

Supporting Information for Electronic Energy Migration in Microtubules

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Supporting Information Text

DOCKING OF ETOMIDATE, ISOFLURANE AND PICROTOXIN TO HUMAN TUBULIN

Homology Modelling. We built homology models of the human tubulin dimer starting from the corresponding amino acid sequences of the alpha-1A and beta-1 chains obtained from UniProt (accession codes Q71U36 and P07437 respectively) ¹. The central dimer of the pdb structure 3J6F corresponding to a sheet of a GDP-bound dynamic microtubule with a resolution of 4.90 Å was used as a template ². Homology models were built using the Homology Modelling tool of the MOE software ³, and the best model was chosen based on the GB/VI score ⁴. Highly fluctuating C-terminal tails were excluded from the obtained model for all subsequent analyzes. The quality of the generated model was assessed by comparing the phi-psi plot and the QMeanDisCo score between the model and the 3J6F template ⁵.

Structure Equilibration. The obtained homology model was completed by adding the Mg²⁺ ion and the GTP and GDP ligands in their experimental binding positions as found in the template, after adjusting their protonation state using the Protonate3D tool in MOE at 300K and pH=7.4. The tubulin dimer was parametrized using the AMBER99SB-ILDN force field ⁶, while ligands were parametrized using GAFF ⁷ and their partial charges calculated using the AM1-BCC method ⁸. Energy minimization, equilibration and production MD runs were carried out using GROMACS 2021.4 ⁹. More in detail, the final model of the human tubulin dimer was energy minimized for 1000 steps, and subsequently equilibrated for 100 ps in the NVT ensemble using the v-rescale thermostat with the C-alpha atoms position-restrained with a force of 1000 kcal/mol/nm ¹⁰. We then carried out a further 500-ps equilibration in the NPT ensemble using the v-rescale thermostat and the Berendsen barostat with the same position restraints as before ¹¹. We finally lifted the restraints and performed a production molecular dynamics run of 200 ns for further extended structural equilibration in the NPT ensemble using the v-rescale thermostat and Parrinello-Rahman barostat ¹². We regarded the first 100 ns of this production MD simulation as additional extended structure equilibration, and we extracted the dominant conformation states of the dimer as the centroids after clustering the last 100 ns of this MD production run. The cluster tool provided by GROMACS was used, with the cutoff value set to 0.15 nm. The subsequent docking simulations were run using these centroids as the target structure.

Site identification and docking. After determining the dominant conformations of the dimer from the MD ensemble, we performed a scan for potential binding sites on the dimer using the SiteFinder tool provided in MOE. To focus the analysis not only on the most likely binding sites, but also on pockets with a potentially lower affinity, we investigated all predicted binding sites with a positive PLB score ¹³, and docked the four different ligands within these regions. In addition, to further complement the analysis, the ligands were also docked to three experimentally known and clinically relevant binding sites on the tubulin dimer, namely the (a) Colchicine binding site, located near the inter-monomer interface and defined by loop βT7, helix βH8, strands βS8 and βS9 and the αT5 loop; (b) the taxane binding site, located on the β subunit surrounded by helix H1, the H6-H7 loop, the H7 helix, the M loop and the S9-S10 loop; this site is partially overlapping with site number 5 found by the SiteFinder tool (c) the vinca alkaloid binding site, at the longitudinal dimer-dimer interface within protofilaments, surrounded by loop αT7, helix αH10 and strand αS9.

Docking runs were carried out in MOE, with the following methodology: we performed the initial placement of the ligands using the triangle matcher algorithm, which describes the active site using α spheres. The generated poses were then scored using the London dG scoring function ³. Subsequently, for each ligand, the 30 best poses found using the triangle matcher algorithm were further energy-minimized starting from their initial placement, using a Molecular Mechanics approach with the protein kept rigid. The final poses were finally re-scored using the GBVI/WSA dG scoring function ¹⁴, and the top 5 poses were considered for analysis.

Results

(A) Quality of the Homology Models. The human alpha 1A and beta 1 tubulin chains shared a sequence identity of 99.3% and 97.9% with the corresponding chains of the 3J6F template, respectively, thus ensuring the reliability of the homology modelling approach. Indeed, on the phi-psi plot, the generated human alpha/beta dimer model featured 94.18% of residues in core regions, 5.35% in allowed regions and 0.47% outliers. In comparison, the same figures for the 3J6F template were 96.81%, 2.83% and 0.36% respectively. The QMeanDisCo global score of the model was 0.76 ± 0.05 , which is comparable within error to the corresponding score of the crystallographic template (0.79 ± 0.05) (see Figure S12: comparison of QMean scores). Both quality assessments confirm the comparable structural quality of the homology model with respect to its 3J6F template.

