

# FRET

with a focus on organic and inorganic dyes

## 0. Introduction

Protein - Protein interaction, Protein - DNA interaction, Chemical Sensor and ....

We want to know physical relationships.

### FRET

Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer

- + Nonradiative process whereby an excited state donor D transfers its energy to a proximal ground state acceptor A. (Figure. 1)
- + The rate of energy transfer is **highly dependent on the distance "r"** between the donor and acceptor molecules.
- + By measuring the FRET efficiency, **we can know the distance** between donor and acceptor.
- + spectroscopic ruler

Figure. 1 FRET

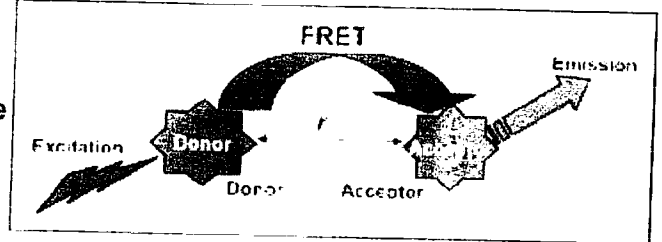
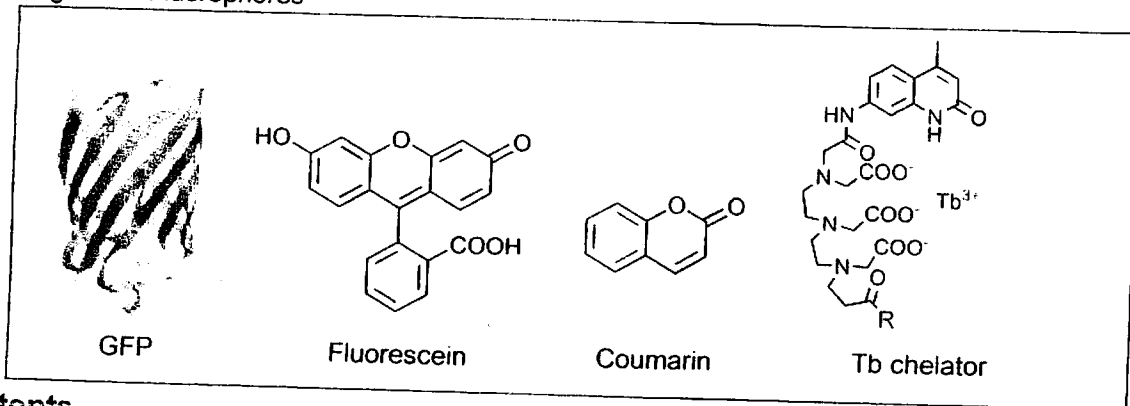


Figure. 2 Fluorophores



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## 1. Features of FRET

### 2.1 Fluorescence, Stokes Shift, FRET : qualitative aspects

+ Stokes Shift  
a phenomenon that emission wave length is longer than excitation wave length.

- + FRET requirements are
1. large spectral overlap
  2. distance (10 ~ 100Å)
  3. appropriate dipole orientation ( $\kappa^2$  is not zero.)

Figure. 3 Fluorescence

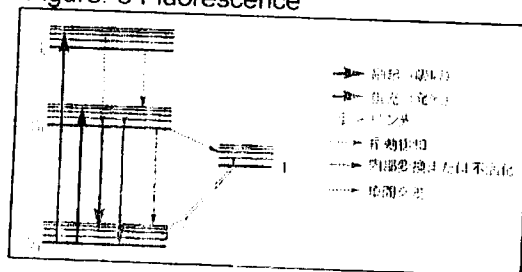


Figure 4 Stokes Shift and Spectral overlap between donor and acceptor

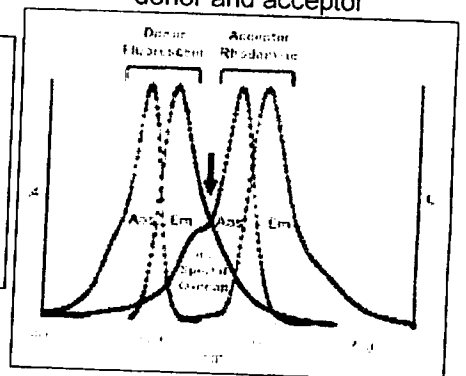
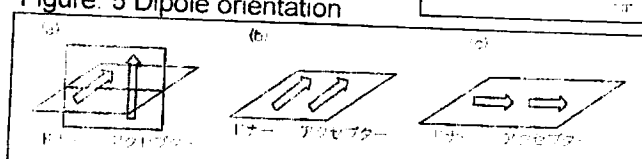


Figure. 5 Dipole orientation



1/10  
11/25/09

## 2.2 FRET : quantitative aspects

Förster : a person who established the quantitative theory on FRET in 1948. According to his theory,

$$E = R_0^6 / (R_0^6 + r^6) \longrightarrow r = R_0(1/E - 1)^{1/6} \quad \text{eq. 1}$$

$E$  = FRET efficiency,  $R_0$  = Förster radius,  $r$  = distance between donor and acceptor

$R_0$  is the distance between donor and acceptor at which 50% of the excited donor molecule decay by energy transfer. And  $R_0$  is a constant which is inherent in the pair of donor and acceptor and their orientation.

$$R_0 = 9.78 \times 10^3 [\kappa^2 n^{-4} Q_d J]^{1/6} \text{ (in \AA)} \quad \text{eq. 2}$$

$\kappa^2$  = dipole orientation,  $n$  = refractive index of the medium,  $Q_d$  = quantum yield of donor,  $J$  = overlap integral

On the other hand,

$$E = 1 - F_{da} / F_d \quad \text{eq. 3}$$

$F_{da}$  = Fluorescence intensity of donor in the presence of acceptor  
 $F_d$  = Fluorescence intensity of donor in the absence of acceptor

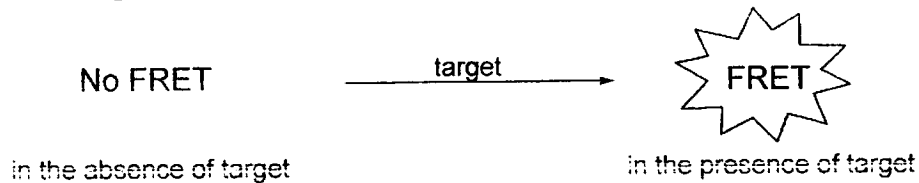


$R_0$  : 計算可,  $E$  : 測定可  $\xrightarrow{\text{eq. 1}}$   $r$  = 計算可

## 2. Design of FRET-based sensor : $H_2O_2$ sensor

### 2.0 design approach in general

ref. C. J. Chang et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, 128, 9640.



+ FRET

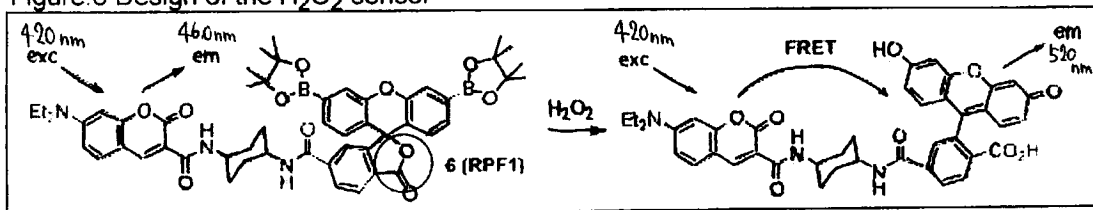
requirements are

1. large spectral overlap
2. distance (10 ~ 100Å)
3. appropriate dipole orientation ( $\kappa^2$  is not zero.)



