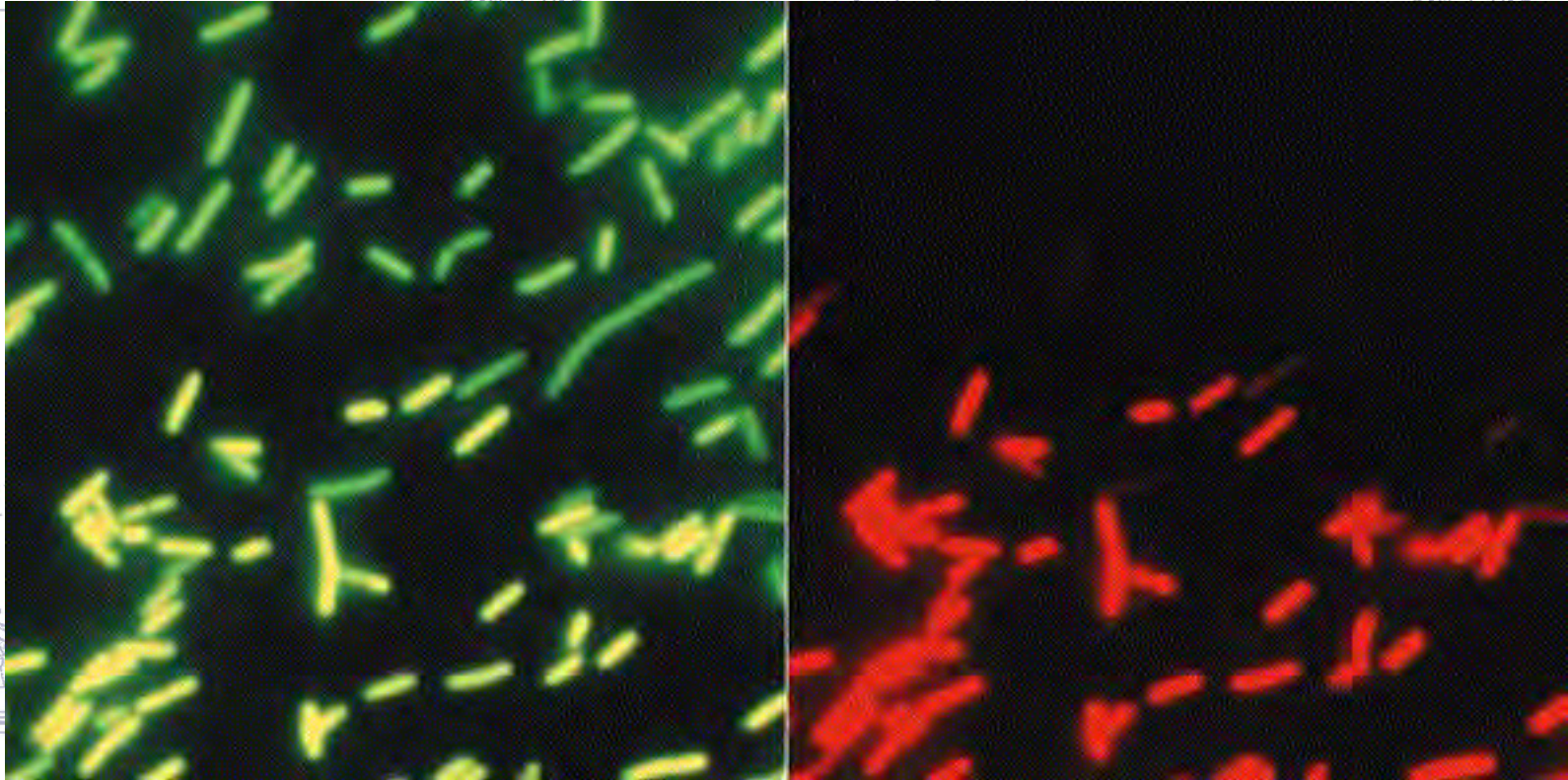


Directional transport of Synaptophysin-FLAP

Figure 2

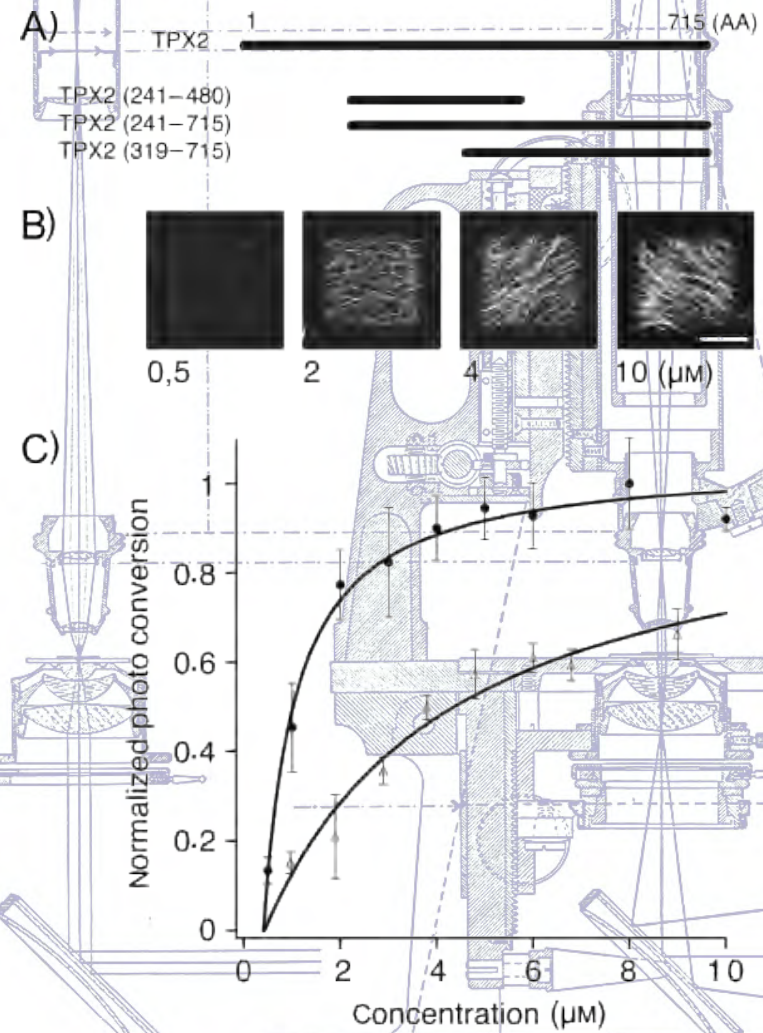
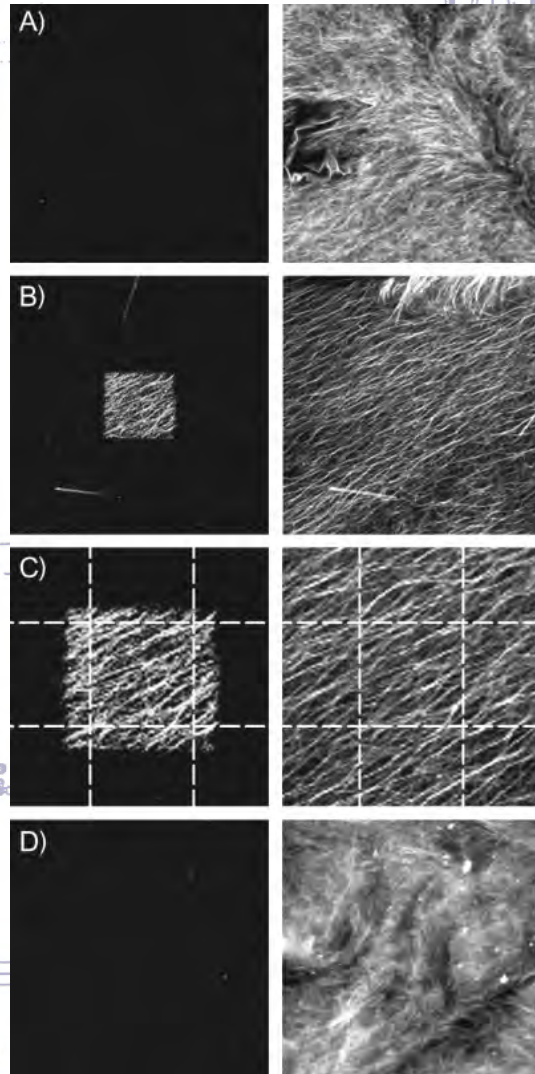


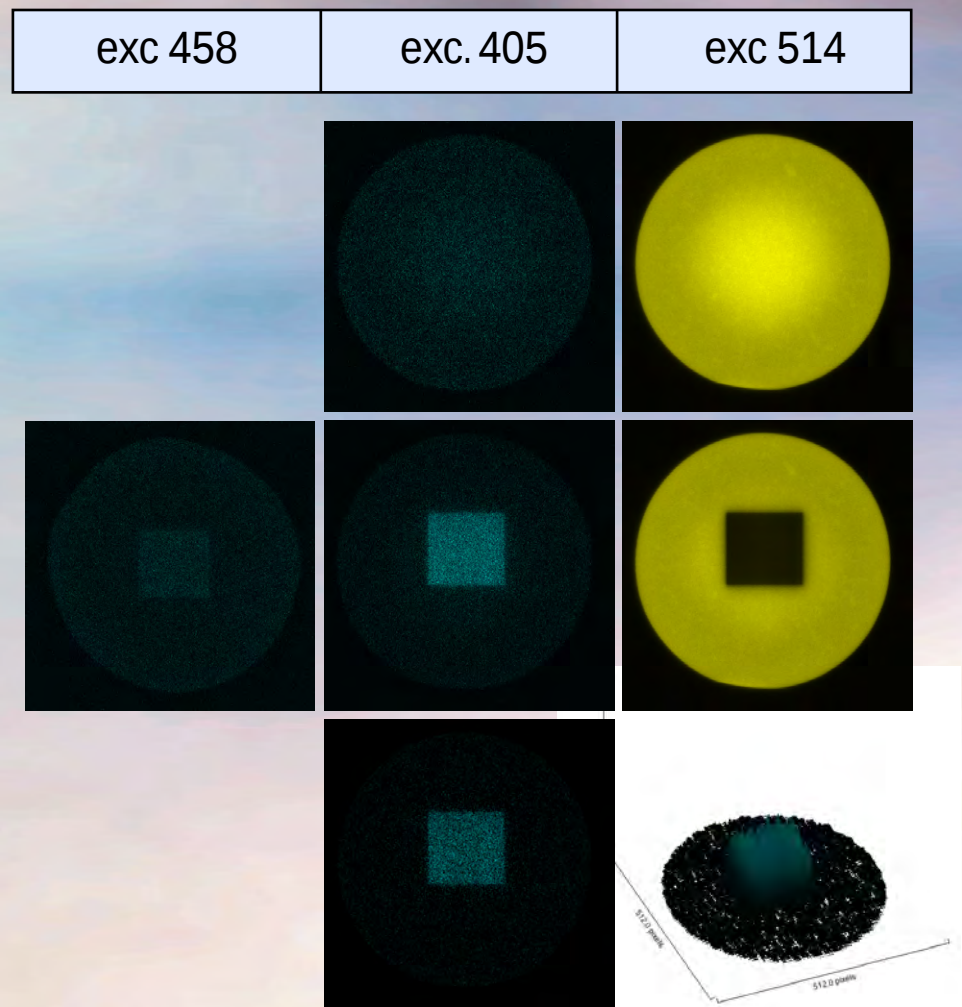
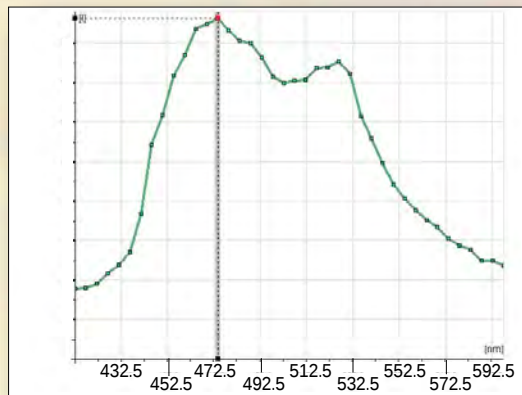
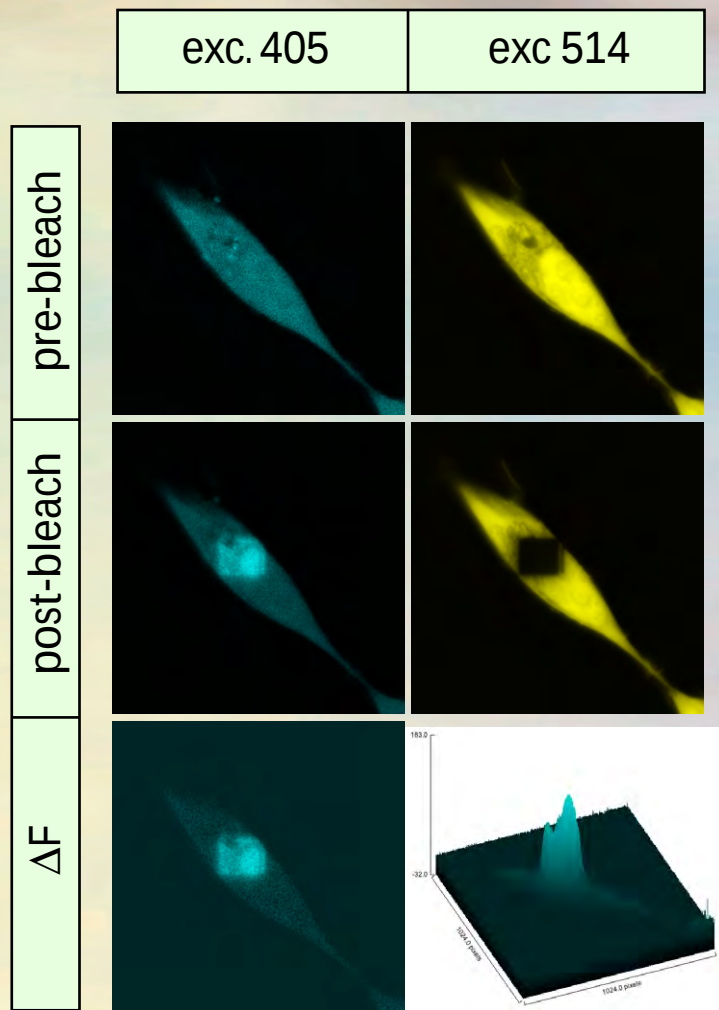
photoconversion



GFP bleaching during observation under anearobic conditions produces a red-emitting form

GFP photoconversion put to (limited) use



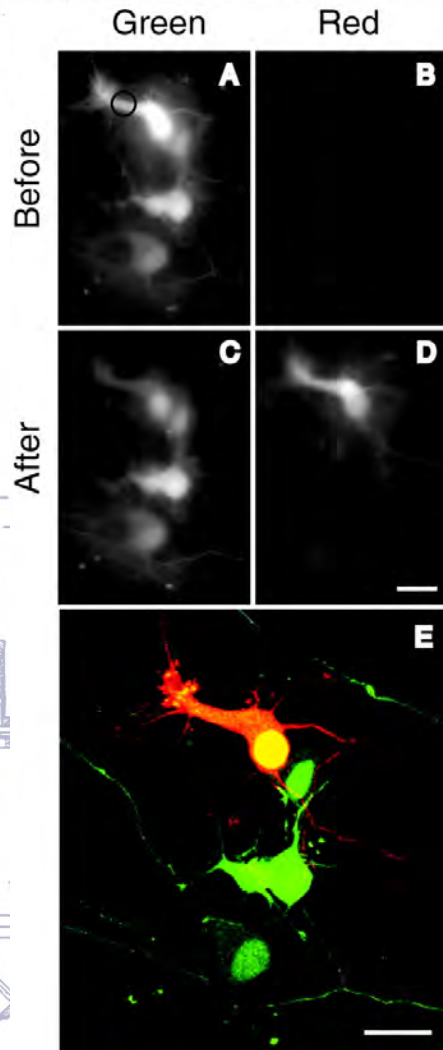


photoconversion of YFP:
bleaching of YFP leads to the
formation of a CFP-like photoproduct

Gertrude Bunt (Stuttgart University) and
Valentin (2005) Nat. Meth. 2: 801.

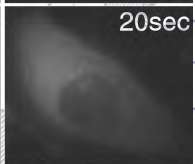
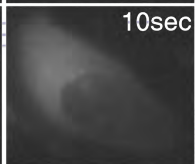
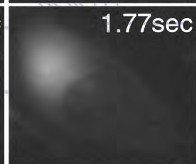
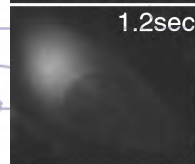
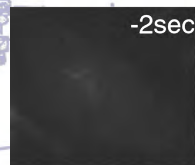
Photoconversion: another lucky observation

Kaede



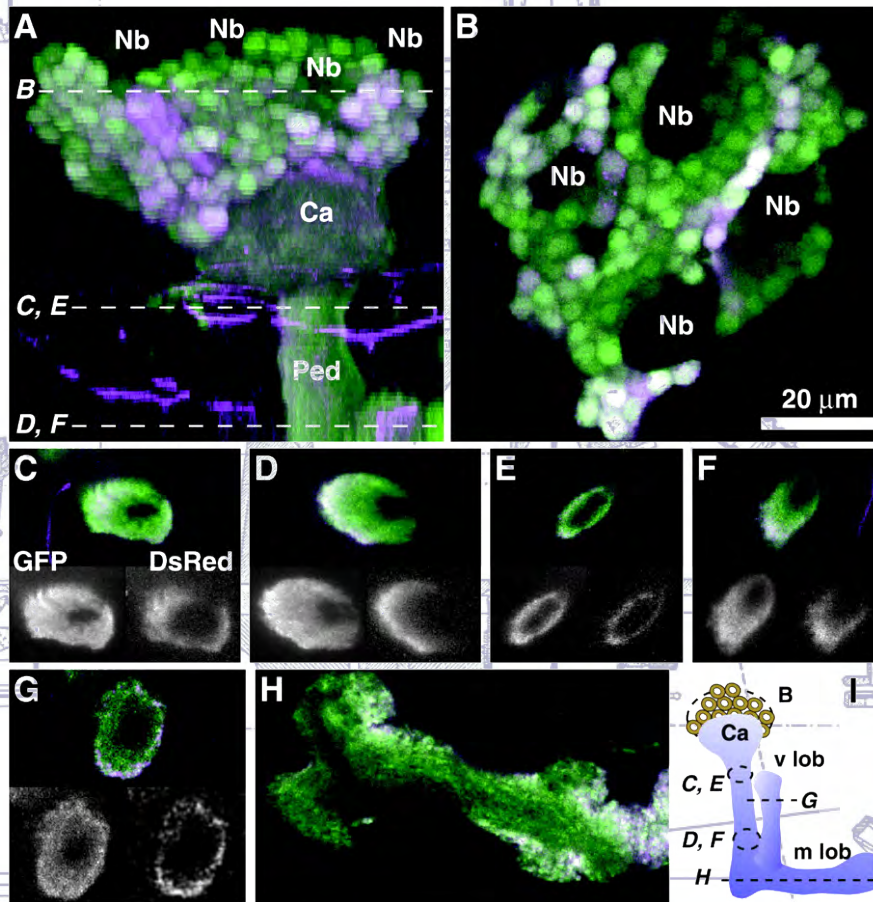
We happened to leave one of the protein aliquots on the laboratory bench overnight. The next day, we found that the protein sample on the bench had turned red, whereas the others that were kept in a paper box remained green. Although the sky had been partly cloudy, the red sample had been exposed to sunlight through the south-facing windows.