(B) Docking. Clustering of the last 100 ns of the MD ensemble at a 0.15 nm RMSD cutoff yielded a single cluster, suggesting overall conformational stability and no major rearrangements in the protein structure. The centroid of this cluster, representing the dominant conformational state of the tubulin dimer throughout the simulation, was chosen as the conformation to perform docking against.

First, we scanned for possible binding sites on the tubulin dimer using the SiteFinder tool in MOE, and found a total of 43 putative binding sites, with PLB scores ranging from 3.66 (best) to -0.79 (worst). All binding sites with positive PLB values were kept as docking sites, resulting in a total of 13 analyzed binding sites. A summary of these binding sites is provided in Table S6 together with the experimentally known binding sites on tubulin for colchicine, taxanes and vinca alkaloids. In the following, the binding site numbering of Table S6 will be used to identify the sites.

Etomidate Predicted binding energies for Etomidate range from -6.77 to -4.36 kcal/mol (mean \pm std:-5.71 \pm 0.51 kcal/mol). The best binding energy was obtained on site 5 (-6.77 kcal/mol), and the interaction between Etomidate and the protein in this site is highlighted in Figure S9A below. The average results in all 16 binding sites are summarized in Table S7.

Isoflurane Predicted binding energies for Isoflurane range from -4.64 to -3.66 kcal/mol (mean \pm std:-4.11 \pm 0.22 kcal/mol), indicative of a slightly weaker predicted interaction with respect to etomidate. The best binding energy was obtained on site 3 (-4.64 kcal/mol), and the corresponding interaction between isoflurane and the protein in this site is highlighted in Figure S9b, although it is to be underlined how the differences between the different binding poses and binding sites are realistically all within the error of the docking methodology. The average results in all 16 binding sites are summarized in Table S8.

Picrotoxinin Predicted binding energies for Picrotoxinin range from -5.88 to 0.56 kcal/mol (mean \pm std: 4.22 \pm 1.79 kcal/mol). The best binding energy was obtained on the taxol binding site (-5.88 kcal/mol), and the corresponding interaction between the ligand and the protein in this site is highlighted in Figure S9C. The average results in all 16 binding sites are summarized in Table S9.

Picrotin Predicted binding energies for Picrotin range from -5.72 to -2.82 kcal/mol (mean \pm std:-4.89 \pm 0.64 kcal/mol). The best binding energy was obtained in the taxol binding site (-5.72 kcal/mol), and the corresponding interaction between the ligand and the protein in this site is highlighted in Figure S9D. The average results in all 16 binding sites are summarized in Table S10.

Summary of docking studies. Overall, for all compounds except isoflurane, the highest predicted affinity is consistently found to be in or near (site 5) the taxol binding site, which is a known and relevant binding site on the tubulin dimer. Predicted energies in the other putative binding locations are nevertheless similar and most are within the thermal noise level of 0.6 kcal/mol. Hence, no hard conclusions can be drawn regarding a distinctive preferred binding site for either of the analyzed ligands on human tubulin.

Picrotoxin is a 1:1 molar mixture of picrotin and picrotoxinin, two highly similar compounds. Hence, docking was performed for both ligands, and no substantial difference in predicted binding affinities emerged, coherently with their high chemical similarity. No conclusions can be drawn from the docking simulations to distinguish a more active compound on tubulin among the two; in fact, both compounds showed the best predicted dG value in the taxol binding site, where they are predicted to form at least two hydrogen bonds with residues ARG318, ARG359 and ARG276 with differences well within the error of docking predictions.

KINETIC MONTE CARLO SIMULATIONS

Preparation of microtubule crystal structure We constructed the all-atom structure of the full microtubule using the following protocol. Firstly, the tubulin sheet of PDB structure 7SJ7¹⁵ was preprocessed using MOE³ to fix missing residues in the structure, assign the correct protonation states and perform energy minimization to relief atomic clashes. We then extracted the central tubulin dimer of this structure and used it to construct an initial template of a single tubulin ring, composed of 13 dimers, by fitting 13 copies of the dimer onto the original electron density map deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (accession code EMD-25156), using the “*Fit in Map*” tool of UCSF ChimeraX¹⁶.

