

13. Photo-control of biological function

1. Photocaging
2. Azobenzene photoswitching
3. Photoswitching applications

1

Photocontrol of biological activity

Photocaging

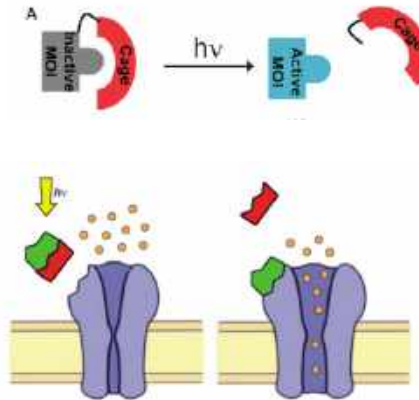


Fig. 2 Activation of an ionotropic receptor by photorelease of a neurotransmitter.

2

Photocontrol of biological activity

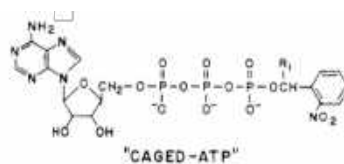
photocaging

PHOTORELEASE OF ATP FROM CAGED ATP

VOL. 17, NO. 10, 1978 · 1929

Rapid Photolytic Release of Adenosine 5'-Triphosphate from a Protected Analogue: Utilization by the Na:K Pump of Human Red Blood Cell Ghosts[†]

Jack H. Kaplan, Elias Forbush III, and Joseph F. Hoffman*



These "caged ATP" compounds released adenosine 5'-triphosphate on illumination at 340 nm in aqueous solution and P3-1-(2-nitro)phenyl-ethyl-ATP gave about a 70% yield in under 30 s.

Hoffman *Biochemistry* 1978, 17, 1929

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Photocontrol of biological activity

photocaging

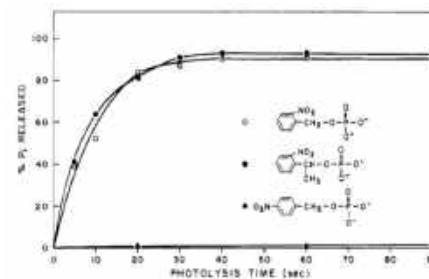
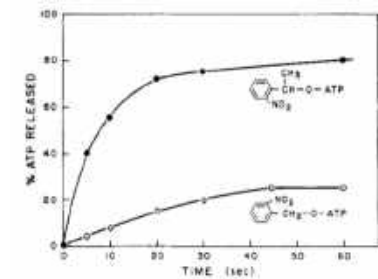
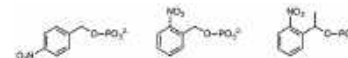


FIGURE 3. Comparison of photorelease of P_i from phosphate esters. Aqueous solutions (2×10^{-4} M) of the phosphate esters were photolyzed as described in Materials and Methods, and the photolyzed solution was then assayed for free P_i .

• *Ortho* position is required

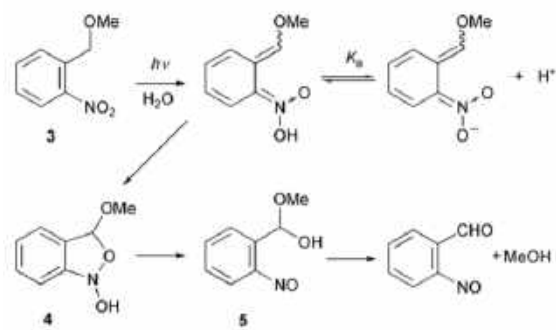


• Substituted benzylic position is faster

Hoffman *Biochemistry* 1978, 17, 1929

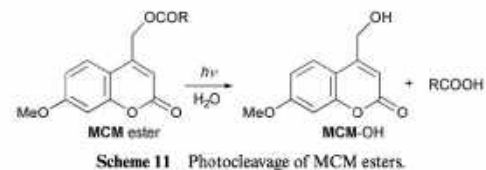
4

Photocaging mechanism

Scheme 4 Revised¹⁷ mechanism for 2-nitrobenzyl derivatives.Wirz *Photochem. Photobiol. Sci.* **2002**, 441