### 2.1 this work

Figure.6 Design of the  $H_2O_2$  sensor



lactone form = spectral overlap between coumarin emission and fluorescein absorption is minimized

FRET is suppressed and only blue donor emission is observed upon excitation of the coumarin fluorophore

fluorescein shows a strong absorption in the coumarin emission region, then spectral overlap is enhanced

Excitation of the donor coumarin fluorophore results in increased green fluorescein acceptor emission by FRET

**1. large spectral overlap**

coumarin emission at 460 nm

fluorescein absorption at 460 nm

fluorescein emission at 520 nm

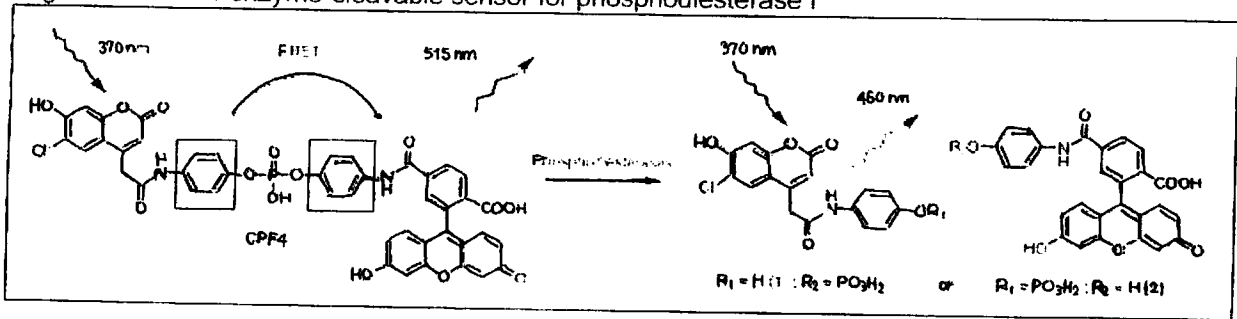
linker : *trans* 1,4-disubstituted cyclohexane

inspired by Nagano sensei's works

ref. T. Nagano et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, 124, 1653.

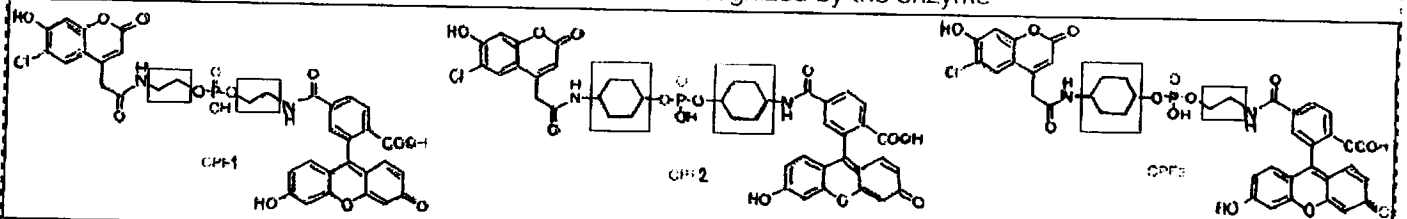
Nagano-sensei's work = enzyme-cleavable sensor molecule for phosphodiesterase activity based on FRET

Figure. 7 CPF 4 : enzyme-cleavable sensor for phosphodiesterase I



CPF 4 worked well, on the other hand, CPF 1-3.

Figure. 9 Sensors which did not show FRET or are not recognized by the enzyme



CPF 1 and CPF 3 = flexible linker = They formed the ground-state dye-to-dye close contact in aqueous environment (because fluorophore are hydrophilic. cf. In MeOH, they didn't do so.) then, fluorescence was quenched and FRET was not observed.

CPF 2 = rigid linker = It showed FRET. (Excitation of the coumarin fluorophore resulted in increase of emission of fluorescein.) But CPF 2 was not hydrolyzed by phosphodiesterase probably because of steric hindrance.

\*quench = a decrease in quantum yield. It can be caused several reasons. In this case, two chromophores binded to each other via weak interaction before excitation, then formed non-fluorescent complex as a whole.

Figure. 8 Spectral profile of CPF 4

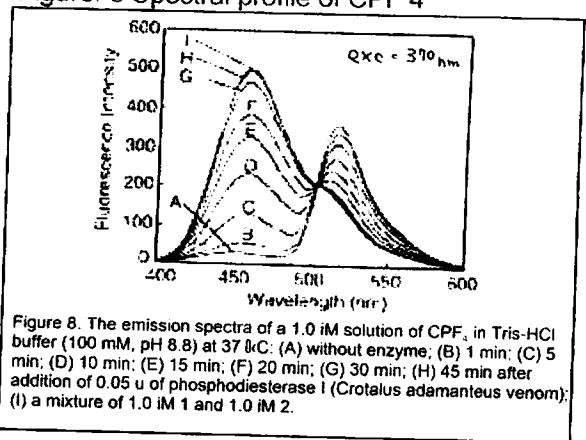


Figure 8. The emission spectra of a 1.0 μM solution of CPF<sub>4</sub> in Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 8.8) at 37 °C: (A) without enzyme; (B) 1 min; (C) 5 min; (D) 10 min; (E) 15 min; (F) 20 min; (G) 30 min; (H) 45 min after addition of 0.05 μ of phosphodiesterase I (*Crotalus adamanteus* venom); (I) a mixture of 1.0 μM 1 and 1.0 μM 2.

Phenyl linker has appropriate rigidity.

+ Figure. 10 (a) As time goes by, blue-colored fluorescence from a corresponding coumarin emission band centered at 464nm decreased, and green-colored fluorescence from a fluorescein emission band at 517nm increased. This is consistent with increased FRET from the coumarin donor to the fluorescein acceptor.

+ Generation of open fluorescein was confirmed by HRMS.

+ Figure. 10 (b) highly H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> selective

+ Figure. 10 (c) application to yeast mitochondria H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> level detected RPF1(0.2μM) are within ranges reported using other analytical technique.