Ando (2002) PNAS 99: 12651-12656

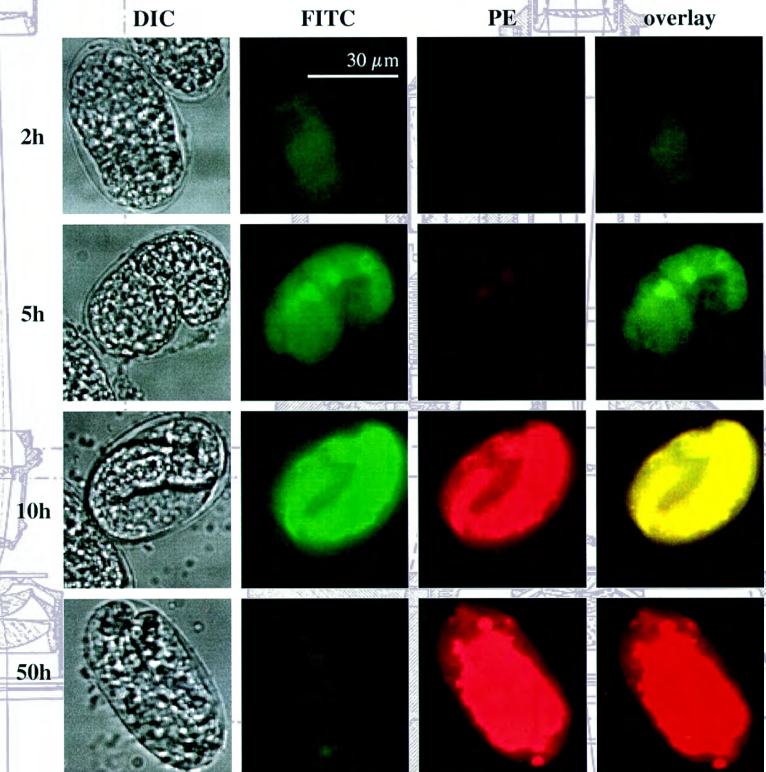


dsRed maturation mutant: timer

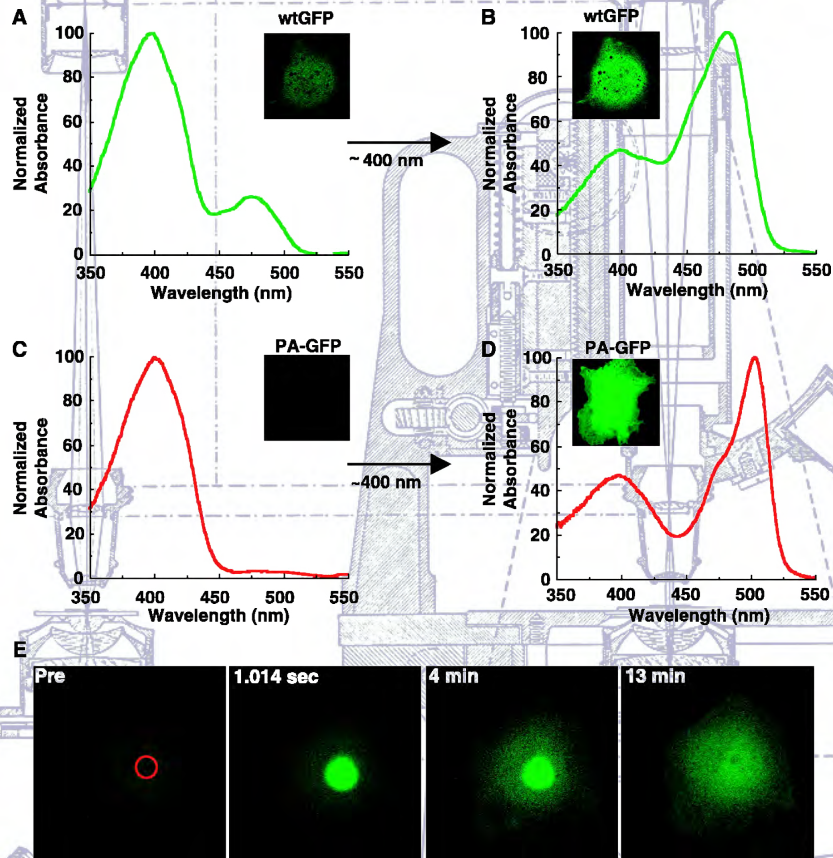
Drosophila neural fiber bundle formation



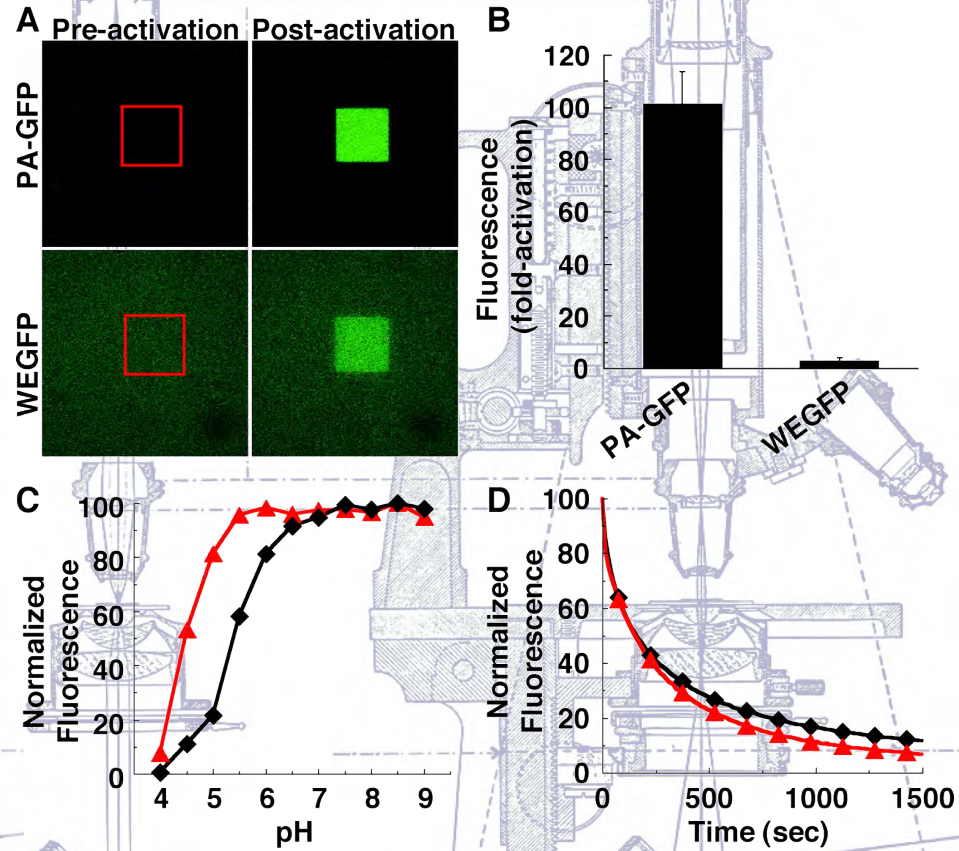
expression in C. elegans



Photoactivation of GFP

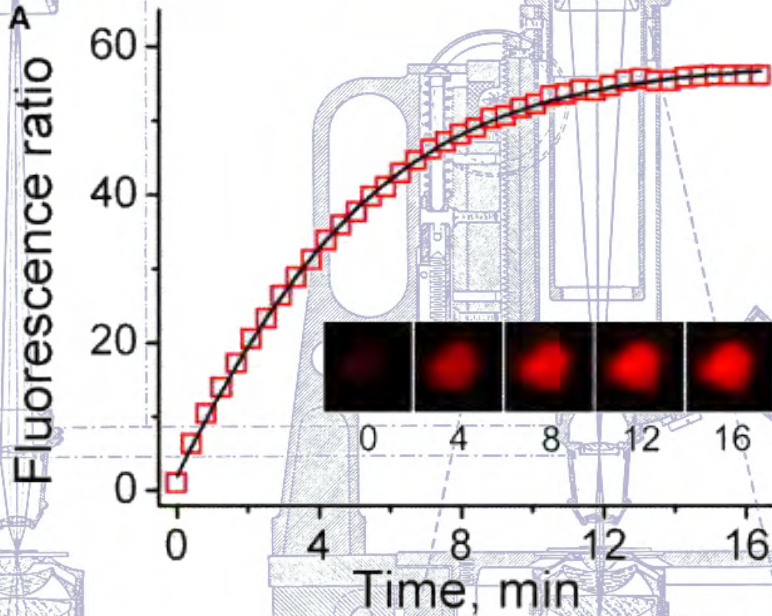


Lippincott-Schwartz (2003) Science. 300: 87-91



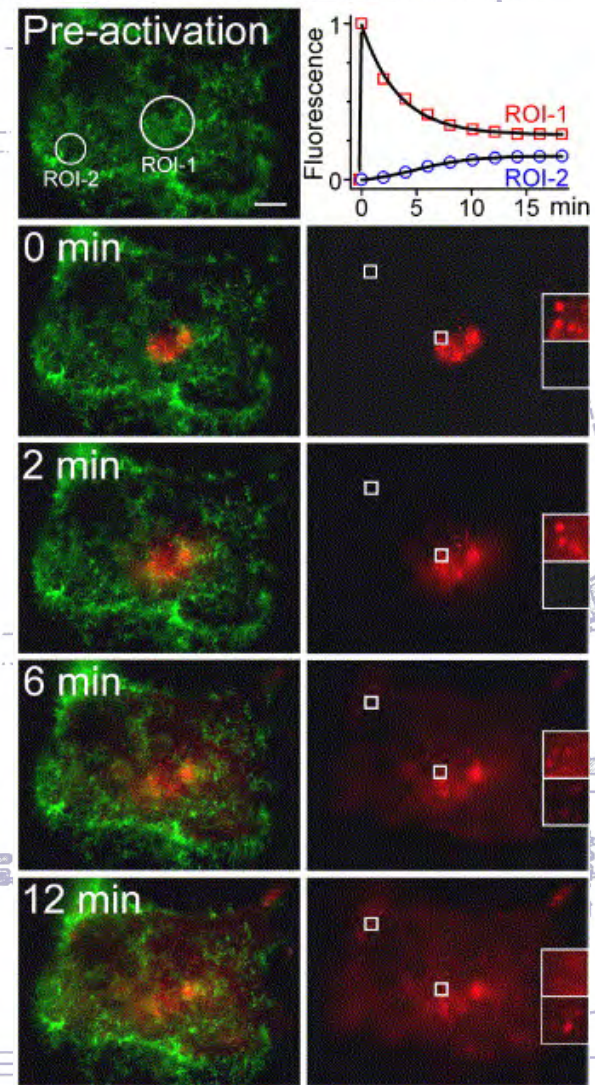
Patterson (2002) Science. 297: 1873-1877

photoactivatable mRFP



allows highly complex
multi-color dynamic
bioassays

Verkusha (2006) Chem. Biol. 12: 279-285



EYFP-Dopamine transporter (plasma
membrane) and PA-mRFP-Rab5
(endosomal surface)