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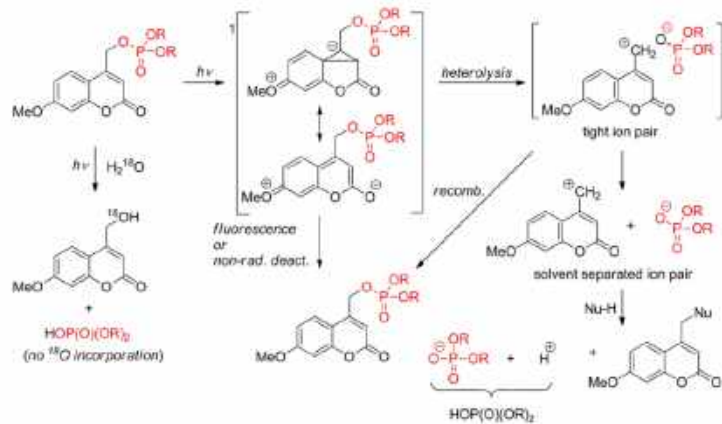
Coumarinyl group



Scheme 11 Photocleavage of MCM esters.

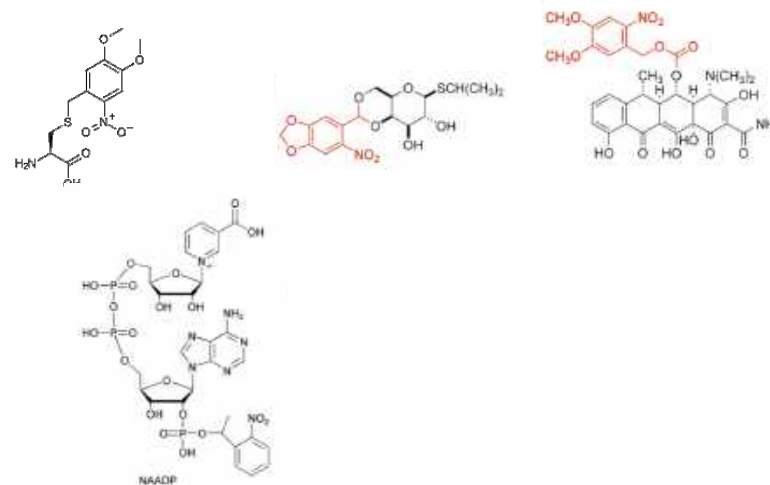
Wirz *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, 119

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Mechanism of Photorelease of Coumarin-Caged Compounds²⁹⁷Wirz *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, 119

