



染料单分子荧光调控与成像

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超分辨成像突破了光学衍射极限, 重定义了非侵入式光学显微成像的分辨率边界, 变革了生命科学研究范式。超分辨成像的分子定位机制根源于染料分子的开关过程, 基于动态的荧光开关切换, 形成在时空中孤立的分子信号, 从而通过单个分子信号的解码突破物理限制。然而, 传统染料研究对单分子荧光光物理性质的忽视, 已成为限制超分辨成像时空分辨率和生物医学分子诊断应用的瓶颈, **单分子荧光开关的时空涨落调控更成为关键的科学问题**, 其难点在于提升单分子荧光光通量(N), 以强化定位准确度(不确定度, $\sigma \propto 1/\sqrt{N}$)和调制单分子开关速率(k_r), 以匹配活细胞成像时间分辨率($t \propto 1/k_r$)需求。

围绕超分辨成像染料单分子结构、荧光性质和应用进行研究: 基于季铵哌嗪诱导设计^[1], 抑制分子扭曲电荷转移态非辐射跃迁, 双倍提升光通量, 提升单分子时空定位精度至8.6 nm; 提出单分子荧光开关动力学理论^[2], 基于螺环内氢键构筑和吸电子诱导效应强化^[3-4], 发展具有自适应单分子开关速率切换的染料工具, 实现活细胞快速分子定位成像(时间分辨率达到2 s); 发展蛋白标签标记系统, 建立分子分布和运动双维度诊断体系, 实现活细胞状态分子测量诊断^[5], 为自免疫难诊断疾病建立模式细胞分子指标的诊断基础。

从染料分子结构本源出发, 通过取代基诱导、氢键效应开发, 基于单分子荧光开关的调制探索, 为分子定位超分辨成像开发系统染料工具库, 将进一步促进超分辨成像技术转化为生物医学中的分子诊断工具。

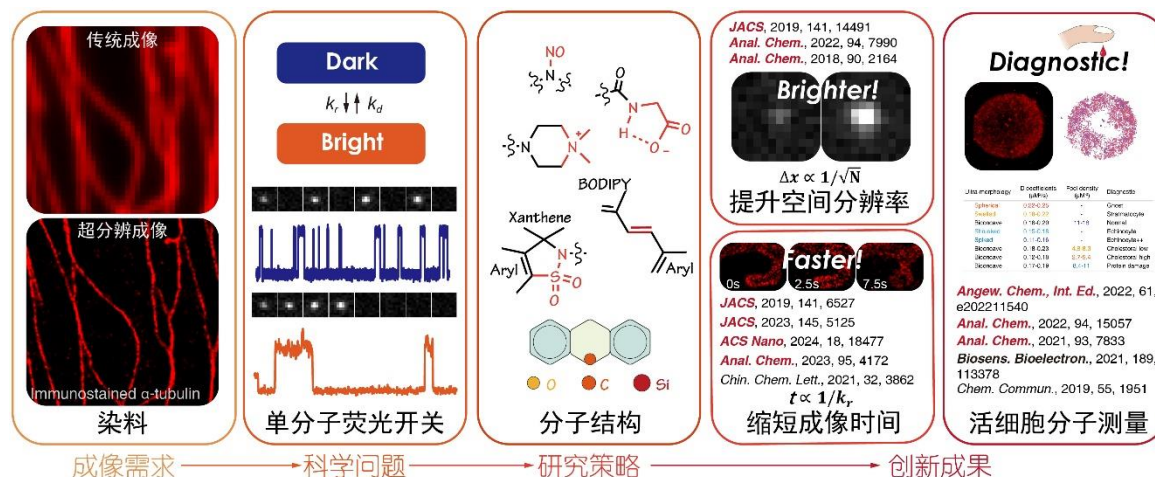


Fig. 1 Modulation of single-molecule fluorescence switching for enhancing spatial resolution and diagnostics in super-resolution imaging.

关键词: 单分子荧光; 单分子光物理性质; 超分辨成像; 荧光探针

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Dye single-molecule fluorescence modulation and imaging

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Super-resolution imaging breaks the optical diffraction limit, defines the resolution boundary of non-invasive optic microscopy, and revolutionizes the paradigm of life science researches. The mechanism of molecular localization in super-resolution imaging roots in the on-off switching of dye molecules. Through dynamic on-off transitions of fluorescence, molecule signals isolated in space and time could be individually decoded to break the physic limitations. However, traditional dye research ignores the single-molecule fluorescence photophysics properties, making a barrier for super-resolution imaging spatiotemporal resolution and biomedical molecular diagnostic applications. The modulation of single-molecule fluorescence switch in a spatiotemporal manner becomes the key scientific problem. The key points are improvement of single-molecule fluorescence photon flux (N) to enhance the localization accuracy (uncertainty, $\sigma \propto 1/\sqrt{N}$) and tuning single-molecule switching dynamics (k_r) to satisfy the time resolution ($t \propto 1/k_r$) required in living-cell imaging.

This speech focused on the study of dye single-molecule structure, fluorescence properties and applications: by designing quaternary piperazine induction effect^[1], the molecular twisted intramolecular charge transfer and the consequent nonradiative decay is inhibited, doubly enhanced the photon flux and improved the single-molecule localization accuracy to 8.6 nm; through introduction of single-molecule fluorescence switch dynamic theory^[2], adaptive switching speed dye toolboxes were developed to realize fast living-cell molecule localization imaging (time resolution up to 2 s)^[3-4]; with the development of protein-tag labeling system, a molecular distribution and motion two-dimension diagnostic system was built to enable living-cell state molecular diagnostic^[5], aiming for providing molecular distribution indicators for autoimmunity disease of high diagnostic difficulty.

From the basis of molecular structure, the design of substituent inductive and hydrogen-bonding capability and the exploration of single-molecule fluorescence switching modulation, a library of dye toolsets was developed for molecular localization super-resolution imaging, which would transform the super-resolution imaging techniques into biomedical molecular diagnostic tools.