photolabeling



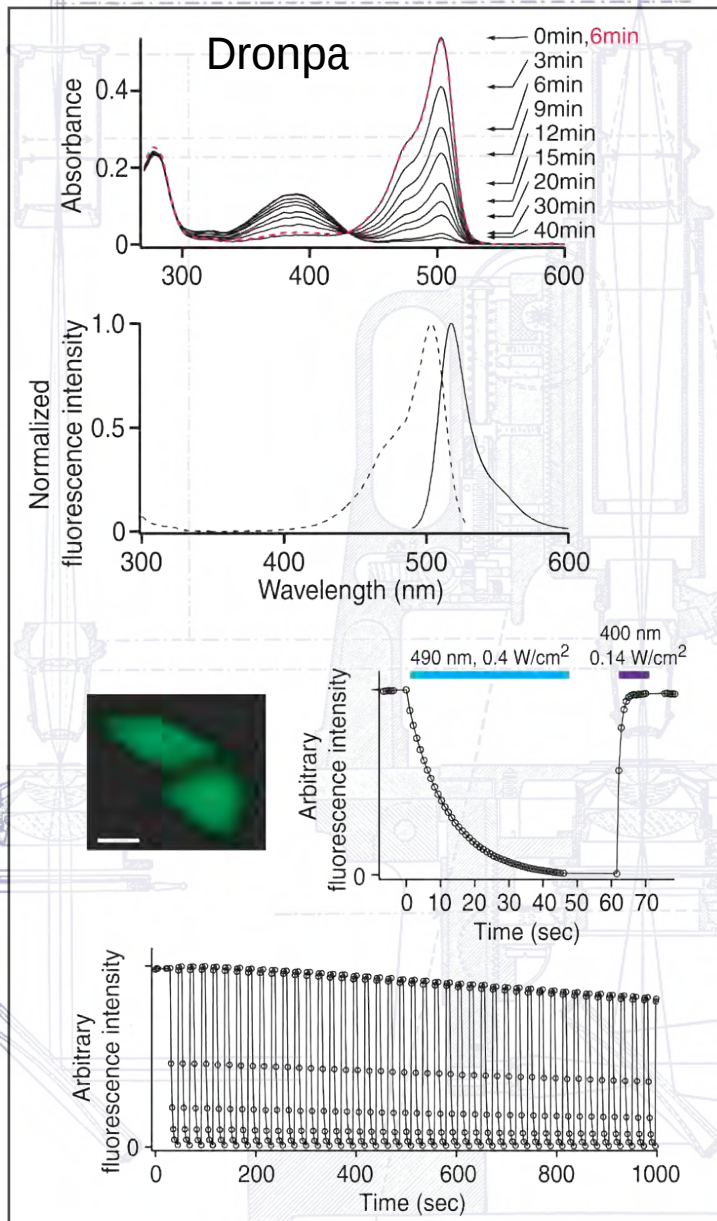
photoconversion

photo-
activation

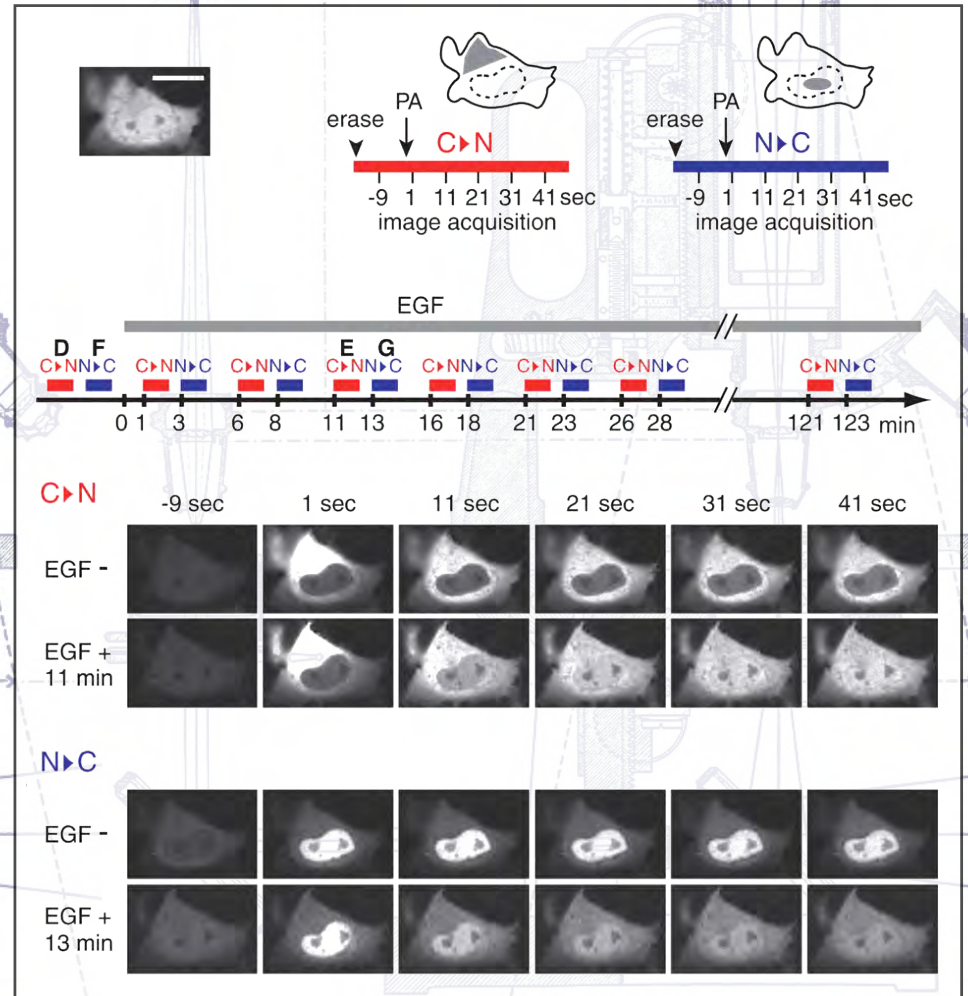
photoswitching

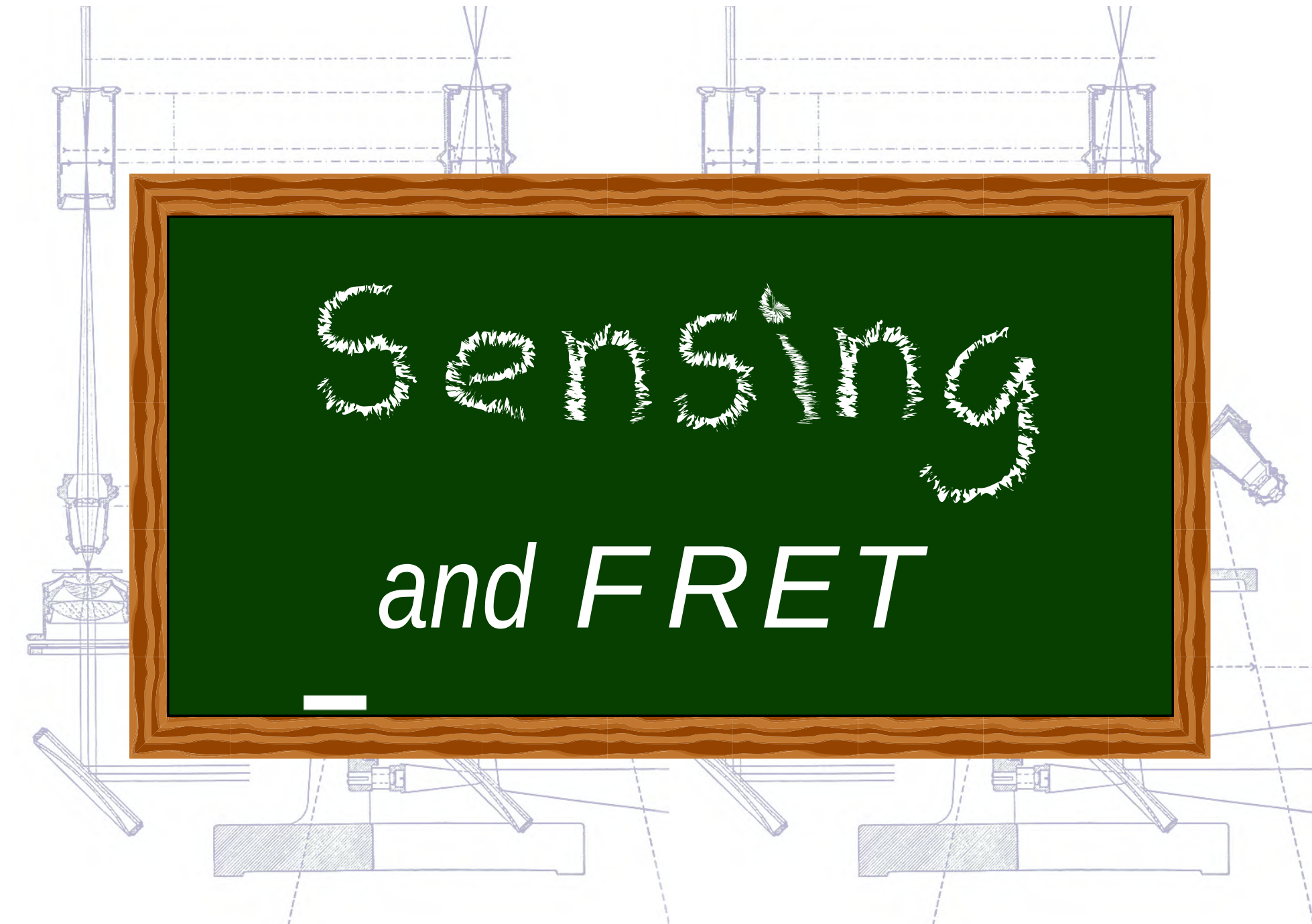


photochromism



photoswitching

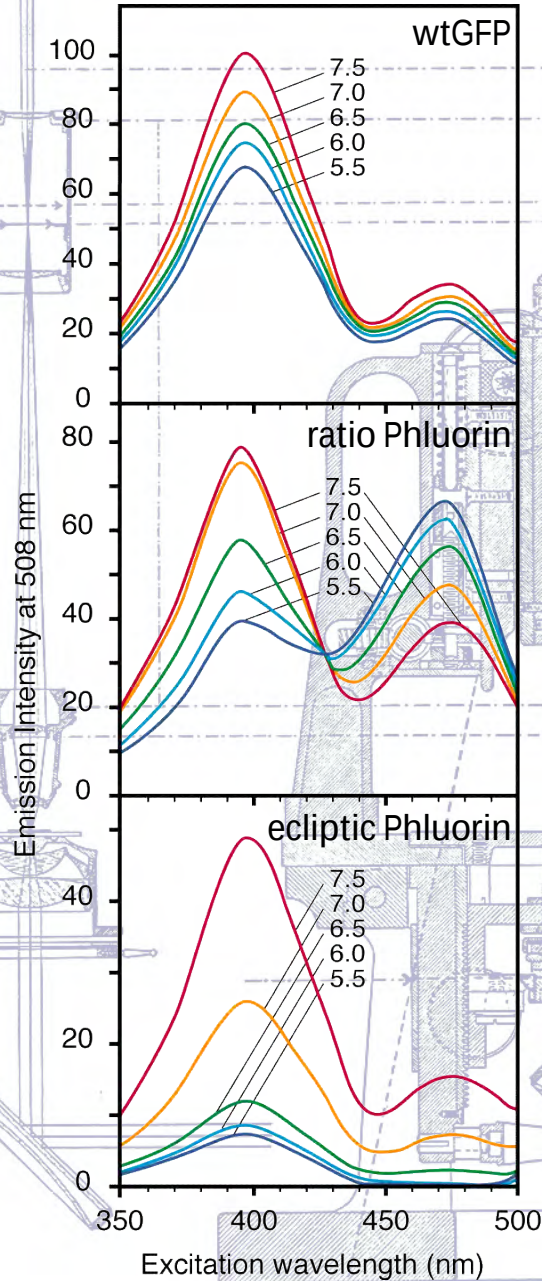
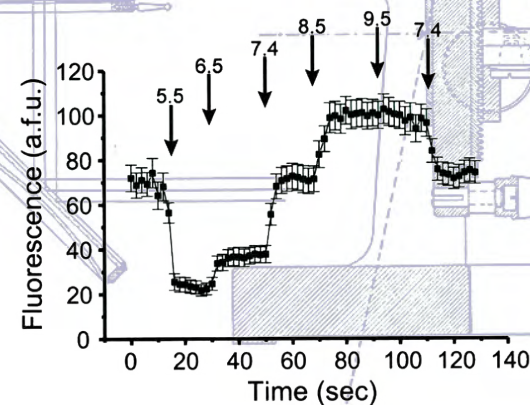
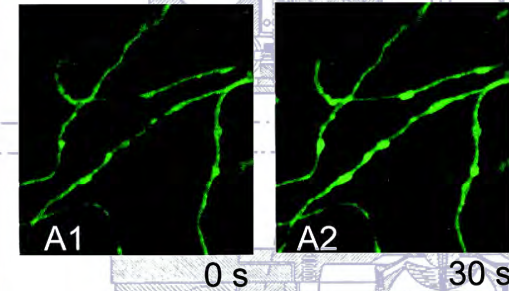
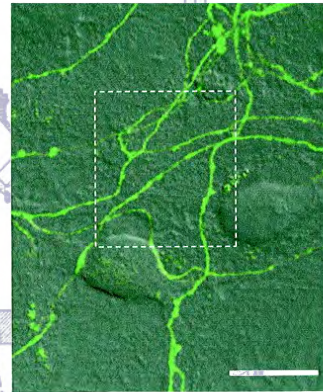
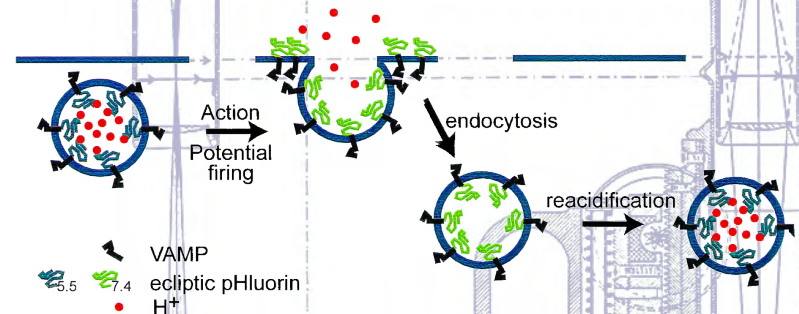


A detailed technical line drawing of a microscope, showing the eyepiece, objective lenses, stage, and base, serving as a background for the title.

Sensing

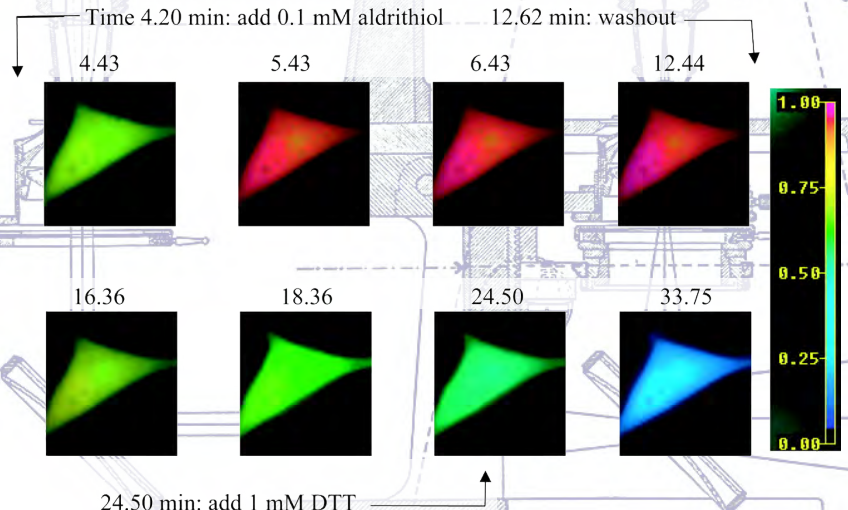
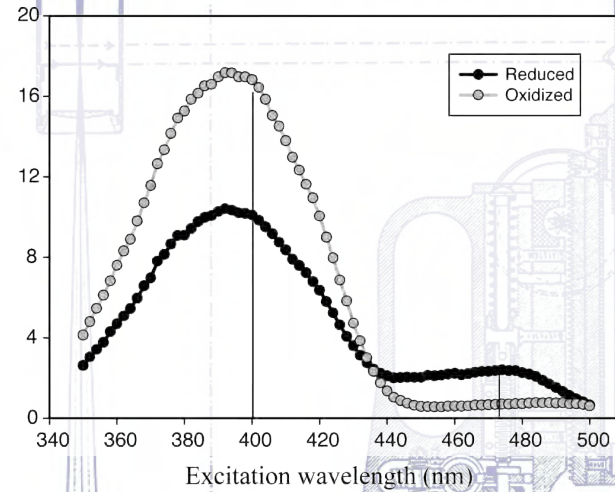
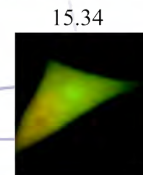
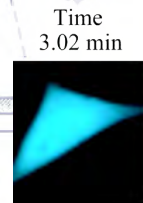
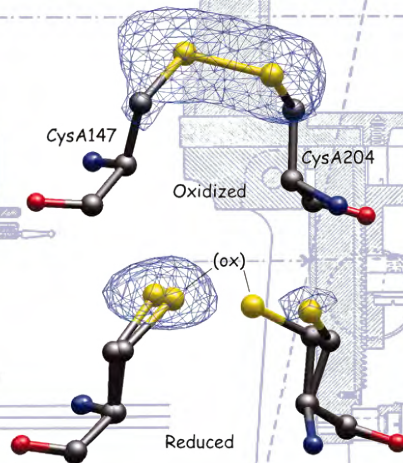
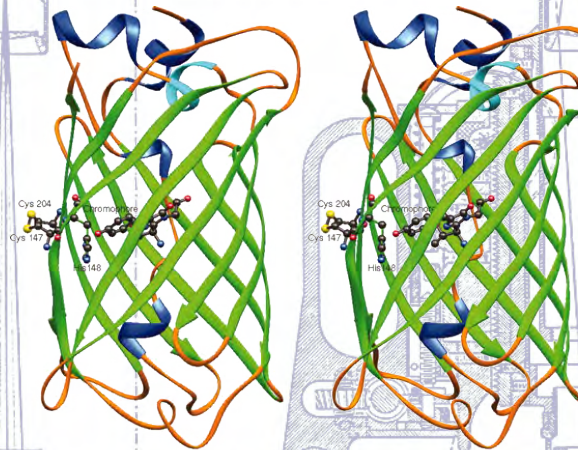
and FRET

protonation sensing



sensing redox potentials

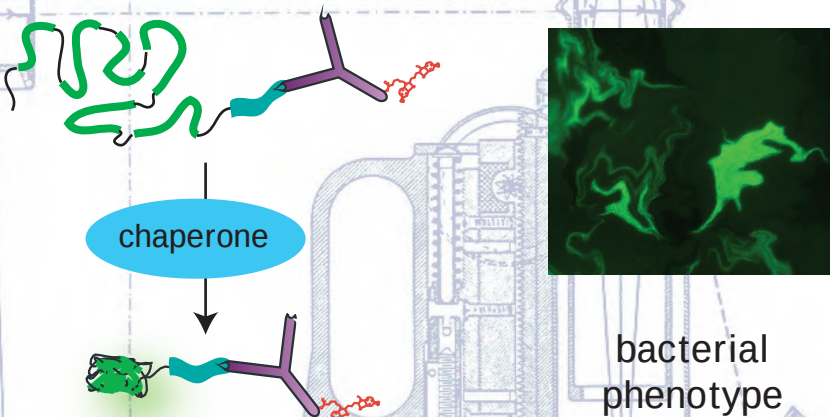
barrel destabilization



Hanson (2004) J. Biol. Chem. 279: 13044-13053

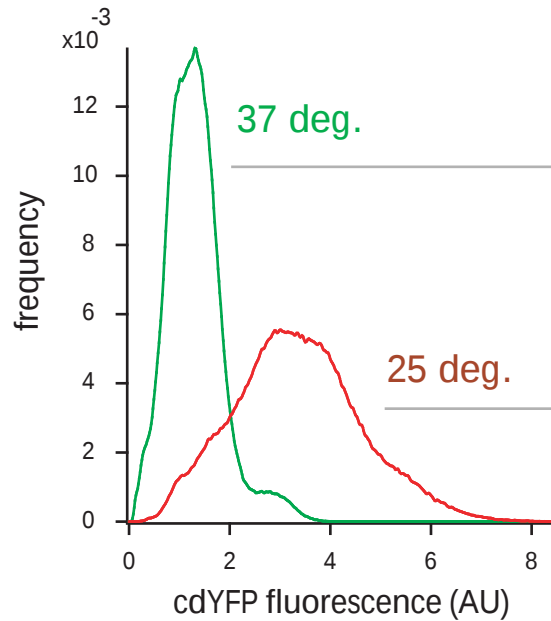
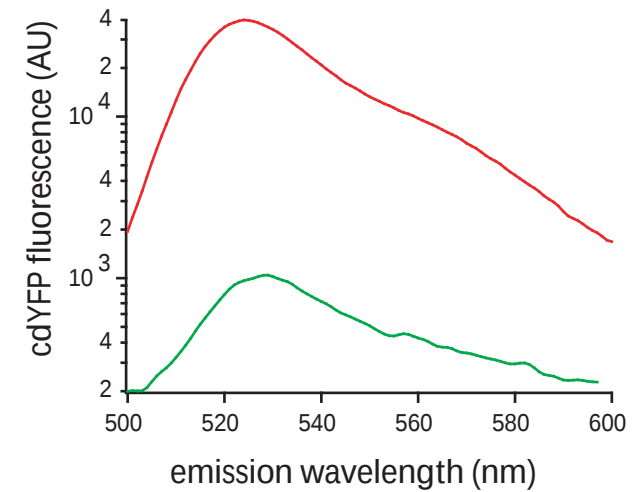
Dooley (2004) J. Biol. Chem. 279: 22284-22293

chaperone folding biosensor

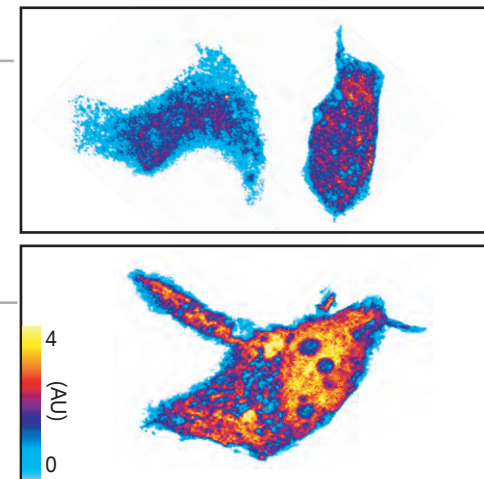


Liman (2005) Mol. Cell Biol. 25: 3715-3725

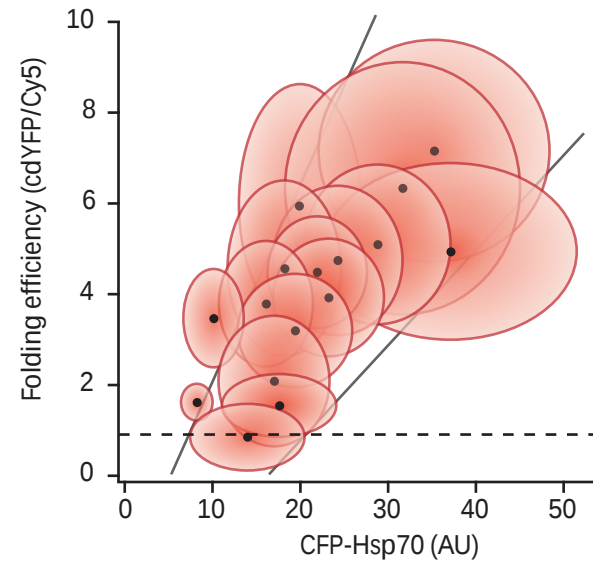
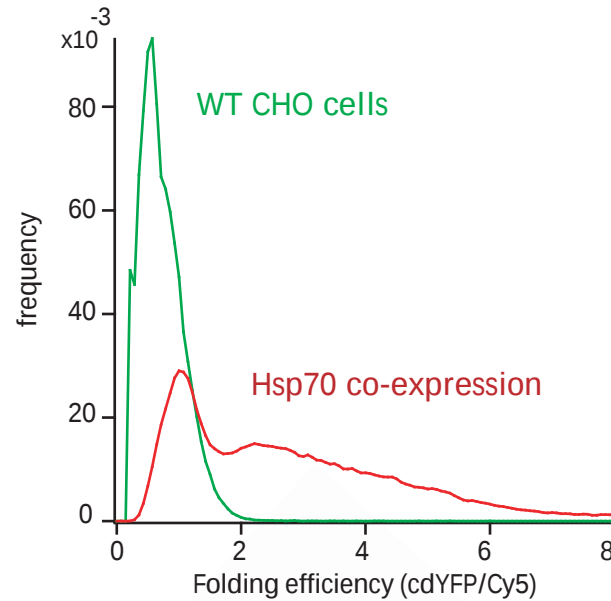
cold ethanol shock in bact. culture