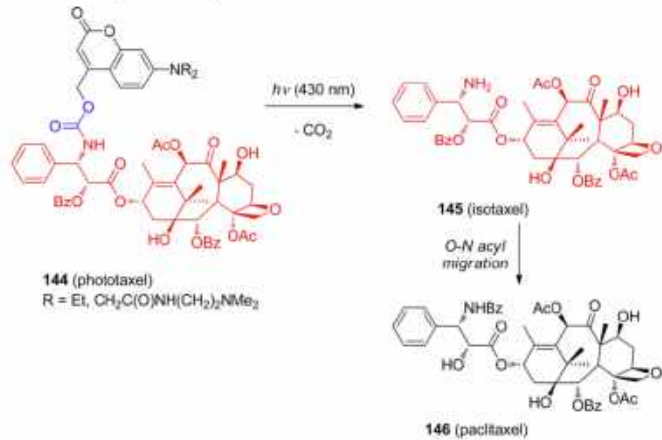
9

Examples of Photocaged Molecules

Wirz *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, 119

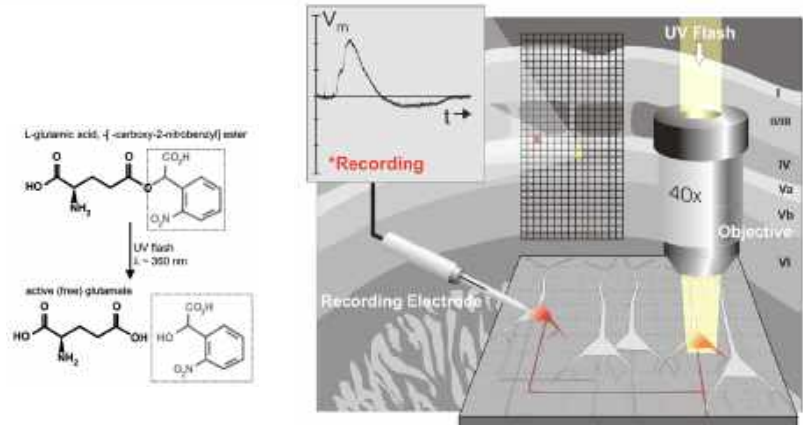
10

Activation of Paclitaxel by Visible Light²⁸³

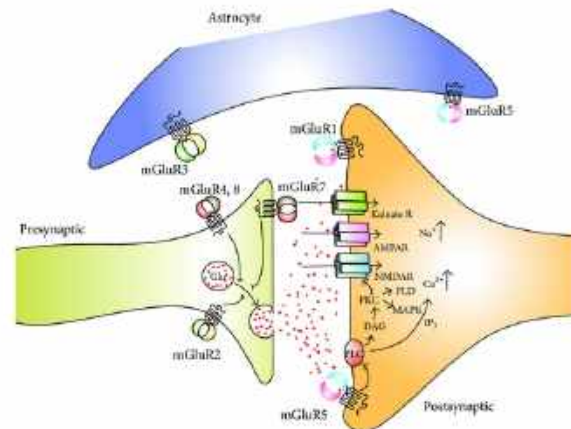


Journal of Biomedical Optics 10(1), 011003 (January 2005)

Optical release of caged glutamate for stimulation of neurons in the *in vitro* slice preparation



ionotropic glutamate receptor (iGluR)



Photocaged Glutamate to trigger action potentials in neurons

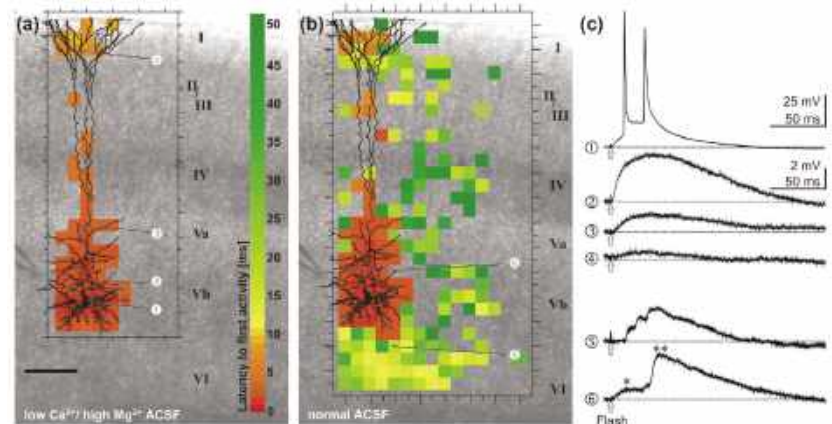
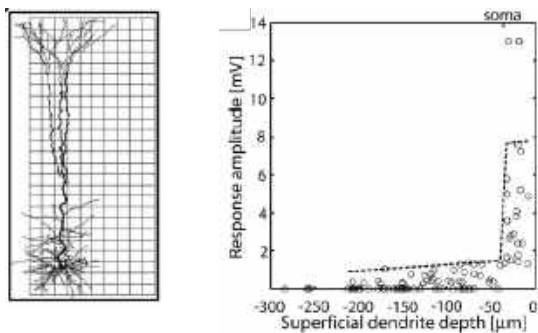


Fig. 4. Topographical maps of activity induced by flash photolysis of caged glutamate for an IB pyramidal neuron from layer Vb (cf. Ref. 10). (a)

Photocaged Glutamate to trigger action potentials in neurons



Morphology, peak response amplitudes, depth of most superficial neuronal structure, and relationship between response amplitude and depth for a layer Vb IB cell.