Figure. 10 Profile of RPF1

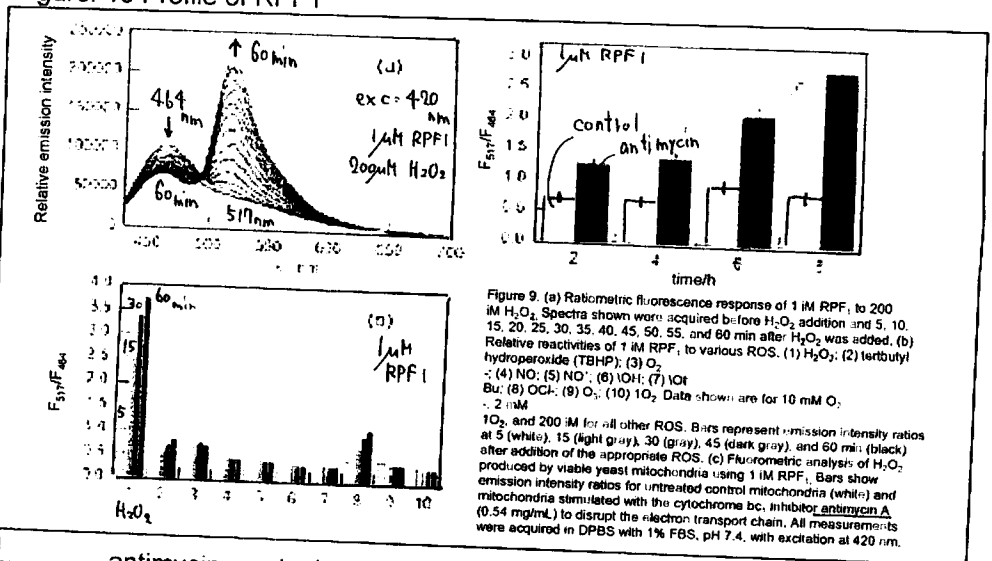


Figure 9. (a) Ratiometric fluorescence response of 1 μM RPF<sub>1</sub> to 200 μM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Spectra shown were acquired before H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> addition and 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 min after H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added. (b) Relative reactivities of 1 μM RPF<sub>1</sub> to various ROS. (1) H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>; (2) tertbutyl hydroperoxide (TBHP); (3) O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>; (4) NO<sup>-</sup>; (5) NO<sup>+</sup>; (6) IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>; (7) IO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>; Bu; (8) OCl<sub>2</sub>; (9) O<sub>3</sub>; (10) IO<sub>2</sub>. Data shown are for 10 mM O<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 mM TBHP, and 200 μM for all other ROS. Bars represent emission intensity ratios at 5 (white), 15 (light gray), 30 (gray), 45 (dark gray), and 60 min (black) after addition of the appropriate ROS. (c) Fluorometric analysis of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> produced by viable yeast mitochondria using 1 μM RPF<sub>1</sub>. Bars show emission intensity ratios for untreated control mitochondria (white) and mitochondria stimulated with the cytochrome bc<sub>1</sub> inhibitor antimycin A (0.54 mg/mL) to disrupt the electron transport chain. All measurements were acquired in DPBS with 1% FBS, pH 7.4, with excitation at 420 nm.

antimycin = cytochrome bc<sub>1</sub> inhibitor

= trigger generation of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and other reactive oxygen species

+ visible wave length = minimize damage to sample

### 3. FRET-based investigation of conformational change : AMPA receptor

ref. G. Ramanoudjame *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 2006, 103, 10473.

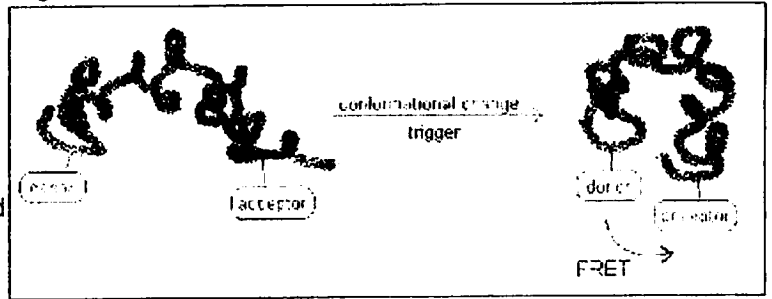
#### 3.1 design concept of this work

FRET is induced when donor and acceptor get close by conformational change of protein.

1. large spectral overlap
2. distance (10 ~ 100Å)
3. appropriate dipole orientation ( $\kappa^2$  is not zero.)

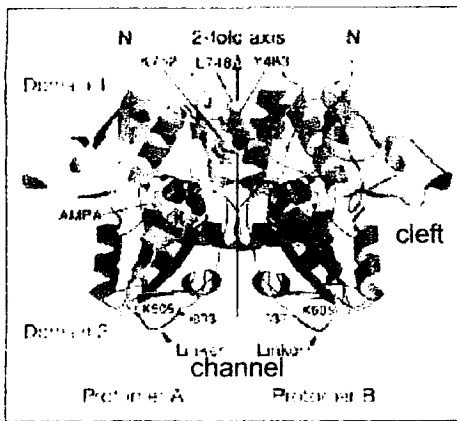
In this work, protein is AMPA receptor (ligand-gated ion channel), and trigger is its ligands, or AMPA, glutamate and kainate.

Figure. 11 FRET induced by conformational change



#### 3.2 background

Figure. 12 Receptor-AMPA complex



- + AMPA receptors : primary mediators of fast excitatory synaptic transmission in the mammalian CNS.
- + AMPA is a **ligand-gated ion channel** (Figure. 12, 13).
- + **Crystallographic analysis** showed that the extent of cleft closure in the ligand-binding domain controls the activation of the receptor (Chart. 1, Figure. 14).

ref. E. Gouaux *et al. Nature* 2002, 417, 245.

E. Gouaux *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 2003, 100, 5736.

Figure. 13 A model for activation

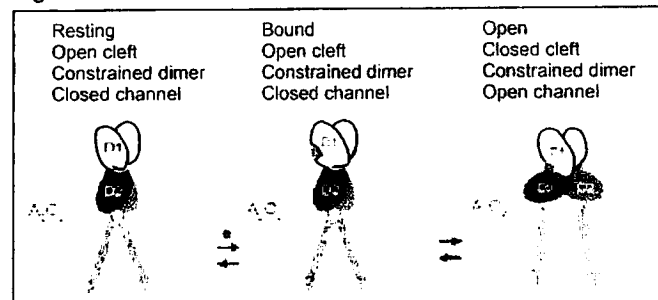


Figure. 14 Two-state model and multistate model

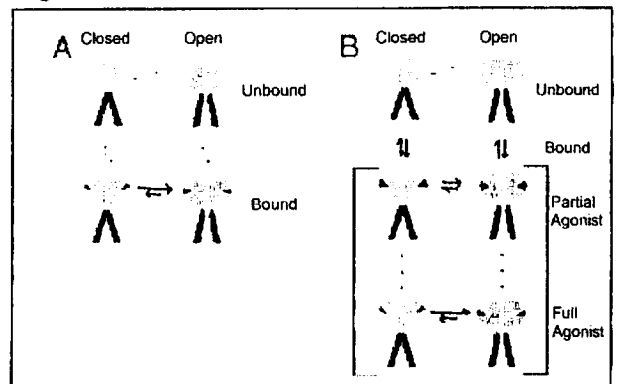
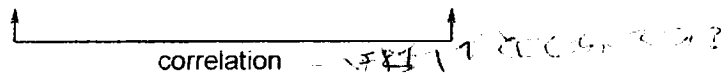


Chart. 1 Cleft closure-activation correlation of WT AMPA receptor

AMPA and glutamate (**full agonist**) : induced large cleft closure : **well-opened channel**  
 kainate (**partial agonist**) : induced small cleft closure : **not well-opened channel** (multistate model)



#### + L650T mutant

1. AMPA is a **partial agonist** in the context of L650T.
2. **AMPA-bound form** of the L650T mutation of the receptor **crystallized in two forms** ; one structure where the cleft is closed 11° and a second structure in which the cleft is closed 22° relative to the open apo form of the protein.

Intermediate activation by AMPA in this mutation is dictated by an equilibrium of a low-activity and high-activity state ?

These backgrounds were collected with crystallographic analysis.