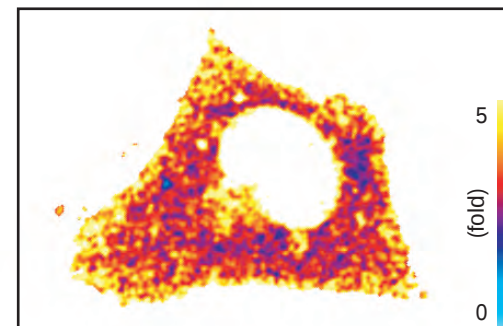
expression in Cos cells



the folding biosensor is sensitive for Hsp70

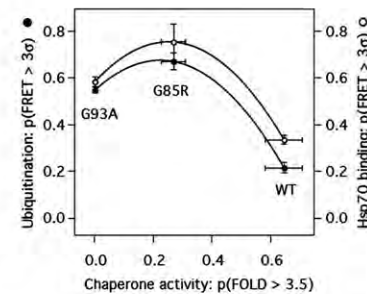
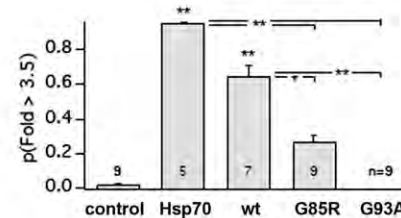
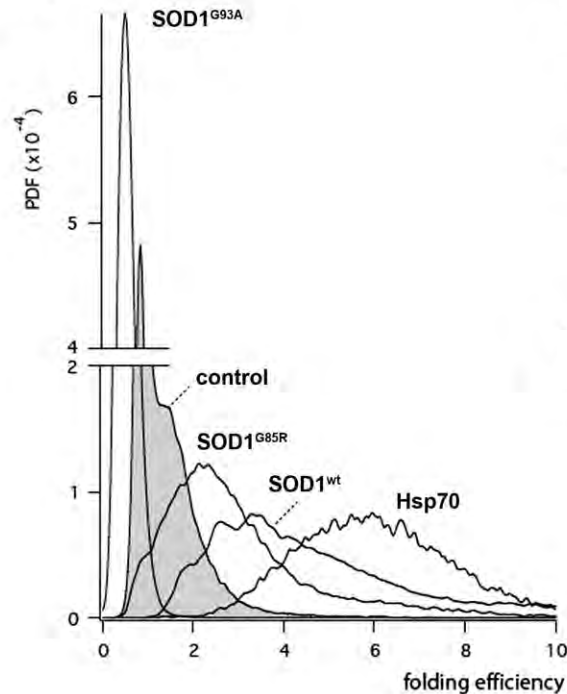
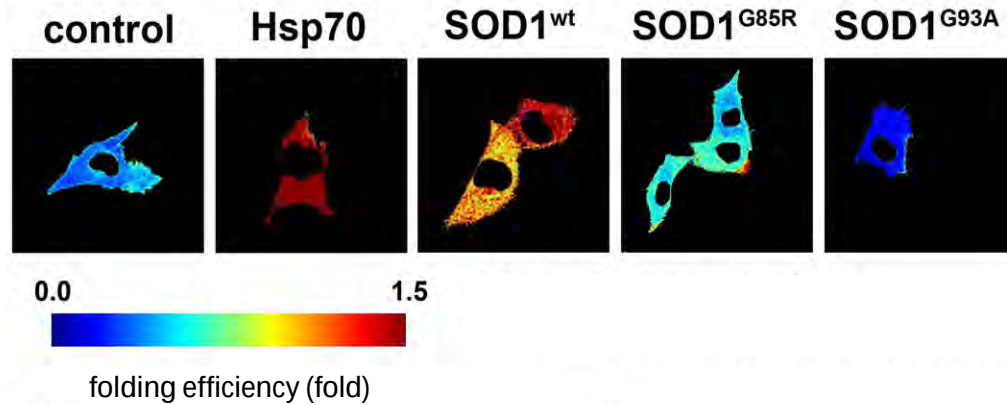


WT- CHO

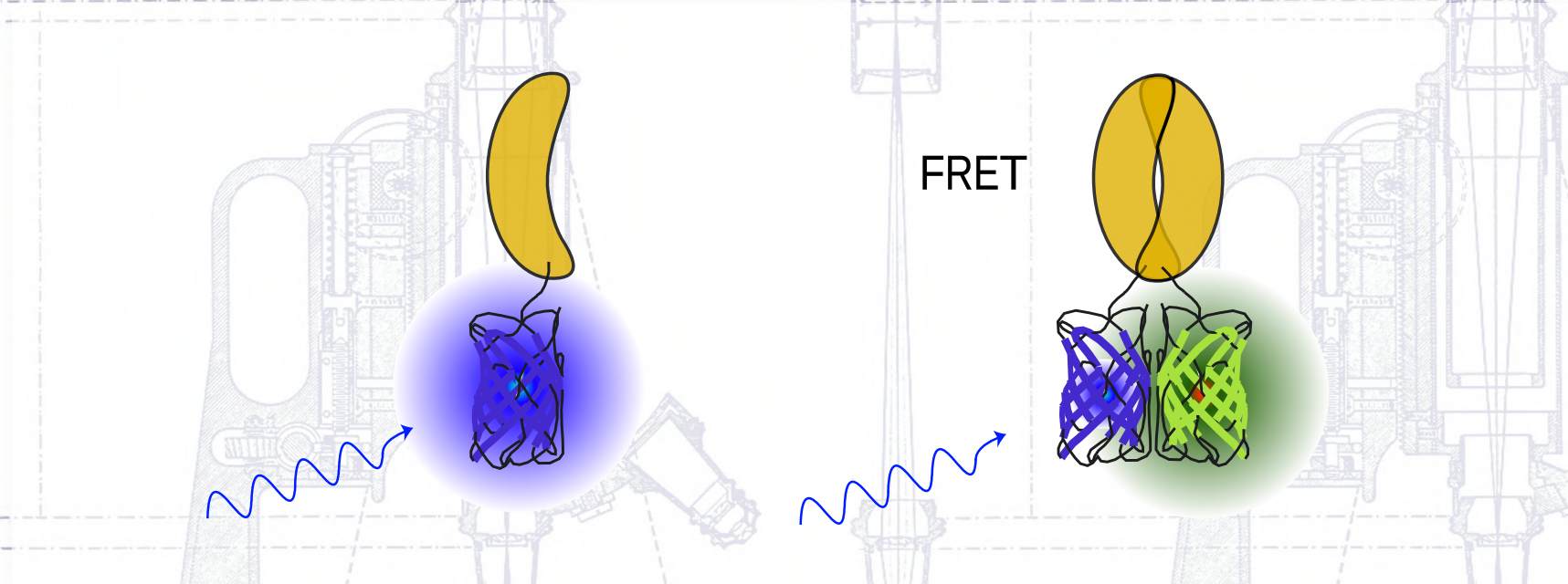


CHO
transient overexpression of
Hsp70 chaperone

Cellular folding capacity in cellular ALS models



Förster Resonance Energy Transfer (FRET)



Methods

ratio/ SE imaging
Acceptor PB

intensities

FLIM

"quenched"
donor
emission

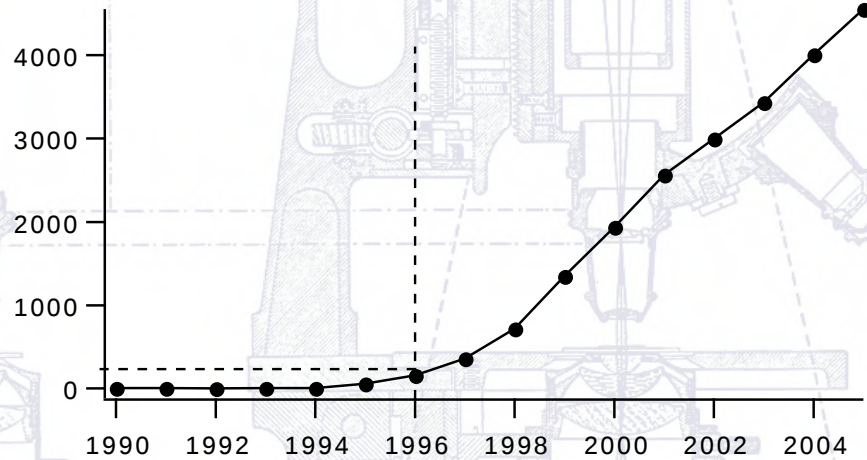
"sensitized"
acceptor
emission

photons are
emitted sooner

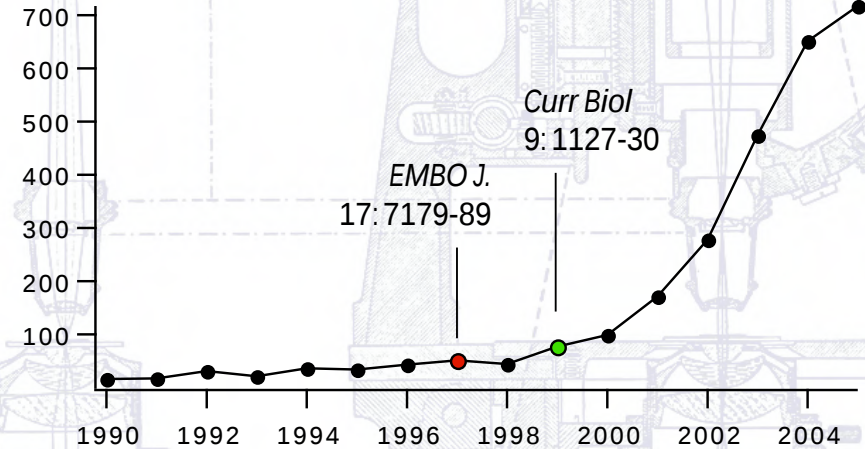
Molecular microscopy in modern biology

GFP OR "fluorescent protein"

Pubmed
keyword hits
(per year)



FRET



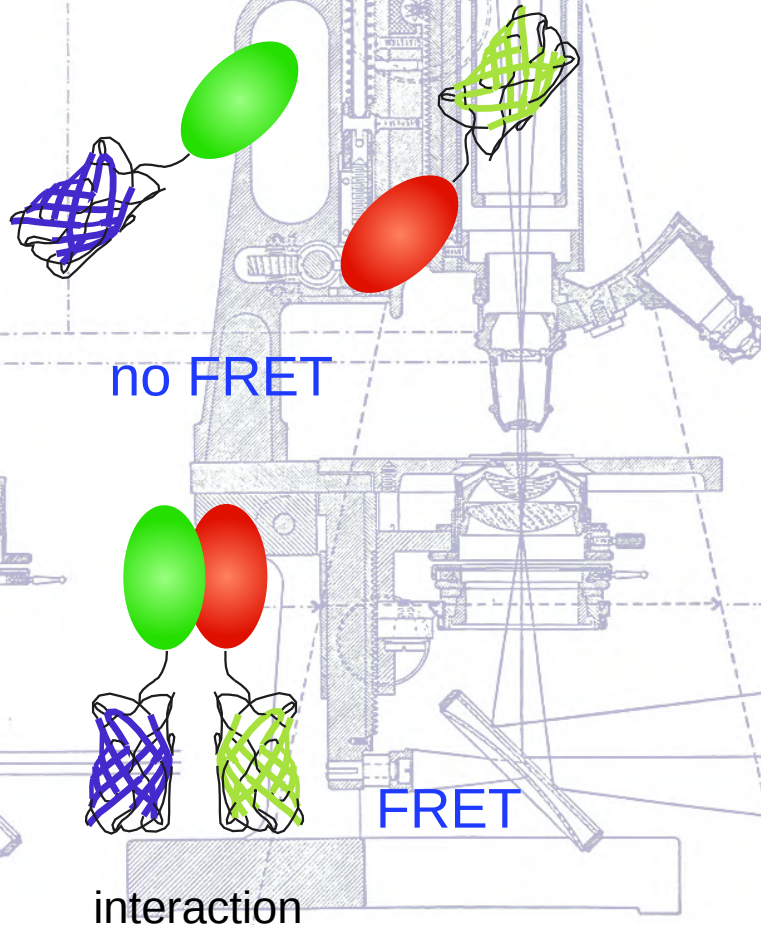
Localization
Dynamics

+ Biological function

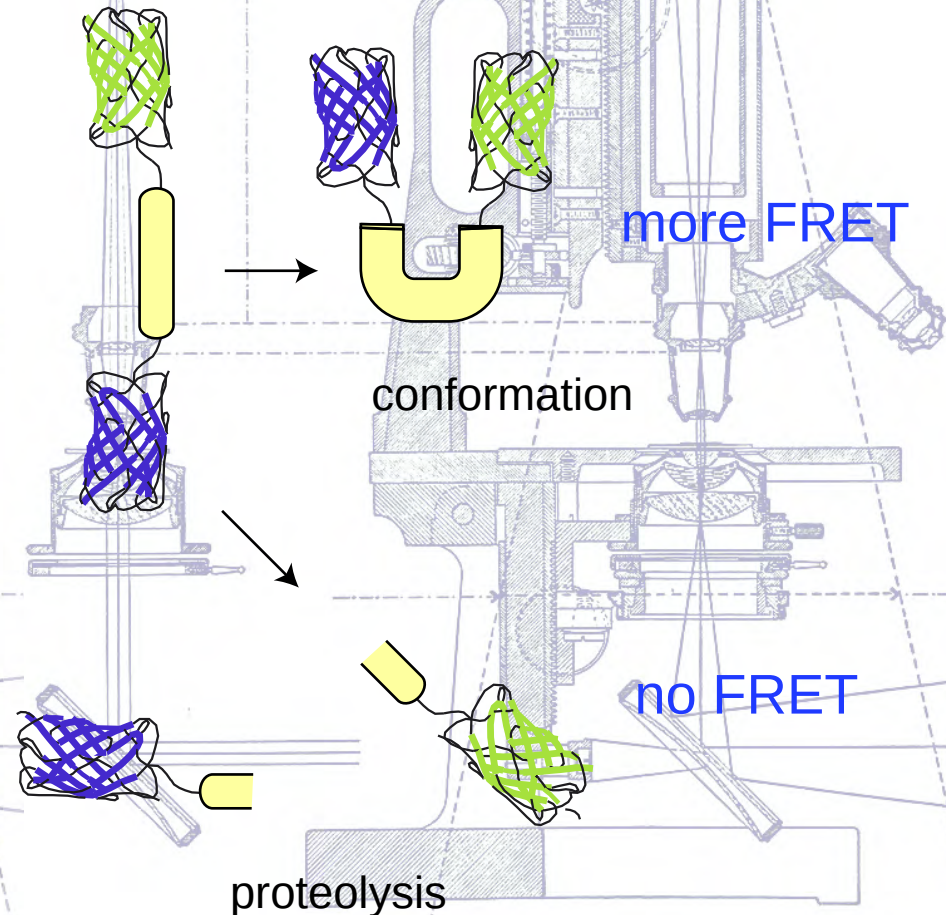
= Cellular physiology

FRET-based physiological sensing

"actuator"
intermolecular

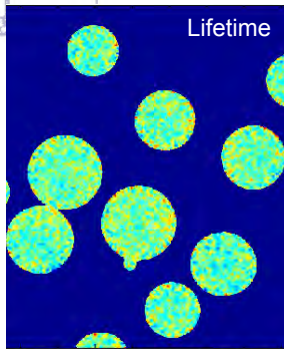


"sensor"
intramolecular

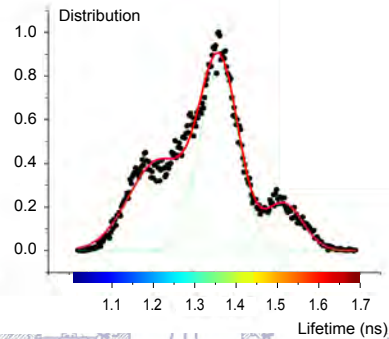
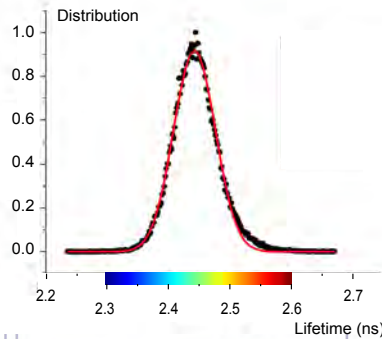
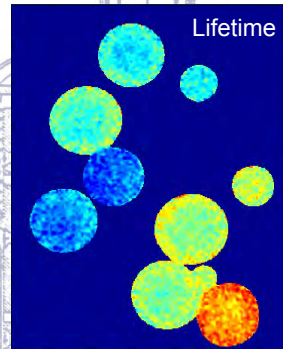


FRET examples

Control



FRET

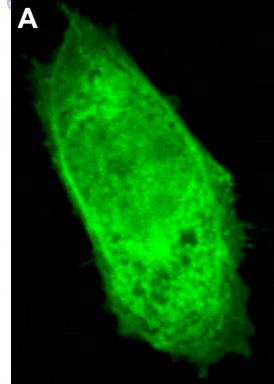


favorite FRET test subject: polystyrene beads, covalently with GFP protein, chemically labeled with Cy3

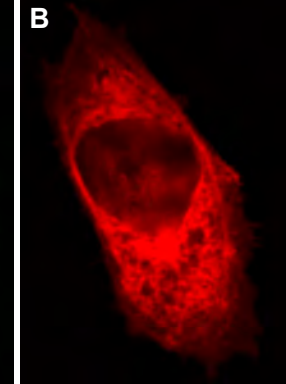
FRET resolution translates to sub-nanometre resolution!!

Wouters (2006) Contemporary Physics 47: 239-255
see also: Bunt (2004) Int. Rev. Cytol. 237: 205-277

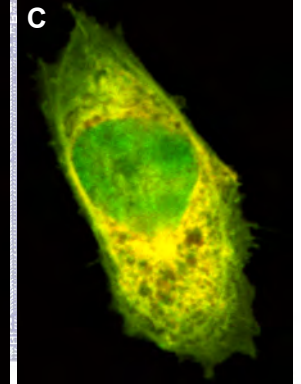
Cerulean- α Synuclein



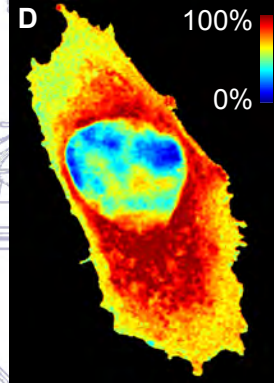
EYFP-Tau



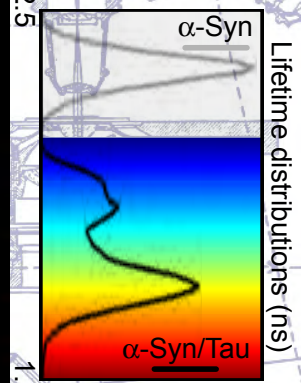
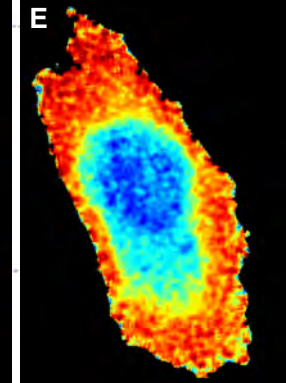
Overlay



Colocalization

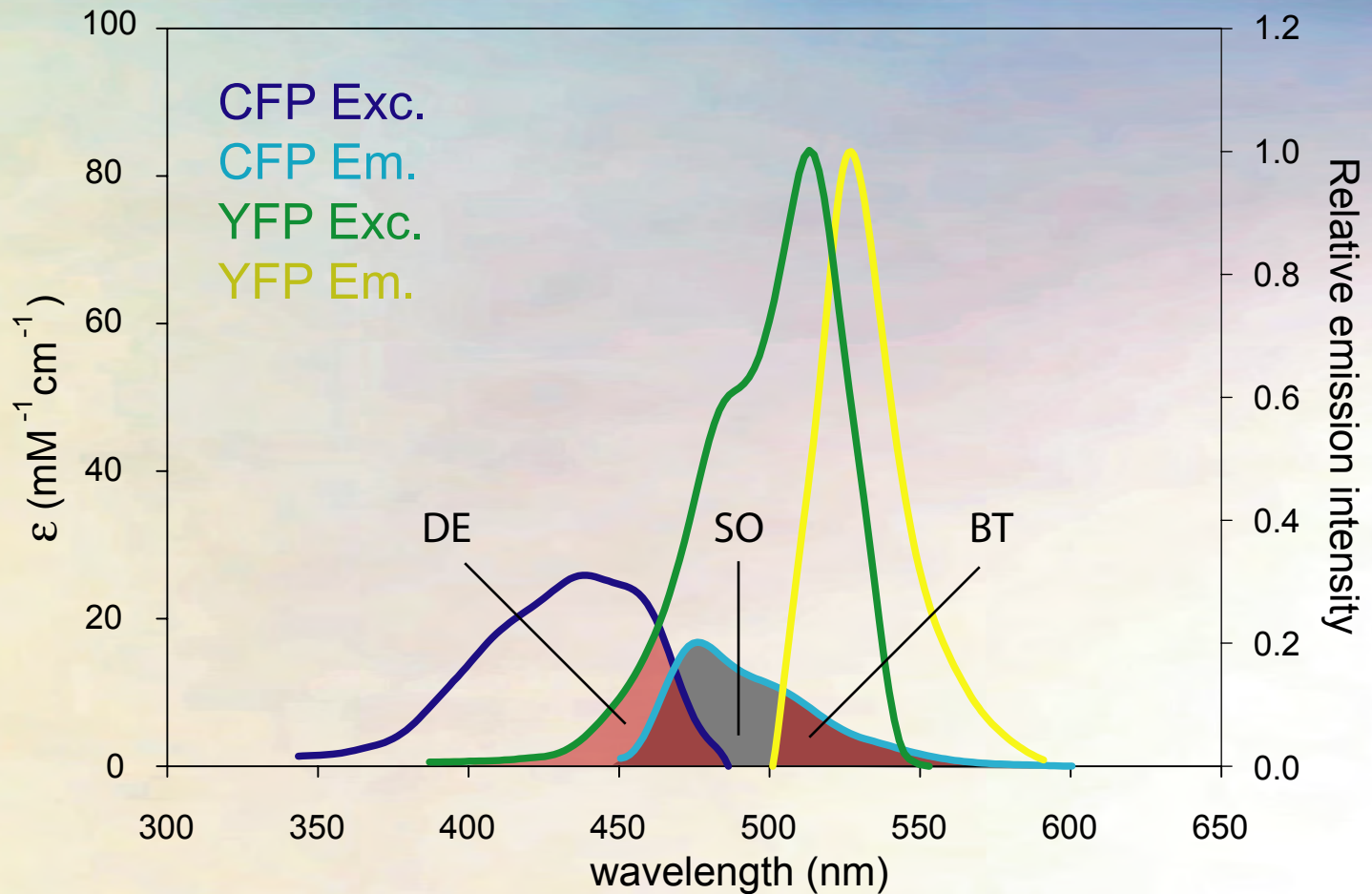


Lifetimes



Esposito (2007) Neurobiol. Disease, *in press*

SPECTRAL ISSUES WITH FRET



FRET-pairs

- high overlap donor emission - acceptor excitation spectra
- low overlap donor emission - acceptor emission (high Stoke's shift)
- high molar extinction coefficient acceptor
- high fluorescence quantum yield donor
- high photostability acceptor
- donor lifetime > acceptor lifetime
- NO dimerization!