Koetter *J. Biomed. Optics* **2005**, 011003

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Photoswitching

Chemical structure of the **thiol-reactive** BSBCA linker in *cis* and *trans* forms.

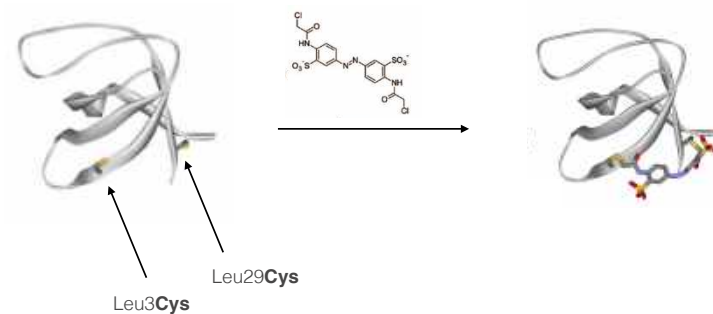


BSBCA: 3,3'-bis(sulfonato)-4,4'-bis(chloroacetamide) azobenzene

Woolley *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 2283

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Photoswitching



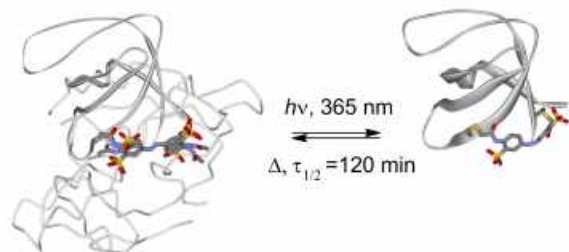
model: FynSH3 domain
(Fyn-tyrosin kinase)

free energy of folding of wild-type
FynSH3 is **-4.2 kcal/mol**

Woolley *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 2283

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Photoswitching

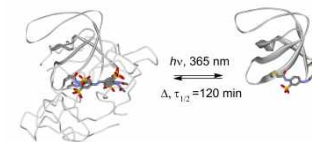


The energy available from azobenzene isomerization ($\sim 10 \text{ kcal/mol}$) is larger than the folding free energies of many proteins. Thus photo-control of protein function via control of folding should be possible.

Woolley *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 2283

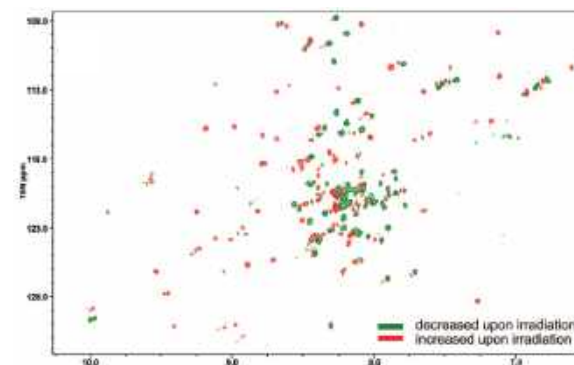
25

Conformational changes measured by NMR



Difference $(^1\text{H}, ^{15}\text{N})$ **HMQC spectrum** of X-L3C-L29C-T47AFynSH3.