Figure. 15 Activation profile of WT and L650T

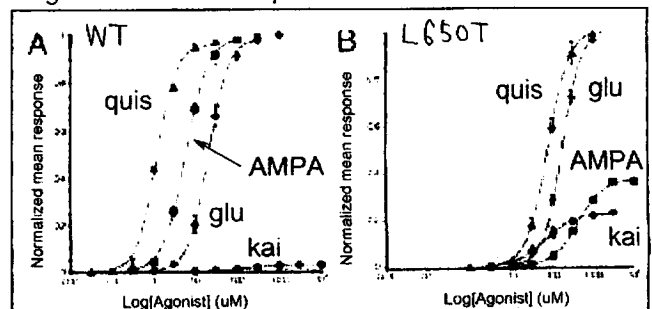


Fig. 2. Dose-response curves and  $I_{max}$  traces for the L483Y and L483Y L650T variants of the full-length GluR<sub>2</sub> receptor recorded by using the two-electrode, voltage-clamp technique. (A) Normalized dose-response curves for glutamate (Glu) (□), AMPA (○), quisqualate (Quis) (△), and kainate (KA) (◇) measured from oocytes expressing GluR<sub>2</sub> L483Y receptors. (B)  $EC_{50}$  data for the GluR<sub>2</sub> L483Y L650T mutant, in combination with glutamate (□), AMPA (○), quisqualate (△), or kainate (◇), scaled for efficacy relative to glutamate.

In this work, FRET-based assay allowed authors to investigate the conformational changes in the ligand-binding domain **in solution** without the crystallographic constrains.

### 3.3 fluorophore labeling

Two strategies were used.

Table. 1 Two strategies used

strategy	donor	acceptor
1	S652C-[DTPA-Tb]	His tag-[Cy3 derivative of nitrotriacetic acid chelate of Ni(II)]
2	S652C-[DTA-Tb] or [TTHA-Tb]	T394C-fluorescein

+ DTPA-Tb (DiethyleneTriaminePentaAcetic acid chelate of Tb)

ref. *Annu. Rev. Biophys. Struct.* 2002, 31, 275.

- \* Antenna : absorb the excitation light then transfer the energy (because of weak absorbance of the lanthanide)
- \* Chelate : binding lanthanide tightly shielding the lanthanide ion from the quenching effects of water scaffold for the attachment of the antenna and a reactive group
- \* Lanthanide : Tb, Eu, Dy, Sm (emission in the visible region)

Figure. 16 Position of fluorophores

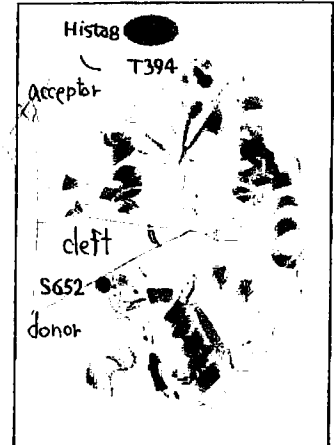
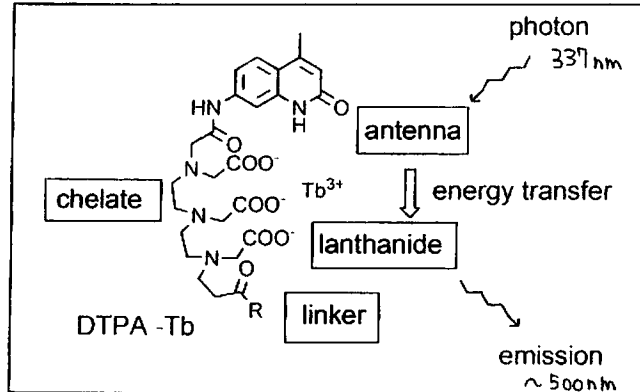


Figure. 17 Schematic illustration of DTPA - Tb donor



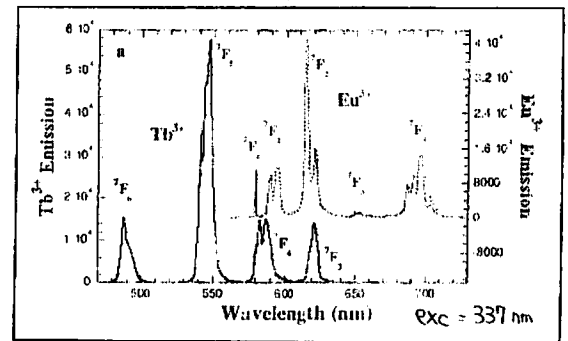
cf. TTHA - Tb (Triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid chelate of Tb)

#### Characteristics

- \* large stokes shift
- \* sharply spiked emission (10-20nm)
- \* long excited-state lifetimes (msec) cf. organic dyes : nsec

↓  
**advantage** = discrimination against excitation light  
 eliminate background fluorescence

Figure. 18 Emission Spectra of DTPA - Tb



+ Cy3 derivative of nitrotriacetic acid chelate of Ni(II)

ref. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2001, 123, 12123.

- \* labeling of protein : general use of cystein residue
  - \* proteins that do not contain cystein residue : site-specific mutagenesis
  - \* However, most proteins contain several cystein residues
- ↓ site-specific labeling is difficult.

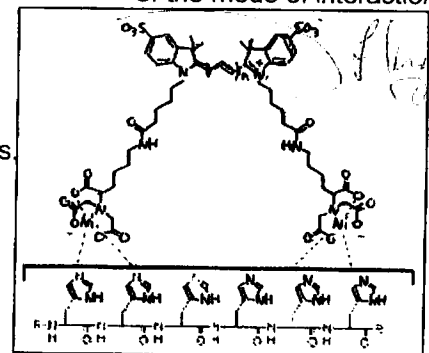
use of hexahistidine tag

The hexahistidine tag is known to interact tightly with transition metal complexes.

**advantage**

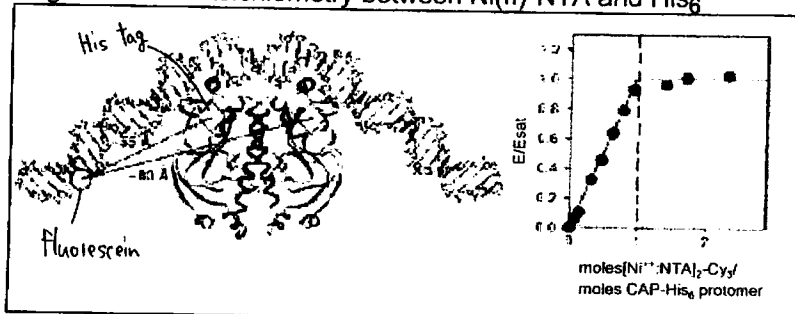
- \* widely used hexahistidine tag (purification, easy introduction etc..)
- \* in situ labeling

Figure. 19 Schematic representation of the mode of interaction



stoichiometry is 1:1.