Bunt G & Wouters FS (2004) Internat. Rev. Cytology, 237, 205-277

Esposito A & Wouters FS (2006) Fluorescence lifetime imaging:
Quality assurance and standards.
In Methods and Applications of Fluorescence, Springer Verlag (in press)

FRET-pairs

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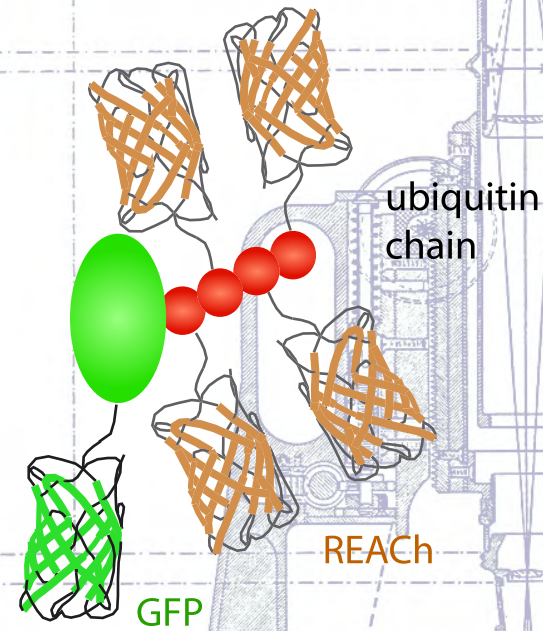
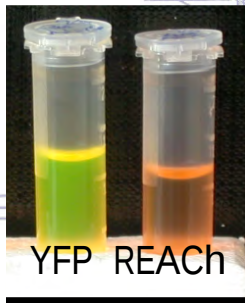
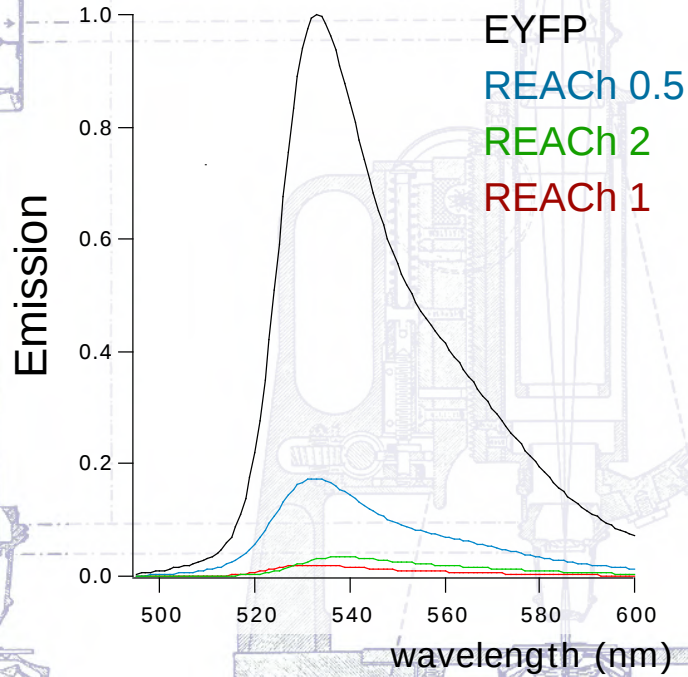
die Eierlegende Wollmilchsau!
(the egg-laying woolly milk-pig)

Bunt G & Wouters FS (2004) Internat. Rev. Cytology, 237, 205-277

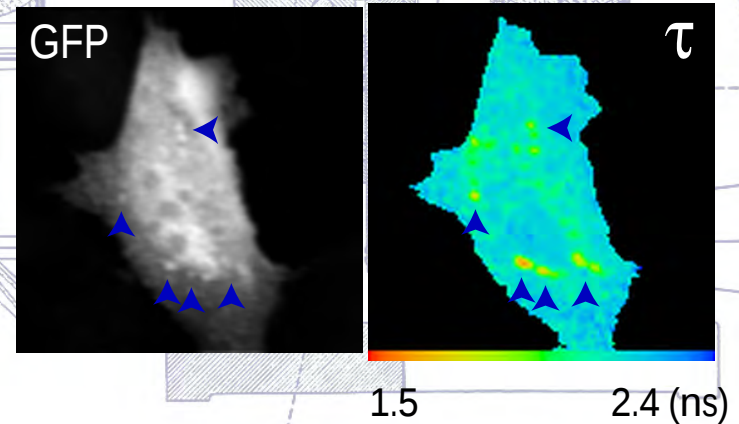
Esposito A & Wouters FS (2006) Fluorescence lifetime imaging:
Quality assurance and standards.
In Methods and Applications of Fluorescence, Springer Verlag (in press)



chromoprotein FRET acceptor



GFP-PEST + Ubq-REACh1



CARL LAEMMLE *presents*

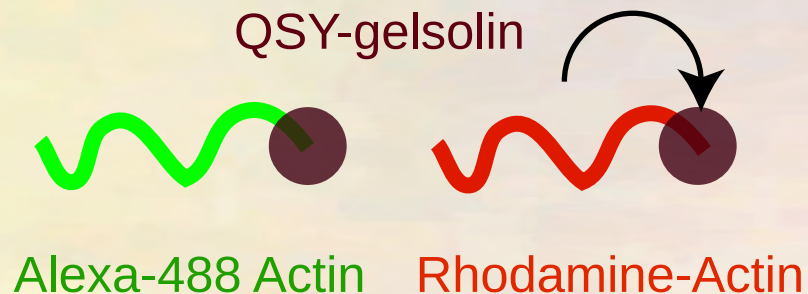
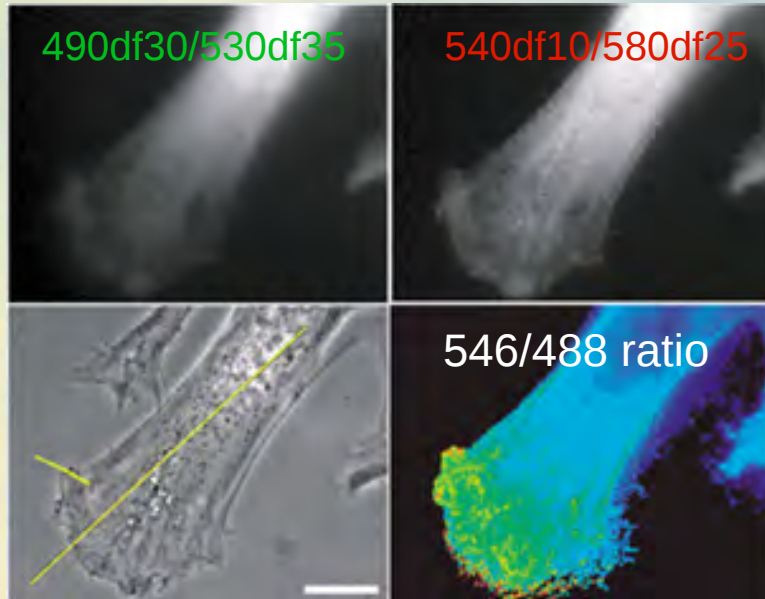
H.G.WELLS'

FANTASTIC SENSATION

THE
**INVISIBLE
PROTEIN**

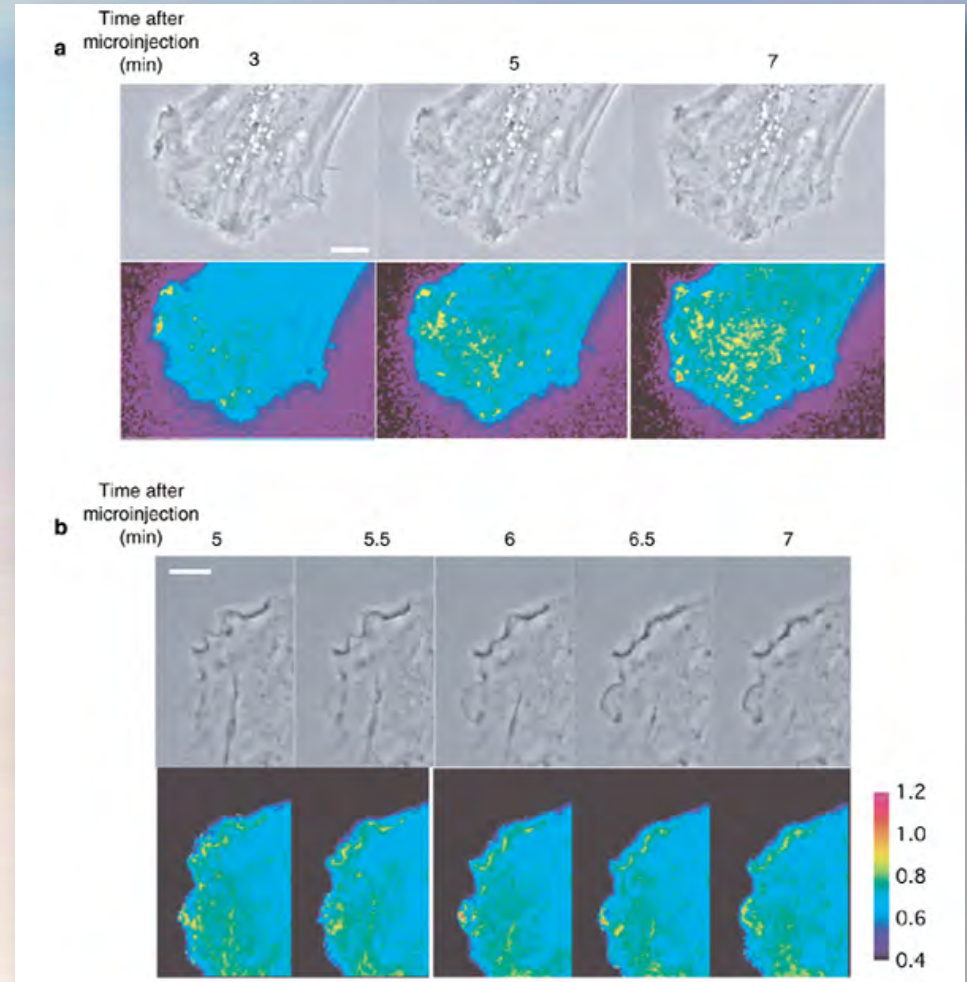


FRET: DONOR QUENCHING JUDGED BY AN OPTICALLY INERT CONCENTRATION REFERENCE



NO FRET
reference

FRET
emission quenched

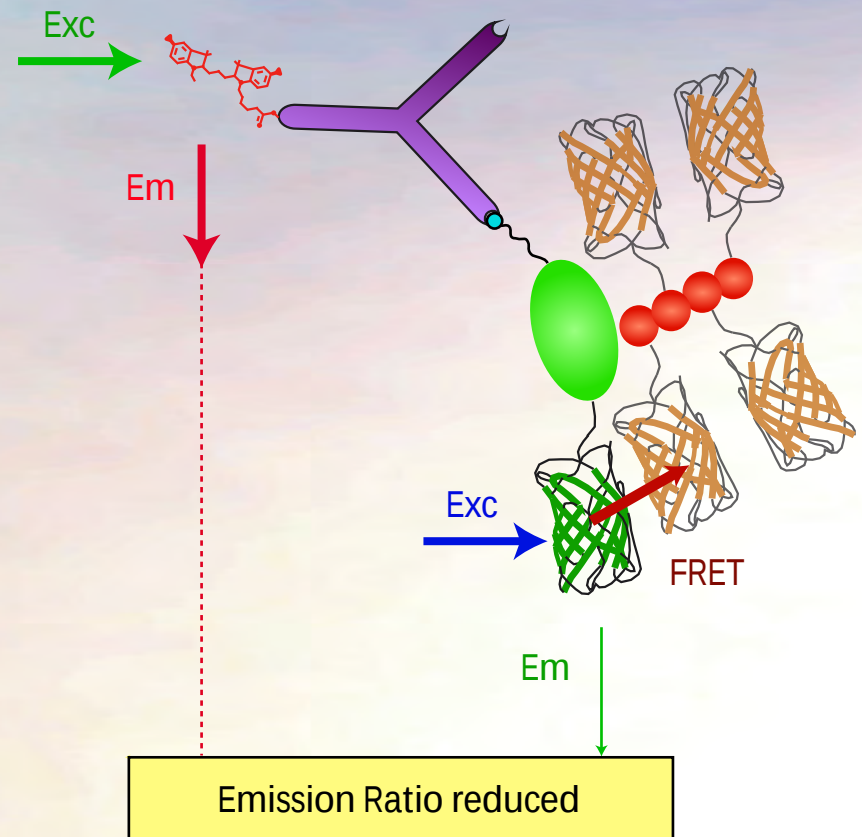
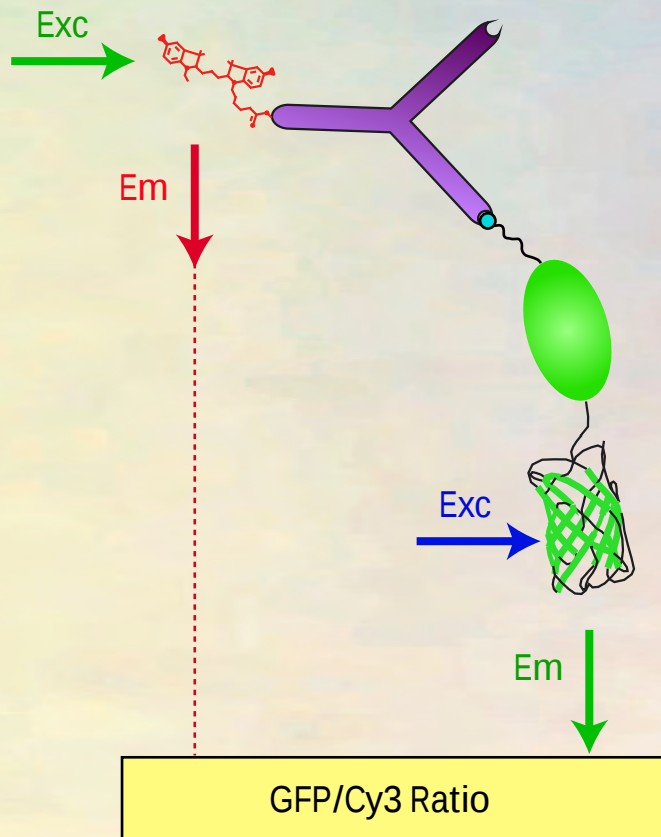


Gelsolin actin uncapping at ruffles

Allen P.G. *Nat. Cell Biol.* **5**, 972-979 (2003)

Intensity-based FRET using a dark acceptor

by application of a concentration reference dye

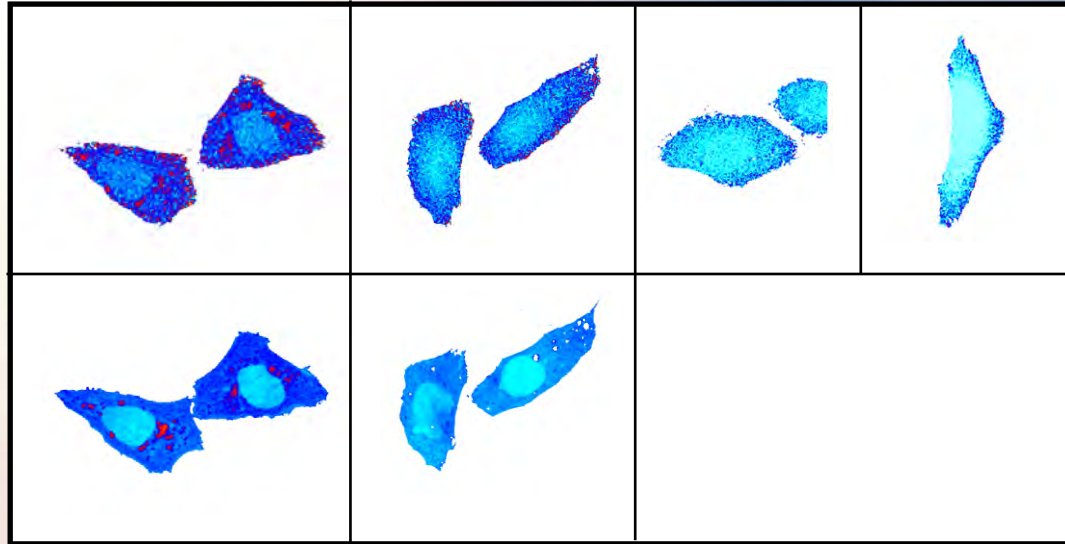


Protein ubiquitination by lifetime (FLIM) and normalised donor quenching (FqRET)