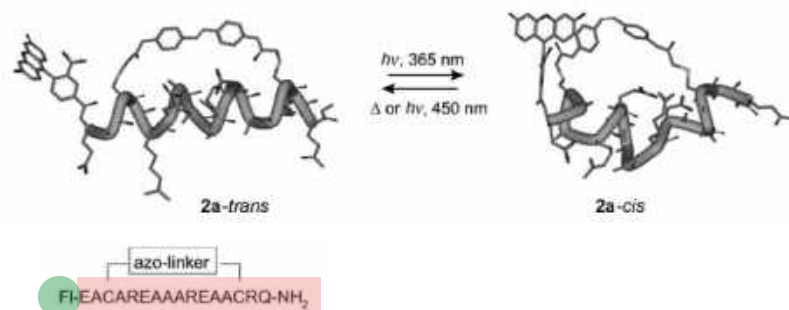
Signals that increased upon irradiation are shown in red; signals that decreased are shown in green.



Woolley *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 2283

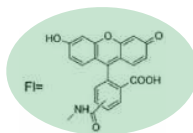
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Irradiation at 365 nm of an azobenzene-cross-linked peptide, causes *trans-to-cis* isomerization, which enhances helicity, favors a coiled-coil formation.



Irradiation in the UV range (350–390) causes *trans-to-cis* isomerization of the photoswitch as well as excitation of **fluorescein**. Irradiation with blue light (440–490) causes *cis-to-trans* isomerization as well as fluorescein excitation.

- The *cis* isomer of the peptide has a lower quantum yield for fluorescence than the *trans* isomer.
- Irradiation of the reporter peptide with UV light produces a time-dependent fluorescence decrease. Conversely, irradiation of *cis* isomer with blue light causes a time-dependent fluorescence increase.



Woolley *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *1325*

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Fluorescence Imaging of Azobenzene Photoswitching In Vivo
(proof of concept)

The **D-peptide** analog of **2a** (chosen to minimize the possibility of protease cleavage) was microinjected into zebrafish embryos at the 1–2 cell stage. Zebrafish are optically transparent while young. Embryos were incubated at 28 °C and imaged using fluorescence microscopes. Illumination with a UV bandpass filter was used to drive *trans-to-cis* isomerization.

Woolley *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *1325*

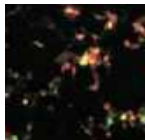
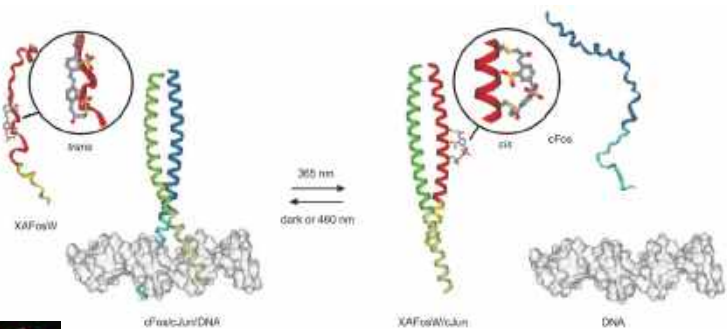
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Light-Switchable Proteins

Photocontrol of Coiled-Coil Proteins in Living Cells**

Fuzhong Zhang, Katharina A. Timm, Katja M. Arndt,* and G. Andrew Woolley*

FosW inhibition of the DNA binding of homodimeric cJun/cJun. Coiled coils in the form of basic leucine zipper (bZIP) domains are common in transcription factors that control gene expression.



Irradiation at 365 nm of an azobenzene-cross-linked AP-1 dominant negative peptide, XAFosW, causes trans-to-cis isomerization, which enhances helicity, favors a coiled-coil formation, and thereby leads to the inhibition of DNA binding.