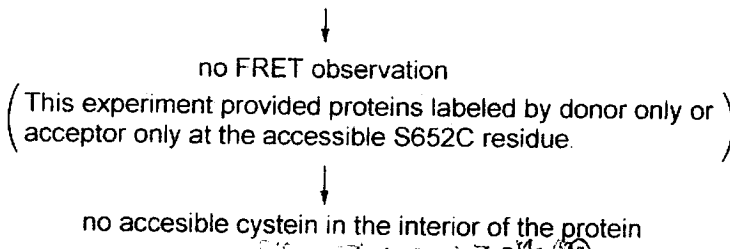
Figure. 20 1:1 stoichiometry between Ni(II)-NTA and His<sub>6</sub>



### 3.4 conformational change analysis using wild type receptor

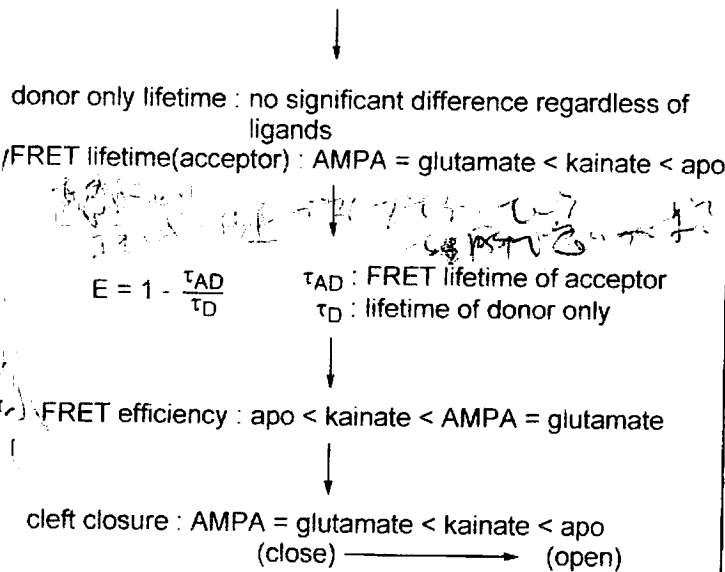
#### 3.4.1 There is no accessible cysteine in the interior of the protein

S652C protein was labeled with a 1:1 ratio of DTPA-Tb and fluorescein. (note that T394 was not mutated)



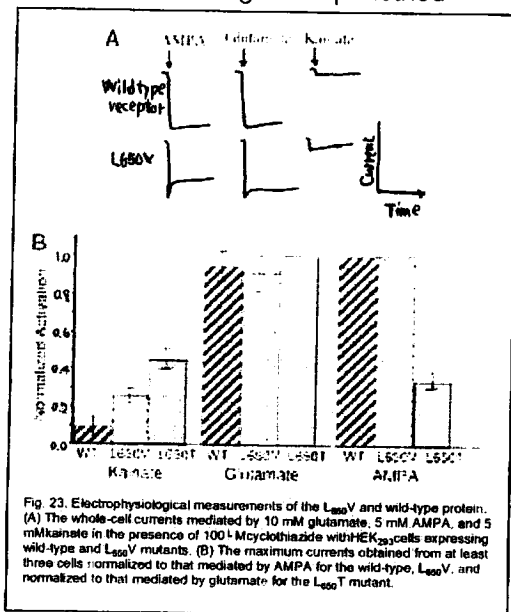
#### 3.4.2 FRET study in solution supports the results obtained by crystallographic analysis using wild type protein.

The fluorescence lifetime of donor in the absence of an acceptor and FRET lifetime as measured at the acceptor emission wave length were investigated.



This is consistent with the result of crystallographic analysis.

Figure. 23 Activation measured with voltage-clamp method



\* relationships between distance measured with FRET and activation measured with voltage-clamp method

Figure. 21 Fluorescence lifetime for S652C labeled with fluorescein and DTPA-Tb in the apo state

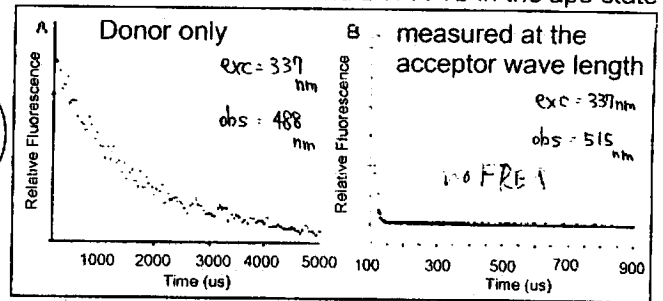


Figure. 22 Fluorescence lifetime : correlation between cleft closure and agonists

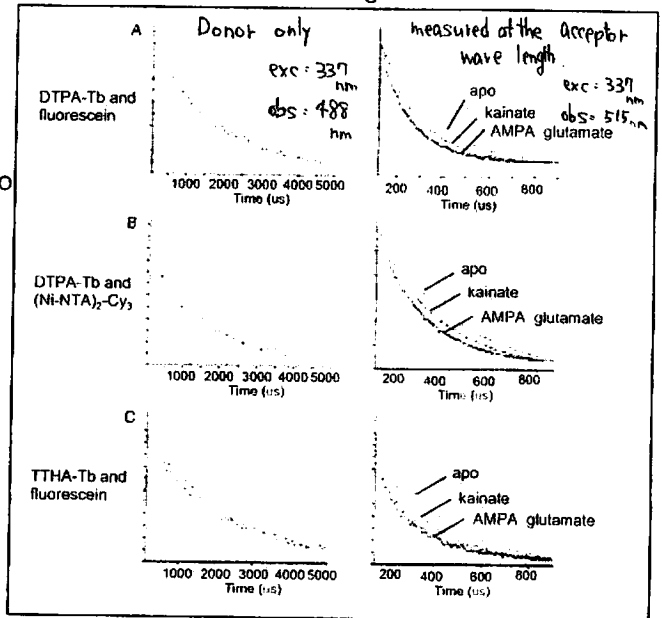
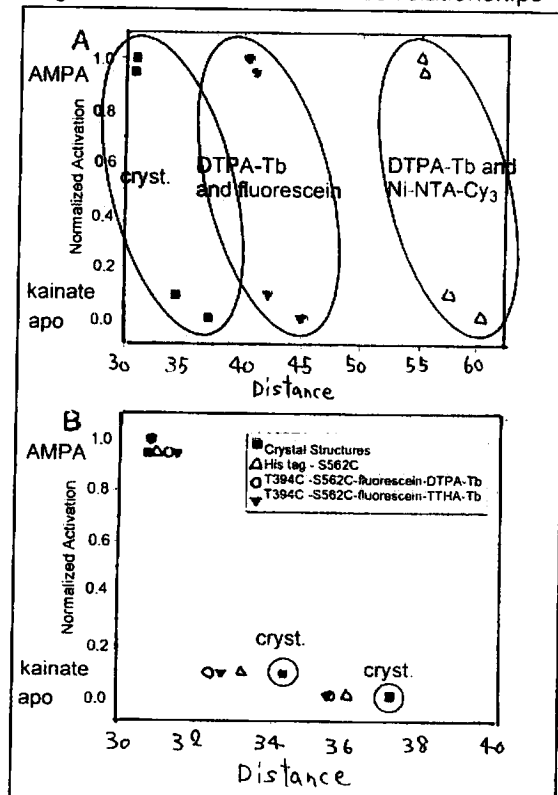


Figure. 24 Activation-Distance relationships



The absolute distance differed, however the **changes** in distances between the various ligated states showed roughly good agreement.

↓  
 minutely, distance changes of FRET study were smaller than those of crystallographic study.

Table 2 Comparison of distance changes (Å)

	apo - kainate	kainate - AMPA
crystallography	3	7
FRET	3	5

### 3.4 conformational change analysis using L650T mutant receptor

The fluorescence lifetimes of L650V (control) and L650T were measured using the same method as wildtype.

↓  
 L650V followed the same trend as WT.  
 Unexpectedly, L650T also did so.