2.6
(ns)
0.5

Lifetime

GFP/Cy5



HA-PEST-GFP

HA-PEST-GFP

GFP

PEST-GFP

REACH-Ubq

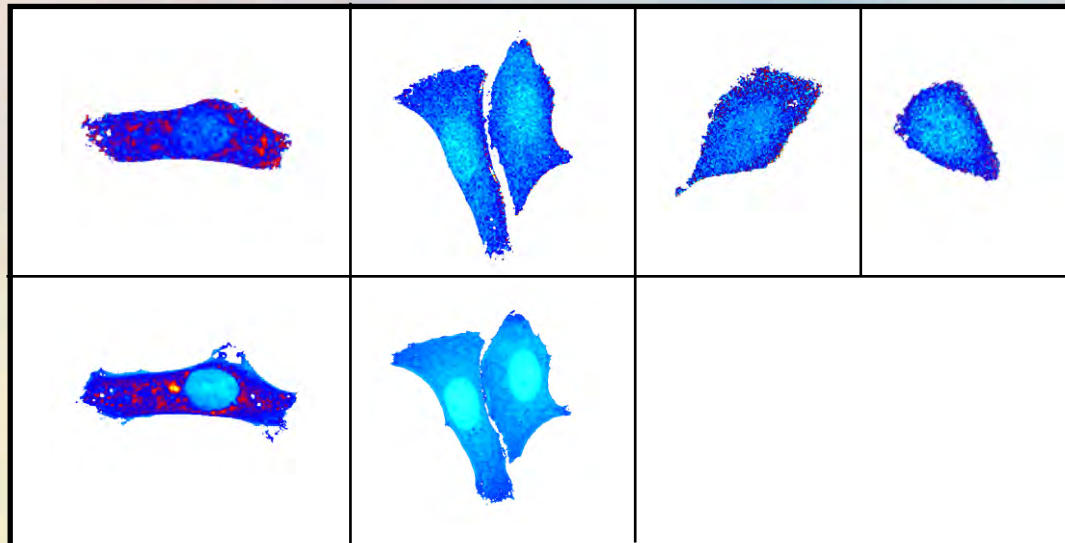
REACH-Ubq

Ubq

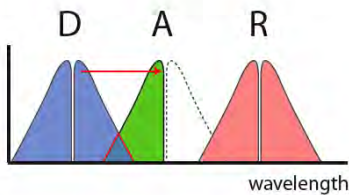
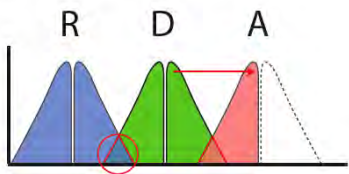
GFP bandpass

Lifetime

GFP/Cy5



no filter

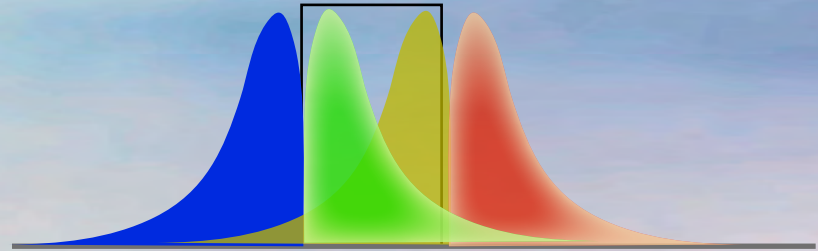


high
(AU)
low

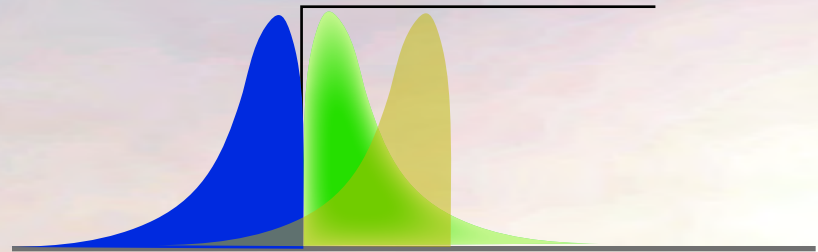
Why have a dark acceptor?

1: spectral advantages

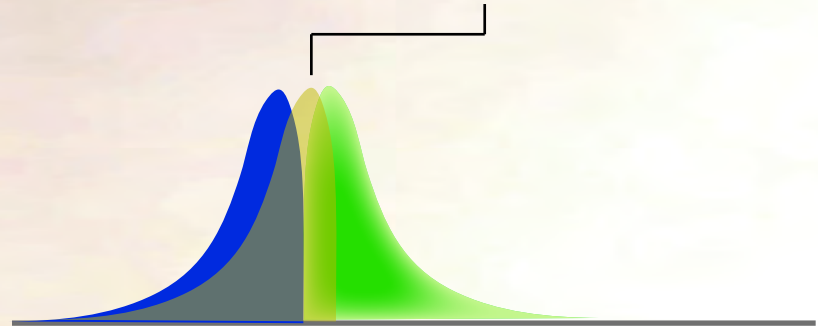
conventional



collect all fluorescence
photons



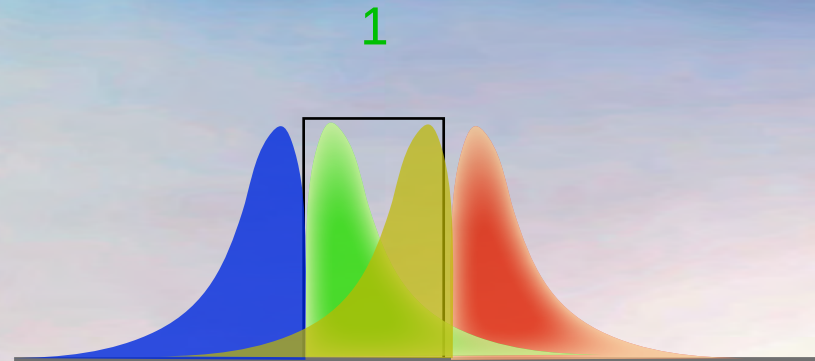
increase spectral
overlap: bigger R_0



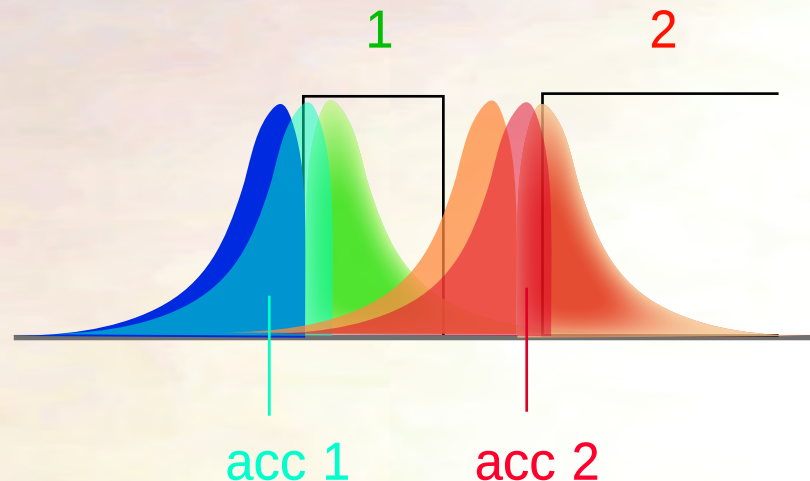
Why have a dark acceptor?

2: multiplexing FRET pairs

conventional: 1 FRET pair
CFP-YFP

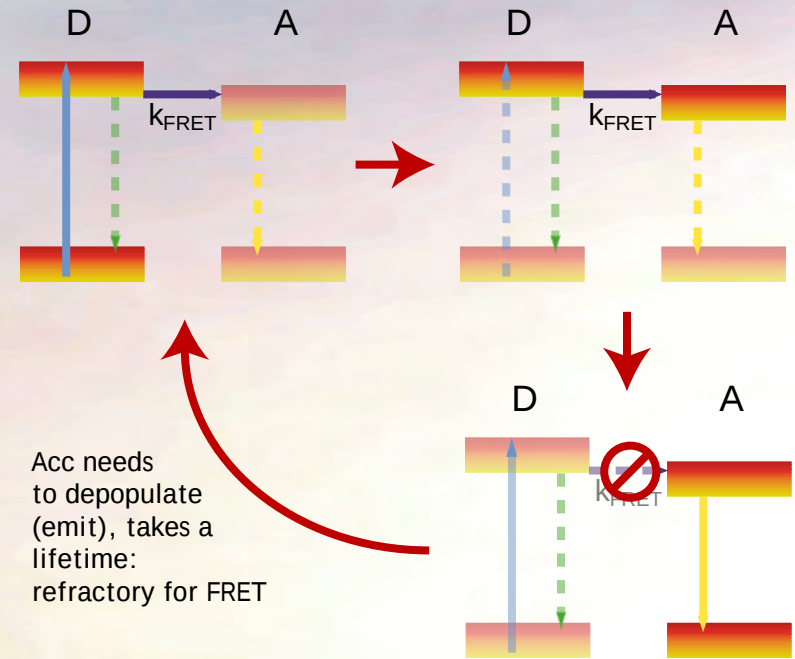
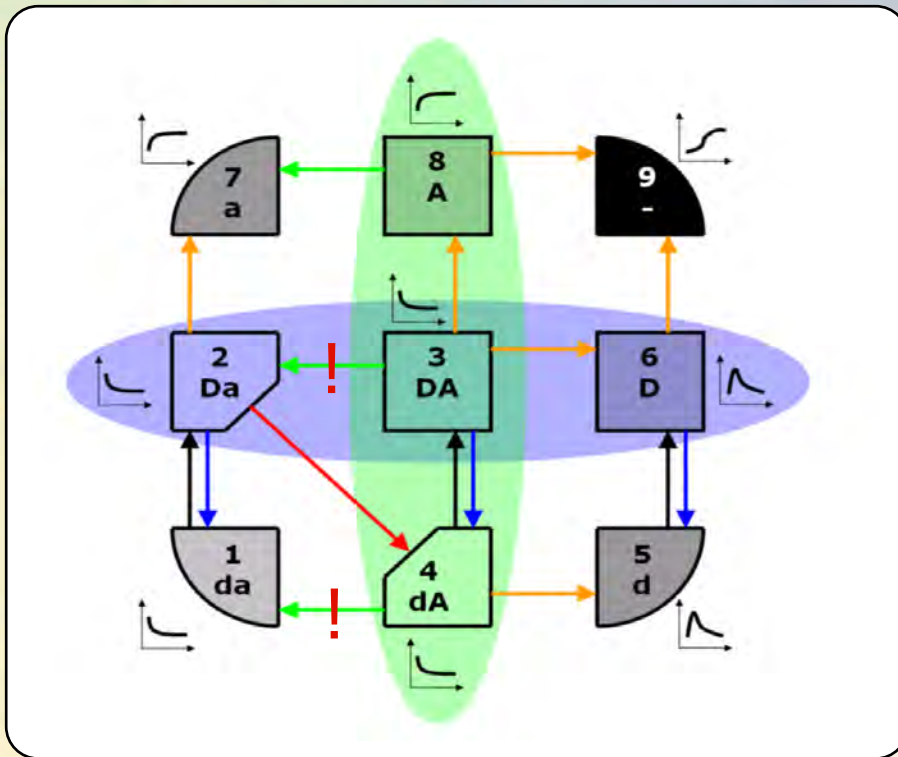


2 FRET pair with
dark acceptors

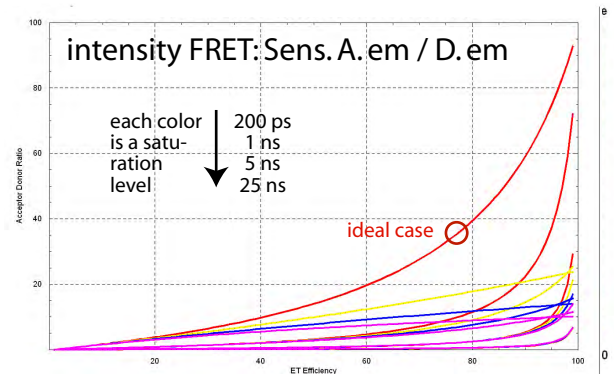
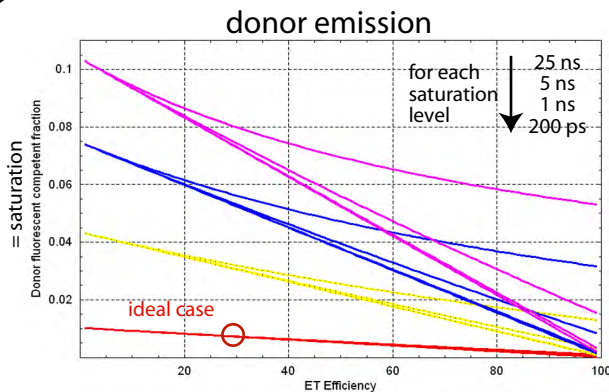
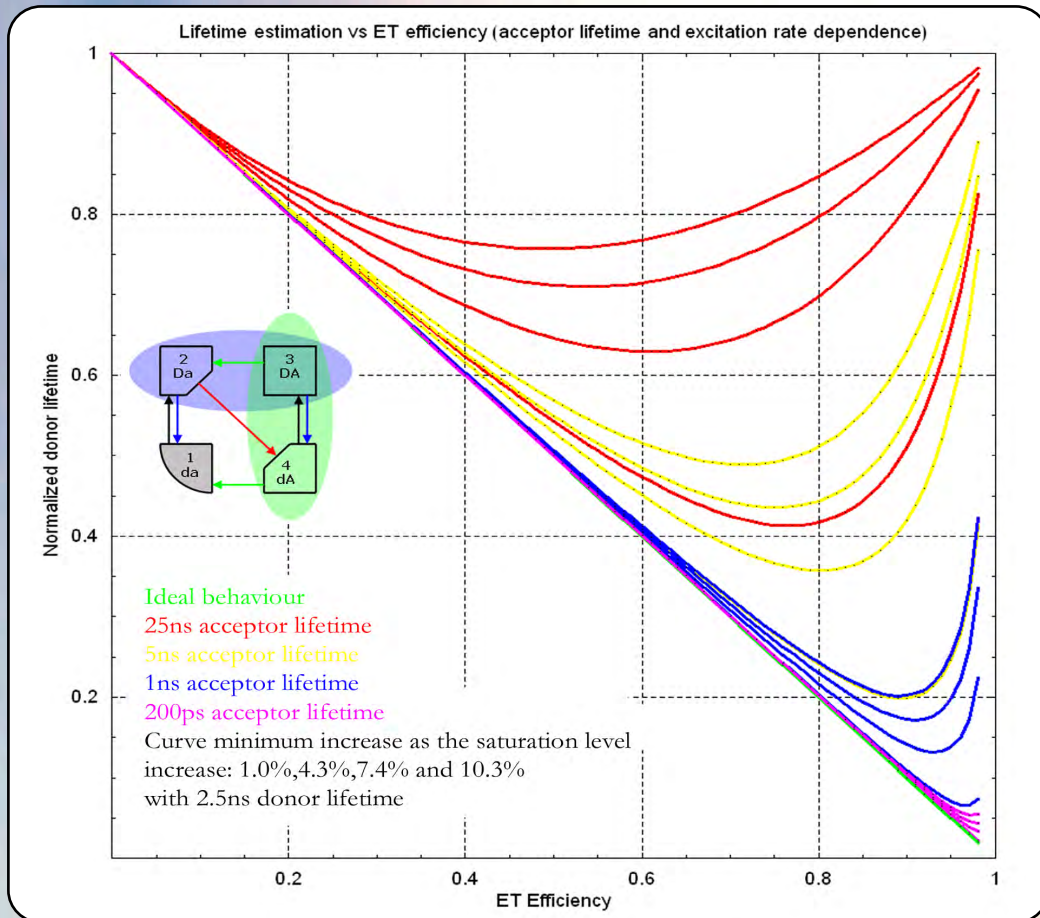


Why have a dark acceptor?

3: no frustration of FRET (no build-up of FRET-incompetent DA species, AND no contamination of FRET donor lifetime with non-FRET donor decay lifetime)



FRET incompetent fraction effects



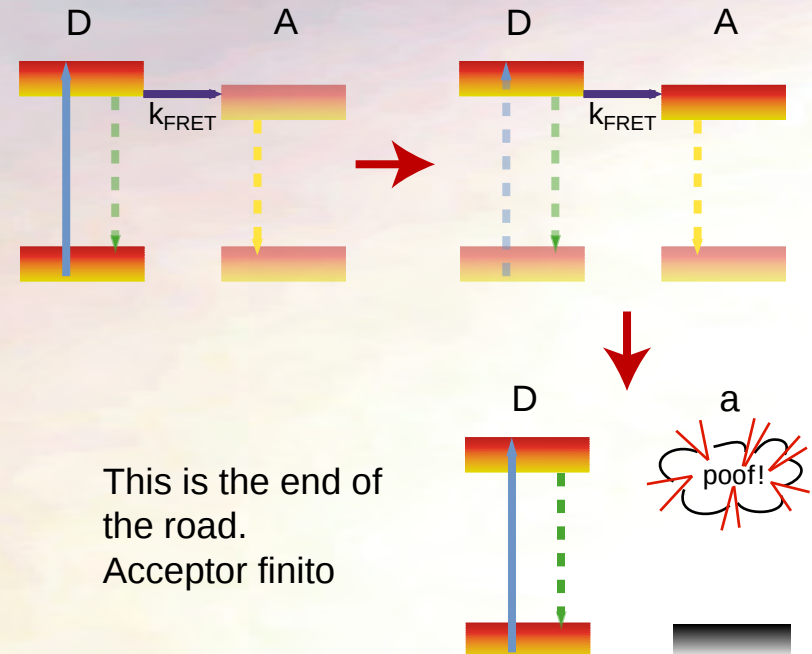
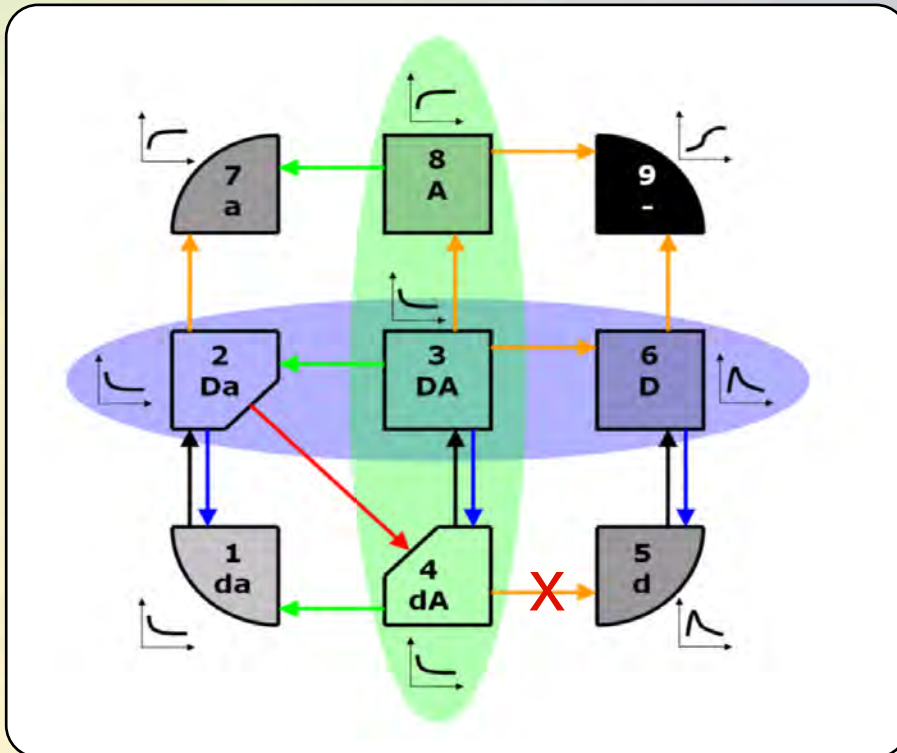
Build-up of the FRET-incompetent DA state causes :

- the emission of photons with normal, unreduced, lifetime
this has consequence for FLIM
- the emission of photons that should have been quenched by FRET
this has consequence for FLIM, but more so for intensity-based ratio methods
because the ratio is highly unlinear and the error thus "explodes"

this effect increases with acceptor lifetime and saturation-level of the donor!