Woolley *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, 3943

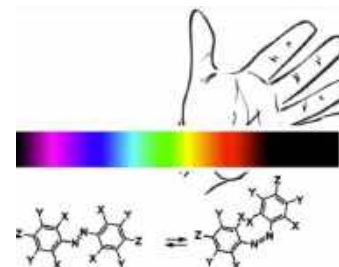
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ACCOUNTS

of chemical research

Red-Shifting Azobenzene Photoswitches for in Vivo Use

Mingxin Dong,[†] Amirhossein Babalhavaeji,[†] Subhas Samanta,^{†,‡} Andrew A. Beharry,^{†,§} and G. Andrew Woolley*[†]

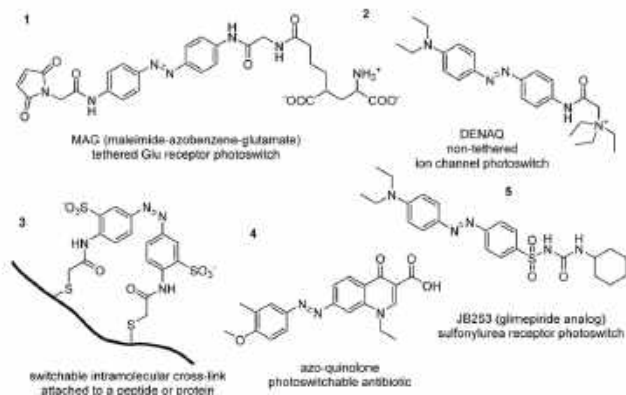


Woolley *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2015**, 2662

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Red-Shifting Azobenzene Photoswitches for in Vivo Use

Mingxin Dong,[†] Amirhossein Babalhavaeji,[†] Subhas Samanta,^{†,‡} Andrew A. Beharry,^{†,§} and G. Andrew Woolley*[†]



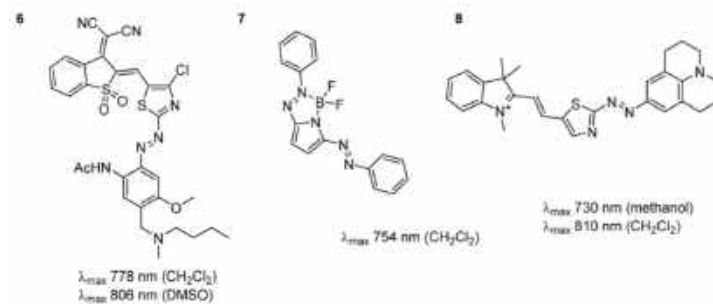
Woolley *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2015**, 2662

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Red-Shifting Azobenzene Photoswitches for in Vivo Use

Mingxin Dong,[†] Amirhossein Babalhavaeji,[†] Subhas Samanta,^{†,‡} Andrew A. Beharry,^{†,§} and G. Andrew Woolley*[†]

Some long wavelength azo dyes



Bruce *Proc. Amer. Soc. Mass Spec.* **2014**

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nature
chemical biology

Photochemical tools for remote control of ion channels in excitable cells

Richard H Kramer, James J Chambers & Dirk Trauner

Trauner *Nature Chem. Biol.* 2005, 360

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nature
chemical biology

Photochemical tools for remote control of ion channels in excitable cells

Trauner *Nature Chem. Biol.* 2005, 360

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nature
chemical biology

Photochemical tools for remote control of ion channels in excitable cells

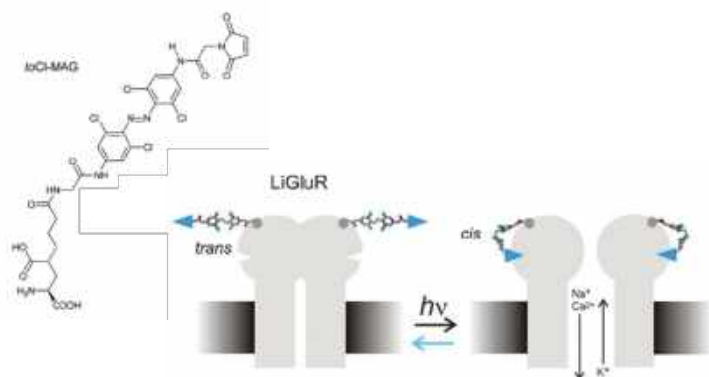
Current (pA) vs. Time (min) graphs showing responses to Dark, Vis., and UV light. The left graph shows a current of ~150 pA in the dark, which drops to 0 pA upon UV exposure. The right graph shows a current of ~1000 pA in the dark, which drops to 0 pA upon UV exposure.