↓  
 AMPA, a **partial agonist** of this mutant protein, exhibited **larger cleft closure on average**.

+  
 FRET lifetime did **not** require a two-exponential fit.  
 = Two distinct populations were not present.

↓  
 Second conformation observed in the crystal structure of the AMPA-bound form of the L650T (11° cleft closure) is not a major second conformation.

↓  
 Low activation of AMPA in the L650T mutation is **not** due to an equilibrium of two distinct low- and high-activity conformations.

Figure 25 FRET lifetime of L650V and L650T

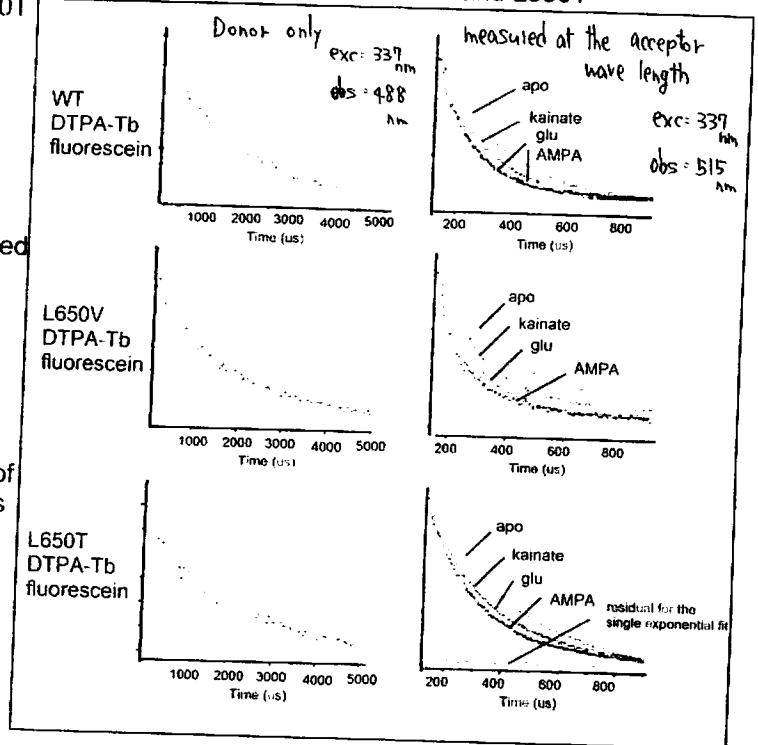


Figure 26 Comparison of activation-distance relationships between WT, L650V, L650T

#### Summary

Although cleft closure is required for channel activation in the mutant, the subtle differences in the extent of activation does **not** necessarily have to be controlled by the degree of cleft closure.

existence of some other mechanism?  
 such as direct coupling mechanism between agonist-binding domain and the channel segments through domain 2.

(see Figure 13. In conventional mechanism, domain 1 is affected by ligand-binding and this effect is conveyed to cleft closure and in the next place to channel.)

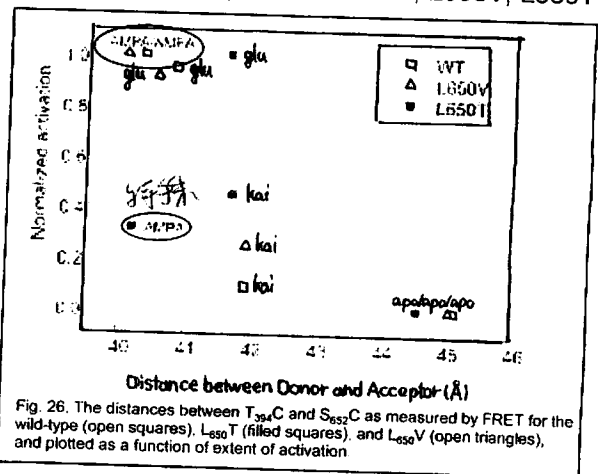
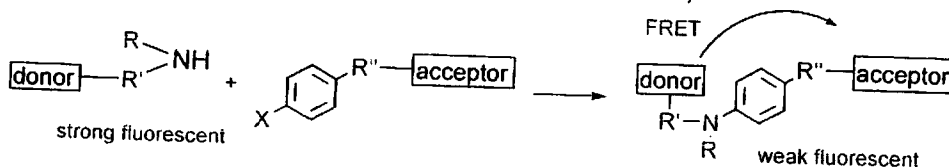


Fig. 26. The distances between T<sub>394</sub>C and S<sub>652</sub>C as measured by FRET for the wild-type (open squares), L<sub>650</sub>T (filled squares), and L<sub>650</sub>V (open triangles), and plotted as a function of extent of activation

## 4. FRET-based high-throughput assay for coupling reaction

### 4.1 purpose of this work

1. evaluate the accuracy of the FRET assay using palladium catalyzed amination of aryl halide as one case.
2. reveal whether high yield could be obtained with bases weaker than NaOt-Bu in more polar media than arenes and ethers using FRET assay. (more polar solvent has an advantage in that it can be used for pharmaceutical intermediates that are often insoluble in aromatic and ether solvents.)



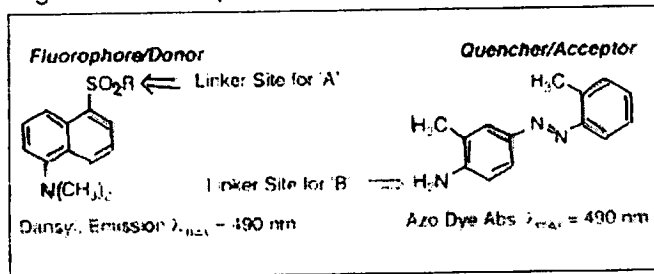
### : Amination of aryl halide

ref. J. H. Hartwig et al. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2003, 125, 6977.

## 4.2 design and selection of chromophores

requires a donor and an acceptor that are stable to the basic conditions of the amination process.

Figure 27 FRET pair



\* 4, 5, and 6 underwent partial to complete cleavage of a carbon-carbon bond of the tether under the reaction condition (3mol% Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, 2.8mol% (t-Bu)<sub>3</sub>P, 1.5eq. NaOt-Bu, 80°C.

\* They used substrate 7 and its chloride analogue for further studies.

Figure 28 Amine substrate 3

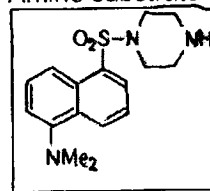
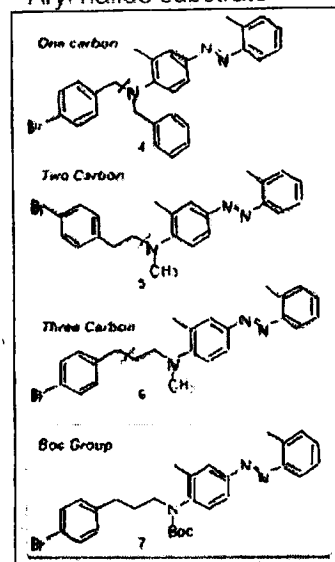


Figure 29 Aryl halide substrate



## 4.3 calibration curve

Solutions containing various ratios of coupled product 8 and starting materials 3 and 7 (1:1 ratio) were prepared, and the fluorescence intensities of the solutions were measured

Table 3 Preparation of calibration curve

Vials	Stock A (uL)	Stock B (uL)	Emission Intensity	Mole Fraction of Coupled Product 8
1	20	0	61621	0.0
2	16	4	51158	0.2
3	12	8	37826	0.4
4	8	12	25465	0.6
5	4	16	13176	0.8
6	0	20	2936	1.0

Figure 30 Calibration curve

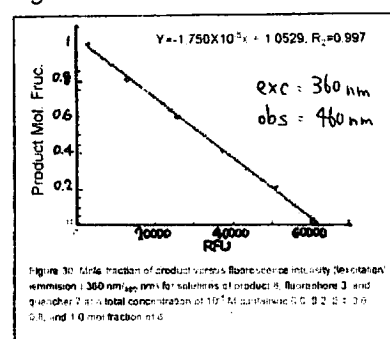


Figure 30: Mole fraction of product versus fluorescence intensity (excitation emission: 360 nm; 460 nm) for solutions of product 8, fluorophore 3 and quencher 7 at a total concentration of 10<sup>-6</sup> M at the ratios 0.0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, and 1.0 mole fraction of 8.

