

嵩高いケーシングを用いた細胞内でのタンパク質の光活性化

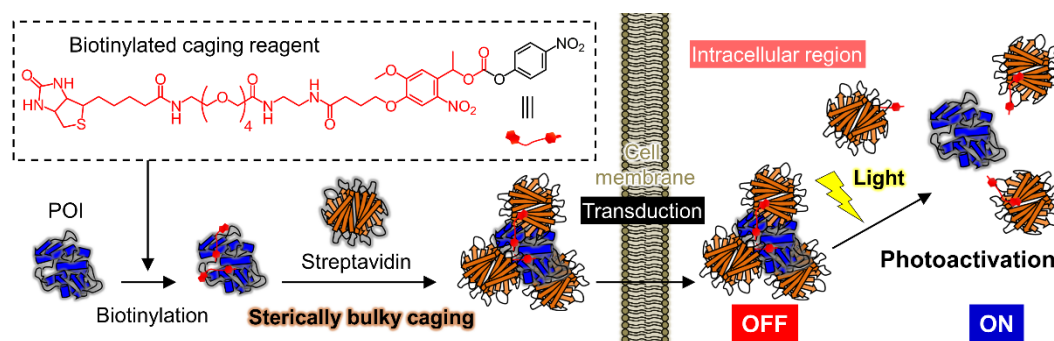
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Intracellular photoactivation of proteins using sterically bulky caging ○Ryotaro Yamamoto¹, Satoshi Yamaguchi¹, Akimitsu Okamoto¹(¹ Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo)

Techniques for photo-controlling protein activity reveal the spatiotemporal role of proteins in living cells. In recent years, a wide variety of biomolecules has been photo-controlled by "caging" with photodegradable protection groups¹⁾. Our research group has developed a "sterically bulky caging" technique in which the whole surface of a protein of interest is covered with a bulky protein, achieving photocontrol of protein activity both inside and outside cells without genetic engineering^{2,3,4)}. In this technique, the protein surface was chemically biotinylated through the photocleavable linker, and then, the protein was inactivated by conjugating with streptavidin. By using fluorescence resonance energy transfer, these conjugates were confirmed to transduced into living cells and to be reactivated by their photodegradation. Therefore, this study aims to apply the present technology to photoactivation of various proteins with different functions for developing novel cell manipulation methods.

Keywords : protein caging, protein photoactivation, photodegradation

タンパク質の活性を光制御する技術は、細胞内でのタンパク質の時空間的な役割を明らかにする。近年、光分解性保護基で「ケーシング (一時的に失活)」することで、幅広い生体分子が細胞内で光制御されてきた¹⁾。我々の研究グループでは、嵩高いタンパク質で標的タンパク質の表面を全体的に覆う「嵩高いケーシング」技術を開発し、煩雑な遺伝子操作を用いずにタンパク質活性の光制御を細胞内外で実現してきた^{2,3,4)}。本技術では、光分解性リンカーを介してタンパク質表面を化学的にビオチン化し、ストレプトアビジンを結合させ、タンパク質を失活させる。蛍光共鳴エネルギー移動法を用いて、この複合体を細胞内に導入後、光分解し、活性化できることも明らかにした(下図)⁴⁾。そこで、新しい細胞操作技術の開発を目的として、この「嵩高いケーシング」技術を用いて、機能の異なる様々なタンパク質の光活性化を試みた。



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