Why have a dark acceptor?

4: no sensitized acceptor photobleaching therefore
no loss of FRET and persistent protection of donor
for photobleaching



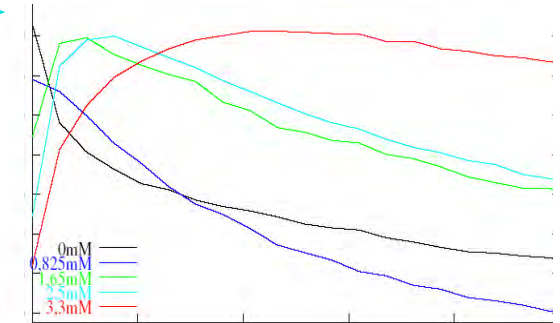
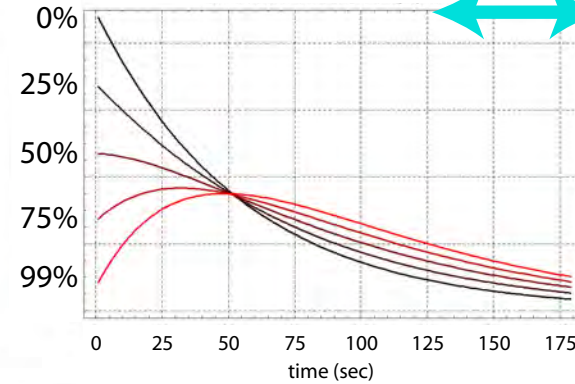
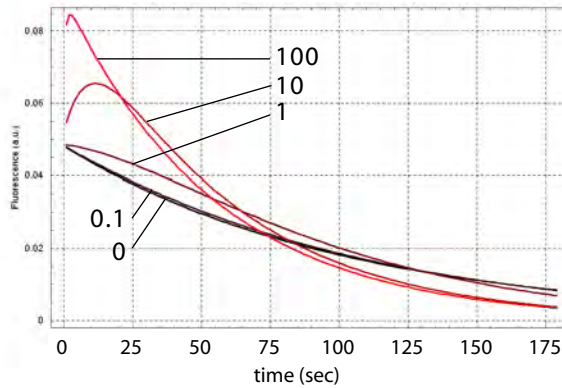
THE PROBLEM OF SENSITIZED ACCEPTOR PHOTOBLEACHING IN FRET

photostability ratio
donor/acceptor

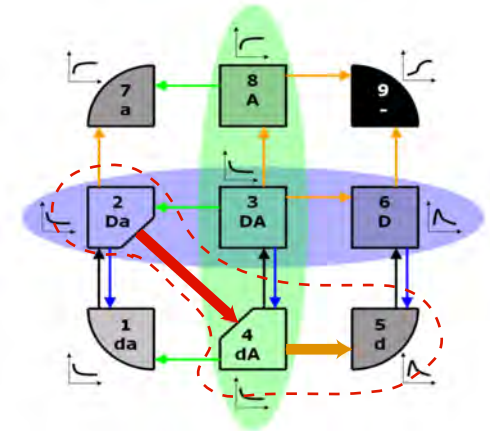
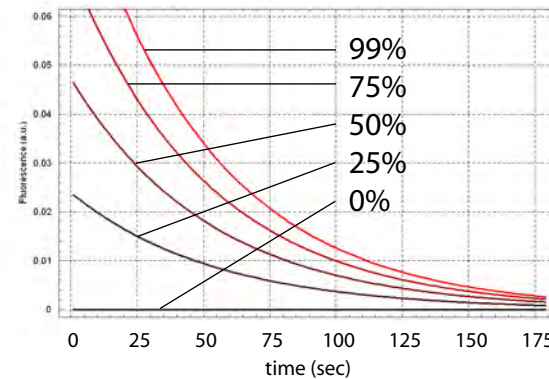
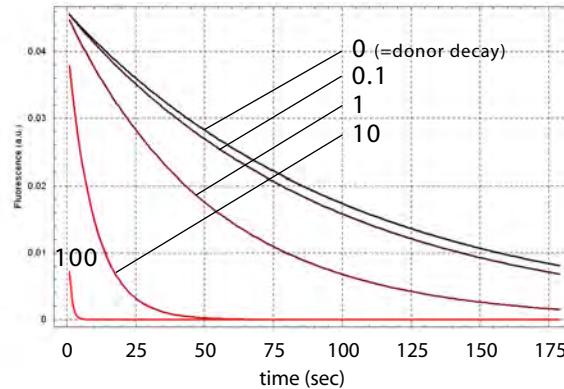
FRET efficiency

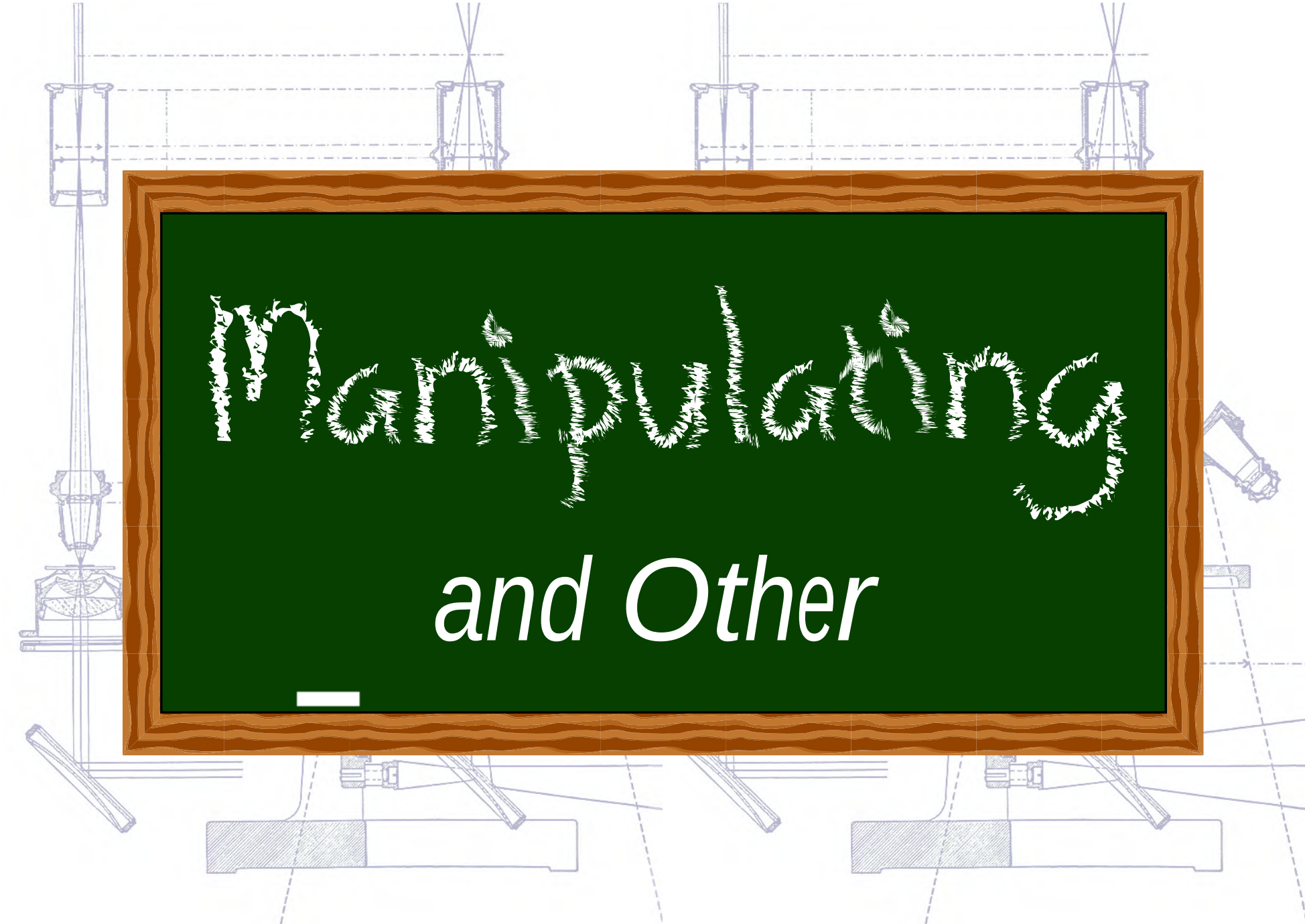
GFP-labeled beads incubated with increasing concentrations of Rhodamin-6G leads to concentration-dependent FRET as the average distance between molecules decreases

Donor
emission



sensitized
Acceptor
emission

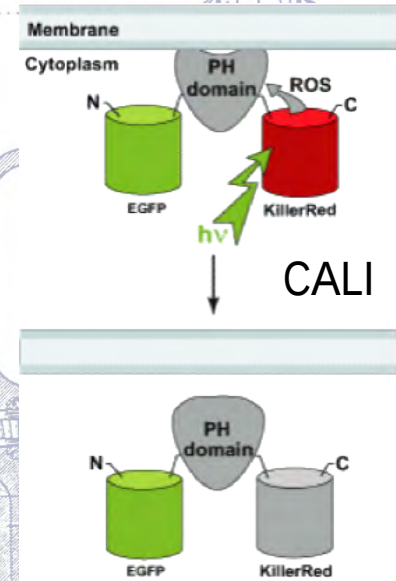
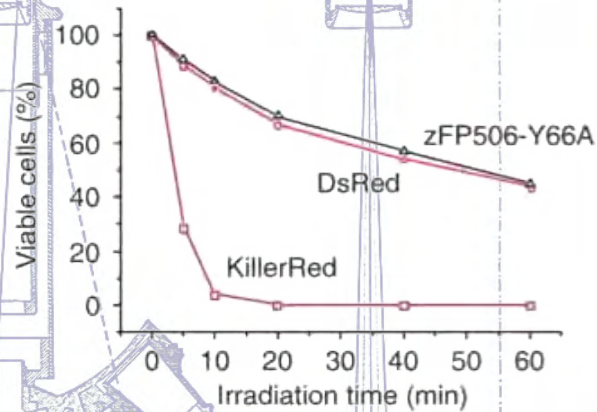
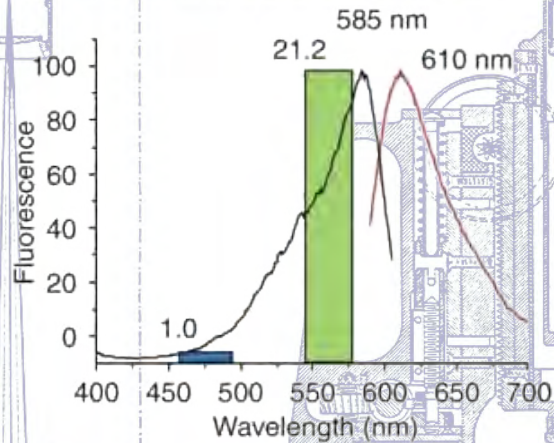




Manipulating

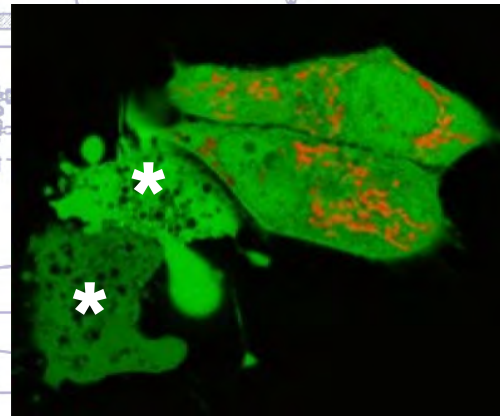
and Other

even more scary: Killer Red FP

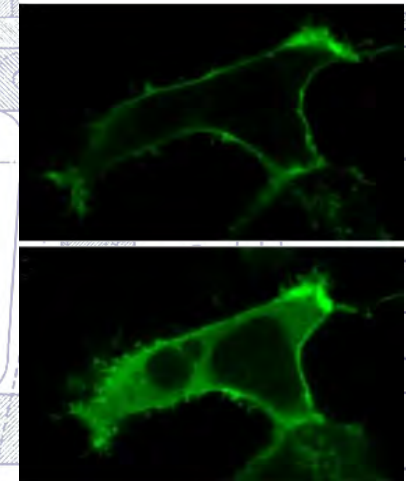


selective killing

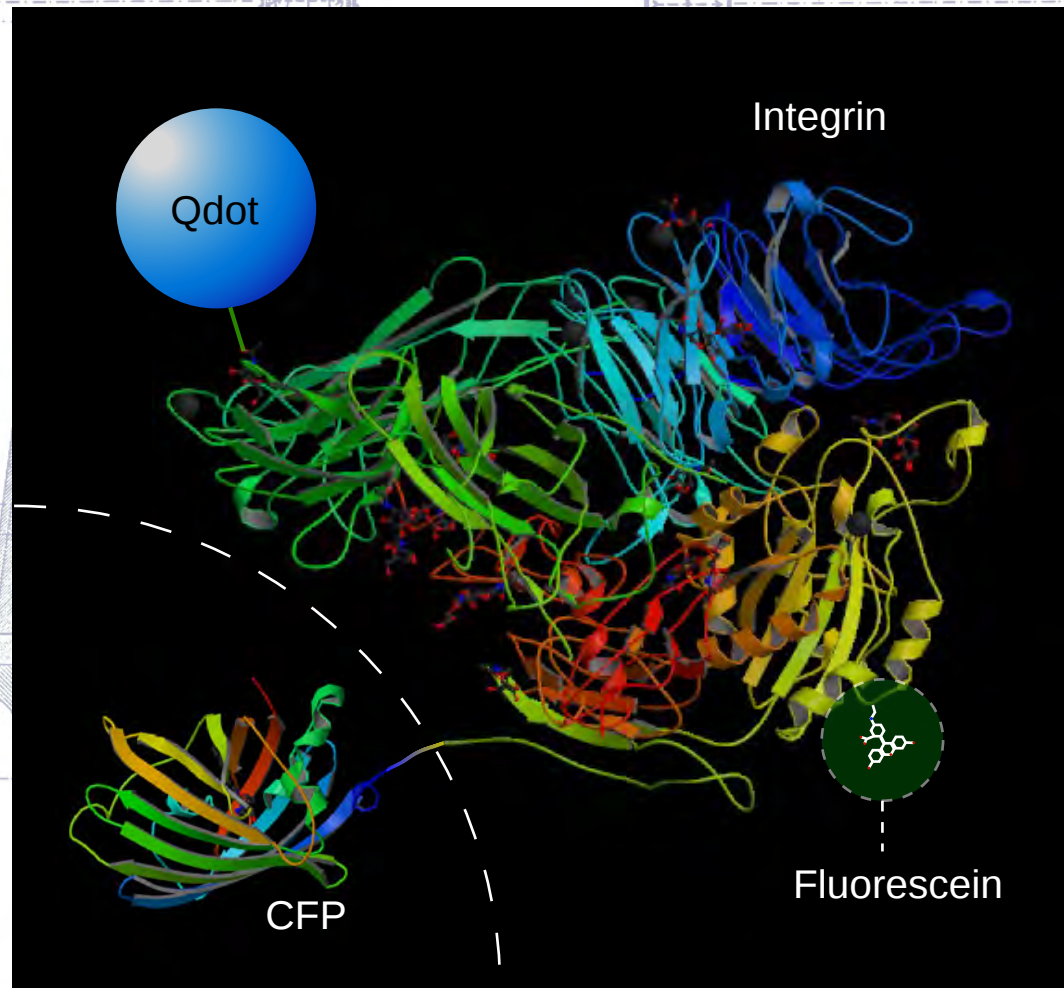
- genetically-encoded photosensitizer
- generates singlet oxygen ROS mechanism ?



killer-red Mito $\pm$ 1 h.
Turbo-GFP cytoplasm

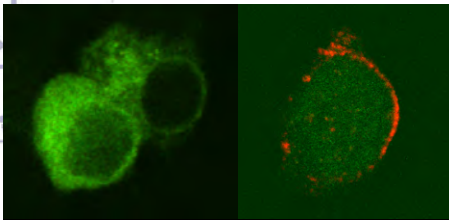


GFP and synthetic fluorophores

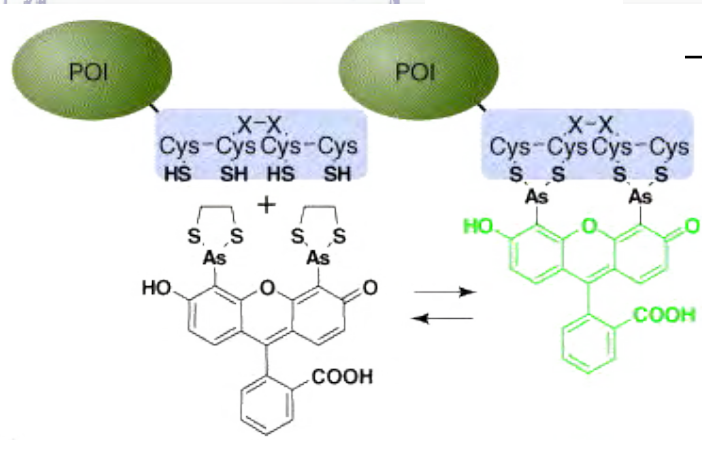
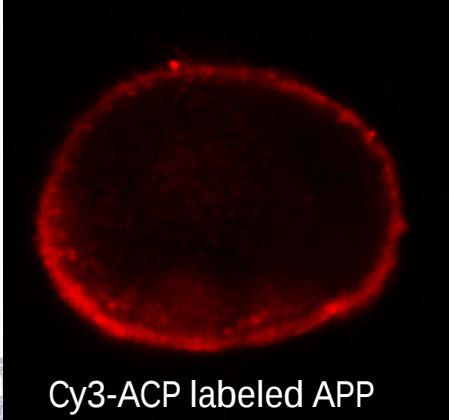


bioorthogonal chemical labeling

GFP-APP, red Qdot-labeled sAPP

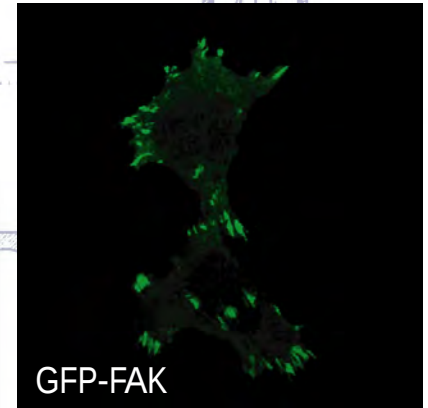


Cy3-ACP labeled APP

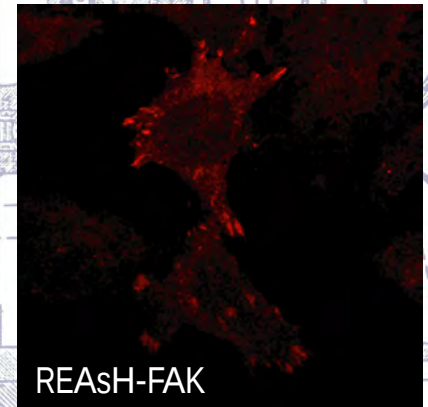


(G. Bunt, Stuttgart University)

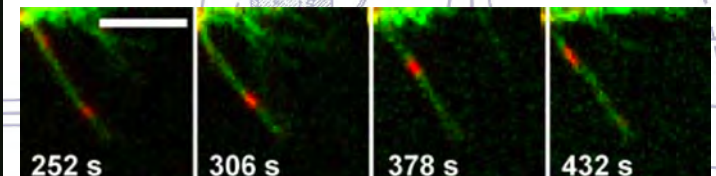
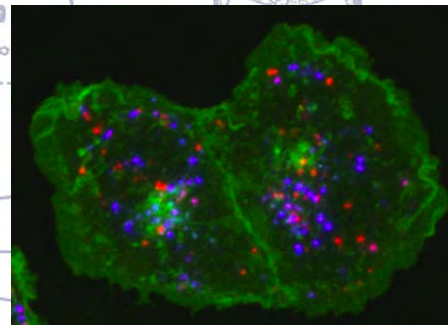
GFP-FAK



REASH-FAK

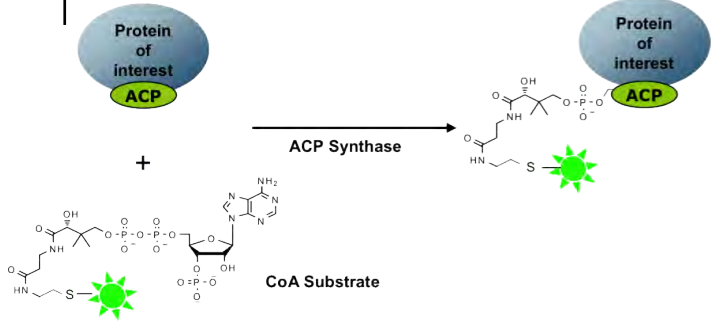


GFP-EGFR, Qdot-EGF orange and blue Qdots followed each other by 20 min.