## 4.4 screening the reaction of dansylpiperazine 3 with bromoarene 7

The reactions were conducted in a 96-well glass plate with 50μl volumes.

\* CpPd(allyl) was used instead of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> as catalyst precursor because of its enhanced solubility.

(Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> was used for imidazoilium and dihydroimidazoilium salts.)

119-membered ligand library

duplicate reaction with each member of the ligand library.

Figure 31 Yields determined by FRET for the coupling of 3 with 7

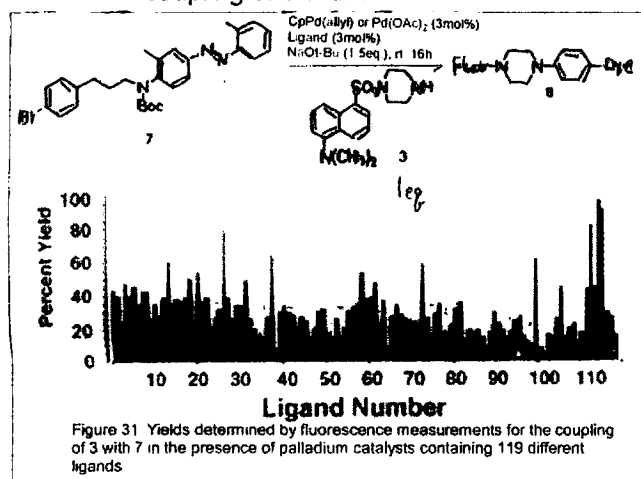


Figure 31: Yields determined by fluorescence measurements for the coupling of 3 with 7 in the presence of palladium catalysts containing 119 different ligands

Figure 32 General structural classes contained in the library

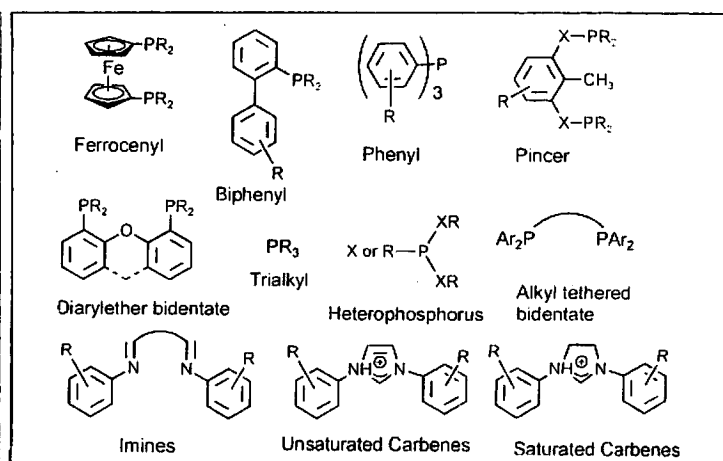


Figure 33 shows the structures of the ligands that consistently generated catalysts that formed coupled product in yields greater than 50%.



Figure. 33 Ligands that gave >50% yield for the coupling of 3 with 7.

These results were in accord with studies over the past few years.

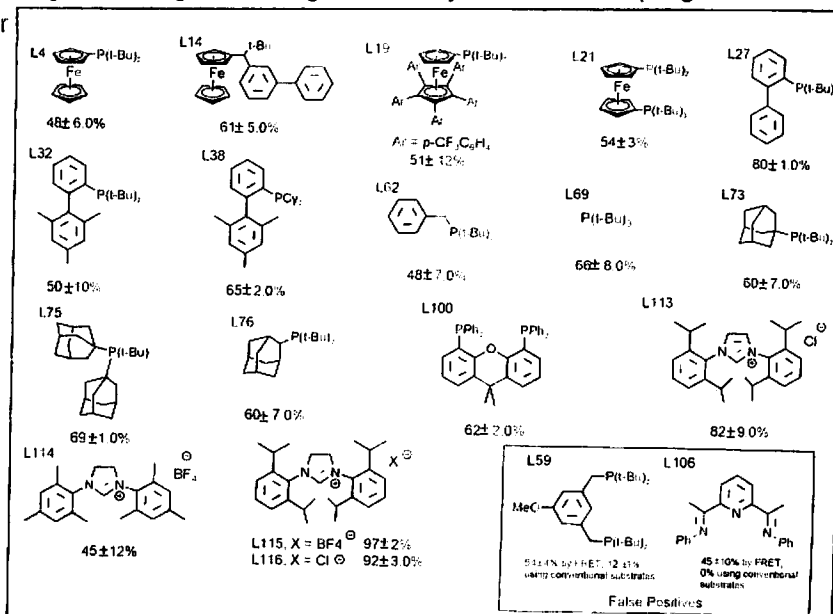
Two false positives (**L59** and **L106**)

II

They tested the activity of **L59** and **L106** for the related reaction of morpholine with bromotoluene (not functionalized with chromophore), because structures of these ligands were much different from others shown to be active.

**L59** gave 12% yield, and **L106** gave 0% yield.

people assesment is necessary.



#### 4.5 screening the reaction of dansylpiperazine 3 with chloroarene 9

Figure. 34 Yields determined by FRET for the coupling of 3 with 9.

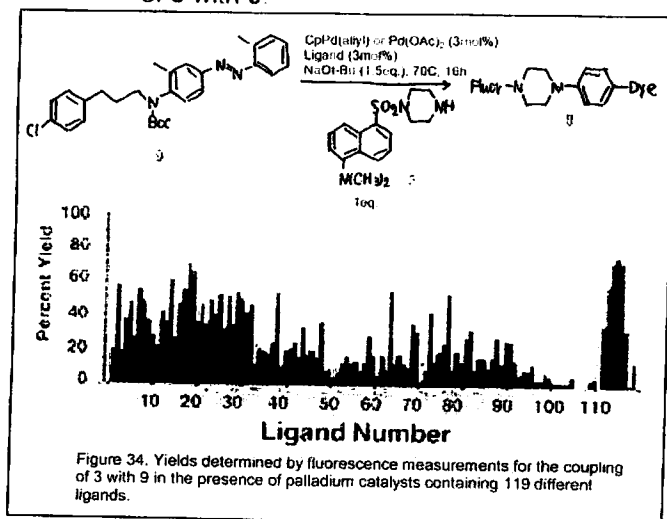


Figure 34. Yields determined by fluorescence measurements for the coupling of 3 with 9 in the presence of palladium catalysts containing 119 different ligands.