Trauner *Nature Chem. Biol.* 2005, 360

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Long wavelength optical control of glutamate receptor ion channels using a tetra-ortho-substituted azobenzene derivative†

A. Rullo,[‡] A. Reiner,[‡] A. Reiter,[‡] D. Trauner,[‡] E. Y. Isacoff[‡] and G. A. Woolley^{*,§}

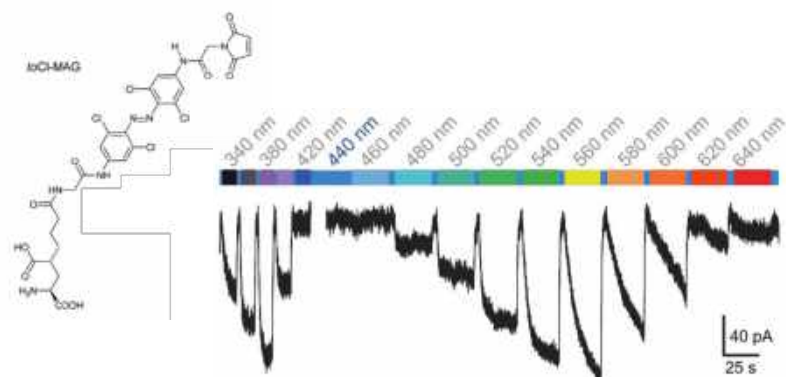


Wolley, Trauner *Chem. Comm.* 2014, 14613

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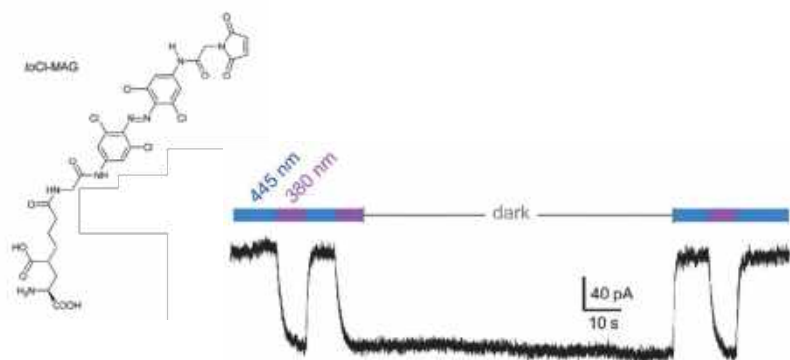
- Maximum channel current in the yellow range (560 nm) — open
- No current at all in the blue range (440 nm) — closed

Wolley, Trauner *Chem. Comm.* 2014, 14613

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Long wavelength optical control of glutamate receptor ion channels using a tetra-ortho-substituted azobenzene derivative†

A. Rullo,[‡] A. Reiner,[‡] A. Reiter,[‡] D. Trauner,[‡] E. Y. Isacoff[‡] and G. A. Woolley^{*,§}

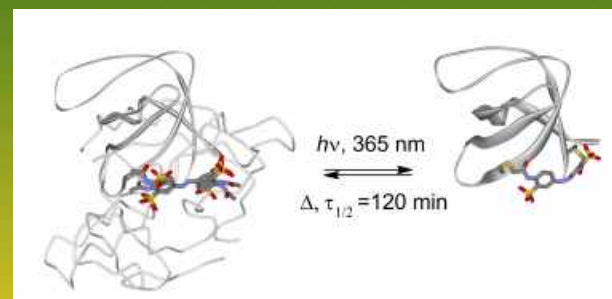


- Open and Closed conformations are stable

Wolley, Trauner *Chem. Comm.* 2014, 14613

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13. Photo-control of biological function



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