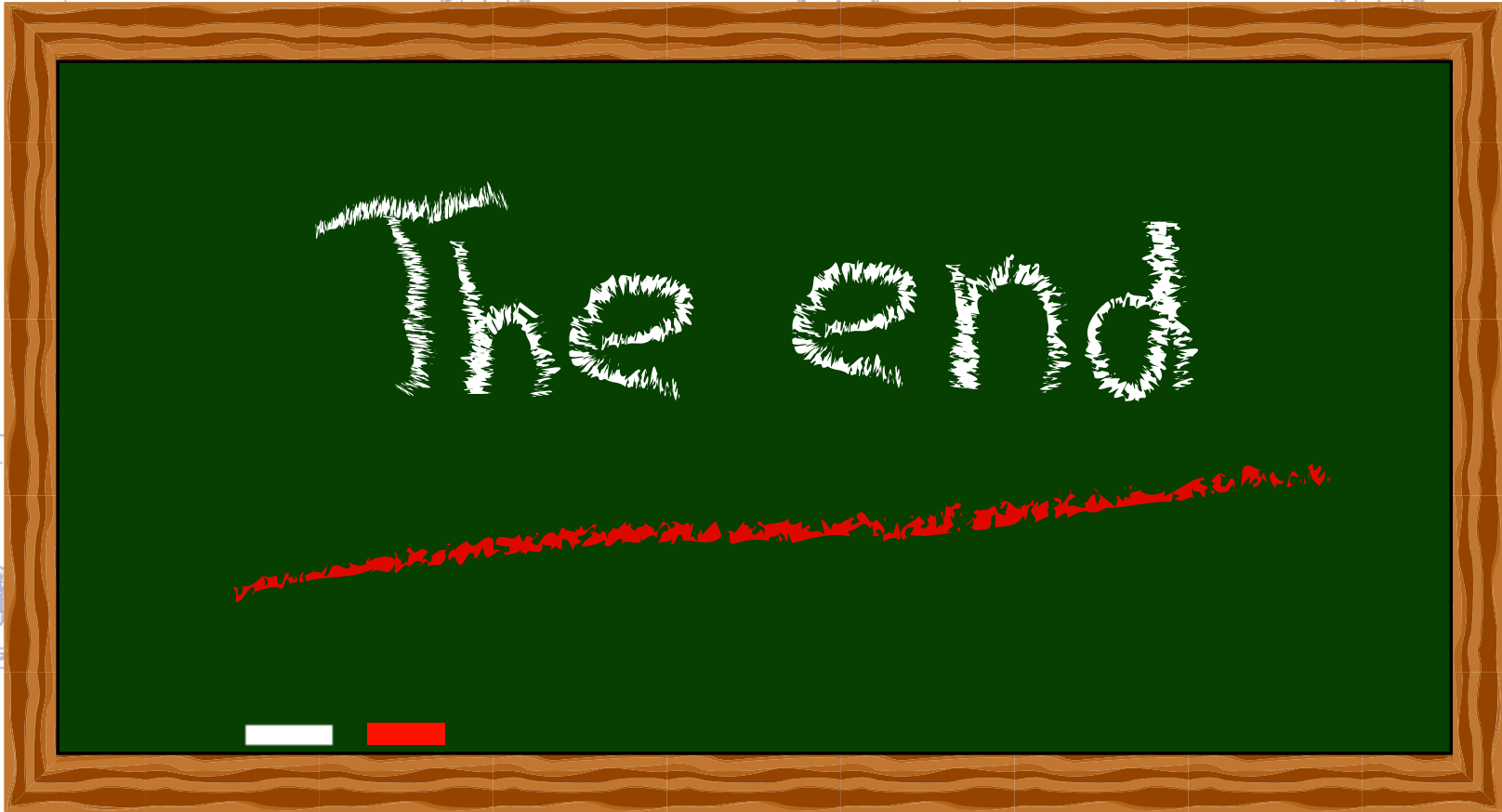


Qdot-EGF during actin-driven retrograde filopodial transport

Arndt-Jovin (2003) Proc. SPIE 6096: 60960



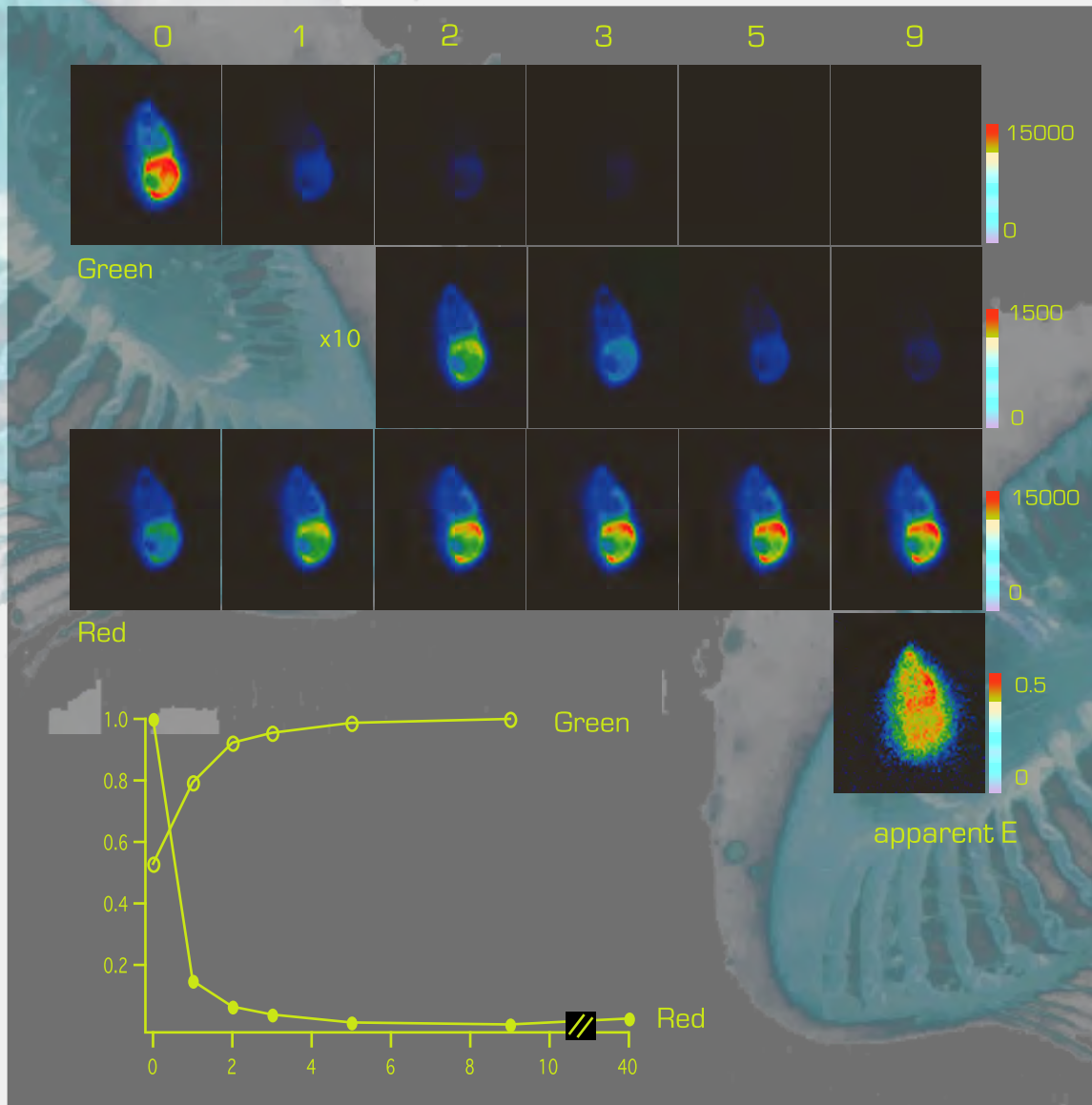
reviews: Prescher (2005) Nat. Chem. Biol. 1: 13-21
Ting (2005) Curr. Opin. Biotechnol. 16: 35-40
Miller (2005) Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol. 9: 56-61



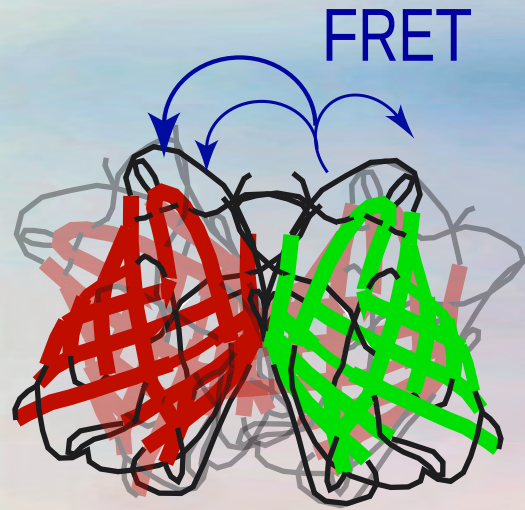
The end

fred.wouters@gwdg.de

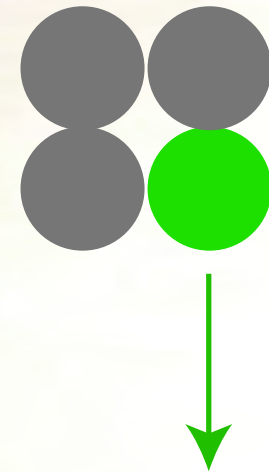
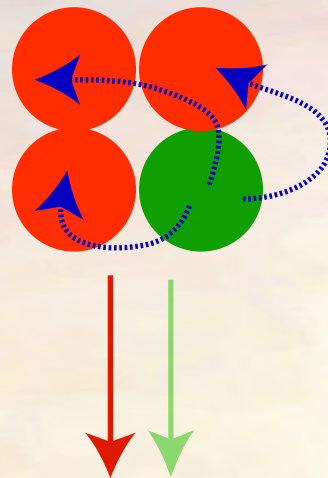
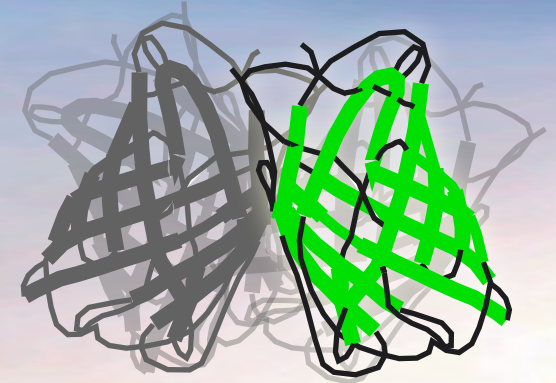
MORE GREEN FLUORESCENT PROBLEMS



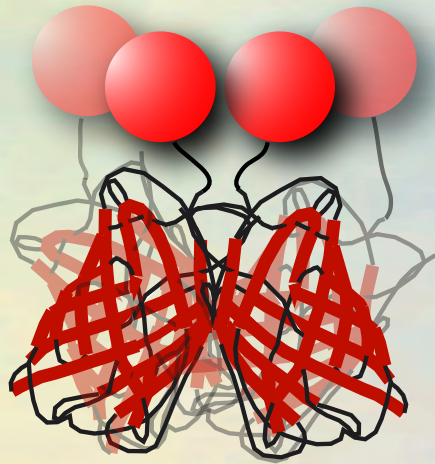
SEEING RED & GREEN



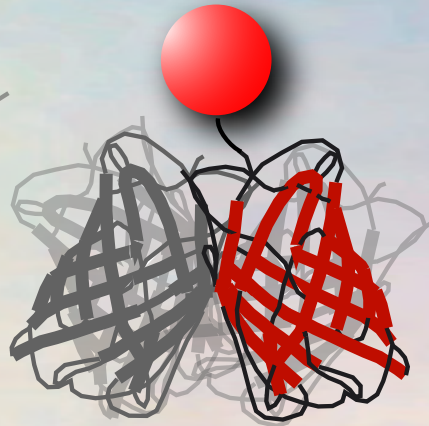
upon photobleaching



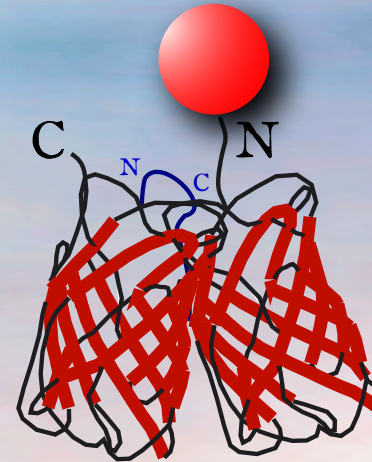
COPING WITH TETRAMERISATION



1. BIOLOGICAL SELECTION
CHOOSE PROTEINS
OR DOMAINS THAT
DON'T CARE ABOUT
BEING TETRAMERIC OR
THAT ARE TERTRAMERIC
(ION CHANNELS!!)



2. DILUTION WITH
NON-FLUORESCENT
"HELPER RED"

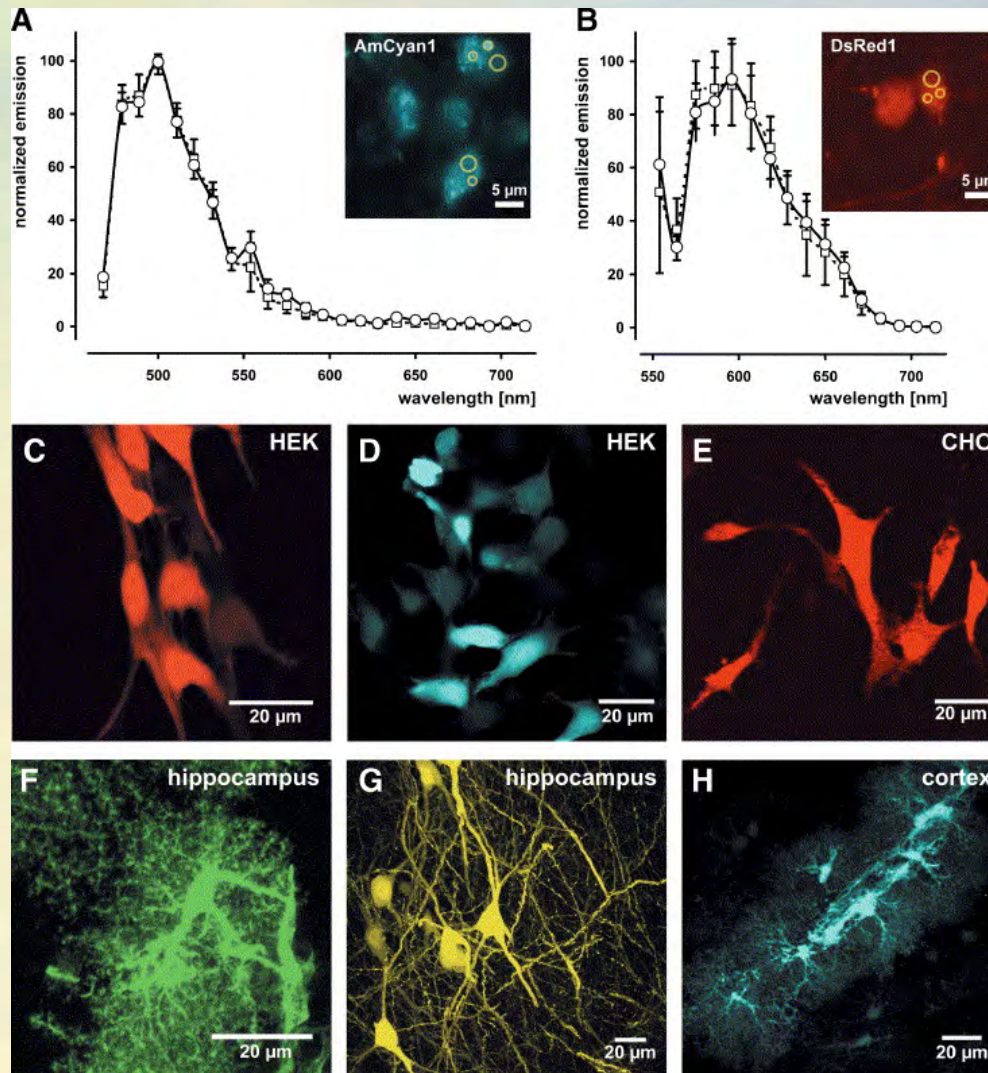


3. HEAD-TO-TAIL
DIMER OF
DS-RED OR
HC-RED



4. HEAVY
MUTAGENESIS
MONOMERIC
DS-RED

even the "monomerized" forms aggregate



when expressed
in transgenic mice

as compared to

their transient expression

or their *Aequoria*
counterparts