These results are also in accord with those of recent studies.

(Only a few reactions showed significant variability in yields for the two experiments, however these reactions occurred in less than 20% yield.)

#### 4.6 investigation of potential false negatives

Catalysts containing ligands shown on the right are known to couple electron neutral aryl chlorides and bromides with cyclic secondary amines in yields greater than 80%.

false negative

Figure. 35 Ligands that gave >50% yield for reaction of 3 and 9.

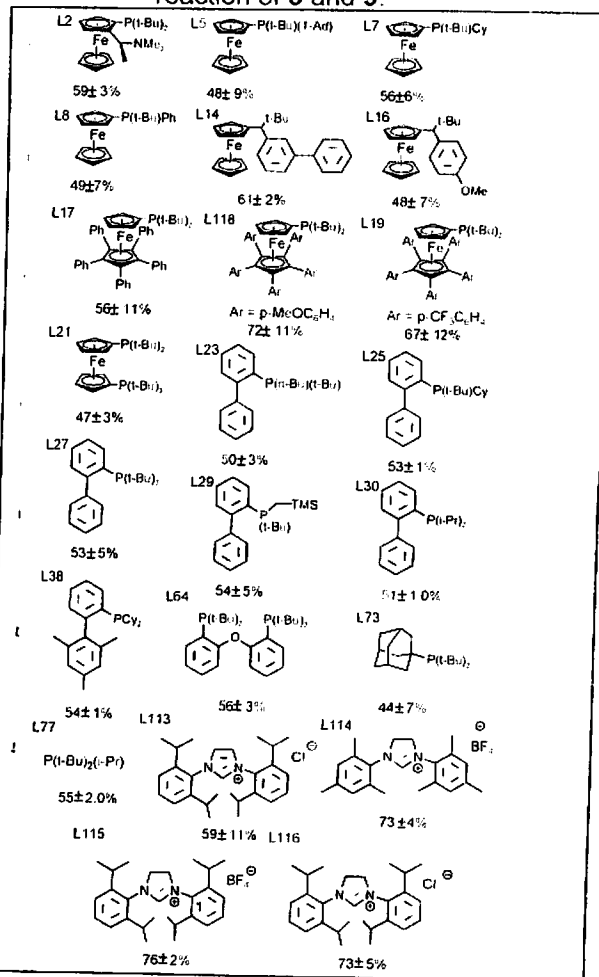
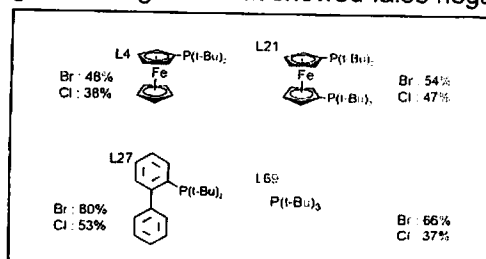


Figure. 36 Ligands that showed false negative



To confirm that these ligands provide high yield for related substrates under the conditions of the FRET assay, they evaluated the reaction of bromotoluene with morpholine in the presence of CpPd(allyl) and (*t*-Bu)<sub>3</sub>P (L69).

—————> 98 % yield by GC after 16h

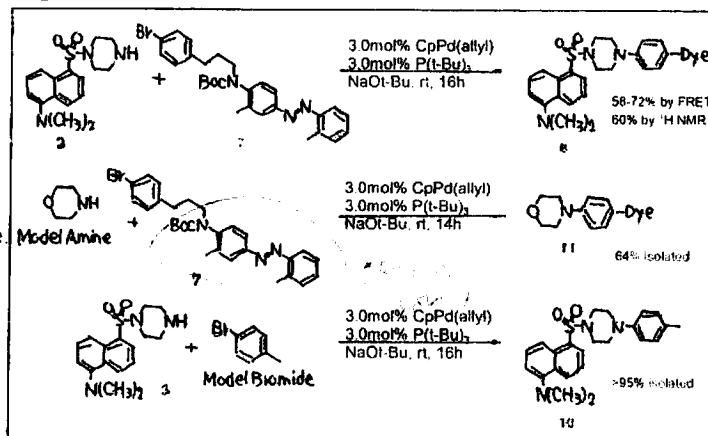
What is the origin of low yields in the FRET assay?  
the method of analysis? or substrate?

They conducted three reactions.

1. determination of yield with <sup>1</sup>H NMR (substrate = 3 and 7) ----- 60%
2. reaction of morpholine with functionalized bromoarene 7. ----- 64%
3. reaction of functionalized amine 3 with bromotoluene ----- 95%

FRET study evaluated the yields accurately.  
(The reason of low yields is substrate 7,  
not the method of FRET analysis)

Figure. 37 Model reaction



#### 4.7 reaction of amine 3 with bromoarene 7 in polar solvents with K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as base

Using polar solvent is advantageous because in particular pharmaceutical intermediates are often insoluble in aromatic and ether solvents.

dioxane/*m*-xylene or *t*-BuOH/*m*-xylene gave good results.

#### Summary

FRET can be used to screen catalyst and solvent for the amination of aryl halides and by analogy, to screen other catalysis via high-throughput manner. The reaction yields obtained by FRET method were reproducible and agreed in most cases with yields obtained by conventional methods.

Figure. 38 Solvent screening

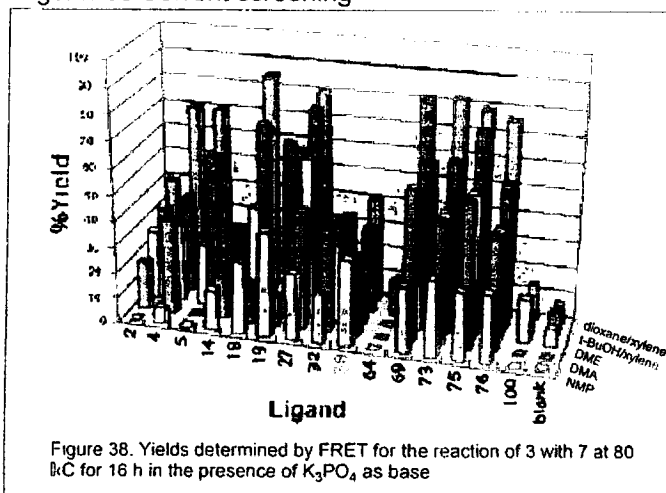


Figure 38. Yields determined by FRET for the reaction of 3 with 7 at 80 °C for 16 h in the presence of K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> as base

## 5. Recent progress and perspective

- + Application to *in vivo* system (assay, sensor, etc..)
- + Development of new chromophore (quantum dot, gold nanoparticle, etc..)
- + Efforts toward extending distance which one can measure (multi FRET, new chromophore, etc..)
- + Development of methods for labeling

Applicable to developing a new reaction?

- \* Hartwig : high-throughput (yield)
- \* design and synthesis of new catalyst

\* ordinary C-C bond = 1.5 Å (cf. FRET = 10 - 100 Å)

\* fluorophore is too big. (alter the characteristics of catalysts or so)

$$R_0 = 9.78 \times 10^3 [\kappa^2 n^{-4} Q_d J]^{1/6} \text{ (in Å)} \quad \text{eq. 2}$$

\* exploring of a pair of fluorophores which give small R<sub>0</sub>

\* development of devices which can detect weak fluorescence

\* small fluorophores

Figure. 39 dependence on distance