To construct the final microtubule, we first carried out 200-ns Molecular Dynamics simulations of the tubulin sheet to equilibrate the structure and obtain a diversified structural ensemble. In detail, simulations were carried out in GROMACS 2021.4⁹ in the NPT ensemble, using the AMBER 99SB-ILDN force field⁶, PME electrostatics with a cutoff of 1.2 nm, the velocity rescale thermostat¹⁰ at 300K and the Parrinello-Rahman barostat¹². We subsequently clustered the last 150 ns of this MD simulation with a cutoff of 0.10 nm using the *gmx cluster* tool, and extracted the centroids of each cluster, focusing only on the central dimer of the tubulin sheet. These centroids represent a set of dominant conformations of the tubulin dimer within a microtubule, and were used to build the final microtubule. In greater detail, we generated each of the final tubulin rings by randomly choosing centroids from the MD clusters and RMSD-fitting them onto the template tubulin ring described above. This was repeated for each of the 31 tubulin rings composing the final microtubule, which was assembled by spacing the rings axially by 8.15 nm, as described in earlier literature for the 13:3B MT lattice¹⁷.

In summary, we eventually obtained a final B-lattice microtubule with a length of 252.65 nm and composed of an ensemble of different tubulin dimer conformations, extracted from all-atom MD simulations and representative of the conformational heterogeneity of tubulin within a microtubule.

Simulation protocol for homo- and hetero-transfer among tryptophan and tyrosine

residues. The monomers of TYR and TRP were optimized in the CAM-B3LYP/AUG-CC-PVDZ level of theory and the optimized geometry was used to calculate the transition dipole moments using TDDFT (CAM-B3LYP/AUG-CC-PVDZ). The calculations were carried out in Gaussian 16 program package¹⁸. The obtained transition dipole moments were reoriented at the respective molecular coordinates for calculating the long-range coulombic coupling strengths in the 31-long dimer microtubule crystal structure. We took the dissipation rate (k_{Dis}) as $3.06 \times 10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ¹⁹.

Charge transfer Integral calculations were carried out on 5 representative TYR dimers selected from the microtubule crystal structure with Inter-aromatic (R_{IA}) distances below 6.3 Å. A constrained optimization (B3LYP/6-311+G(d)) were performed on the selected TYR dimers by freezing the carbon skeleton prior to charge transfer integral calculations. The charge transfers Integral calculations (B3LYP/6-311+G(d)) were carried out using the dimer projection (DIPRO) method²⁰ using the CATNIP program package²¹ available from https://github.com/JoshuaSBrown/QC_Tools.

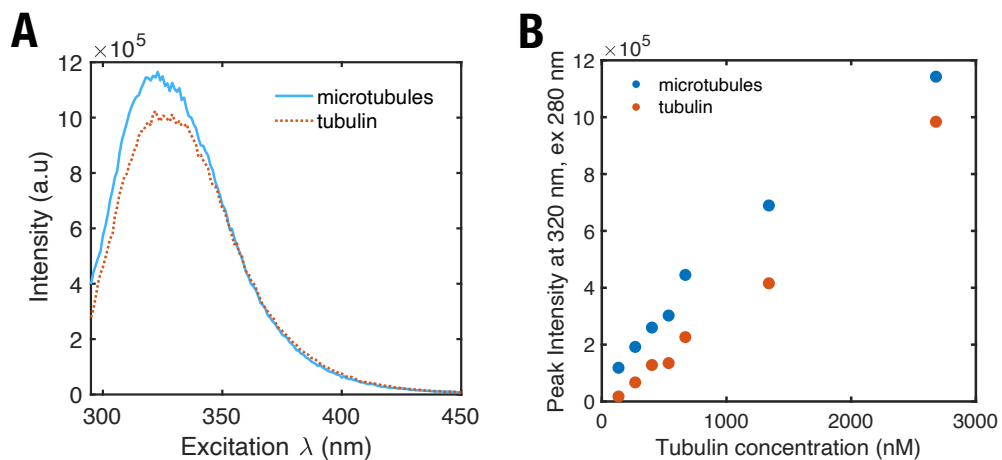


Figure S1. Emission profiles of tubulin and microtubules. (A), The emission spectrum of tubulin and microtubules as a function of concentration, (B), Variation of peak fluorescence intensity at different tubulin concentrations. All samples were excited using $\lambda_{\text{excitation}} = 280$ nm.

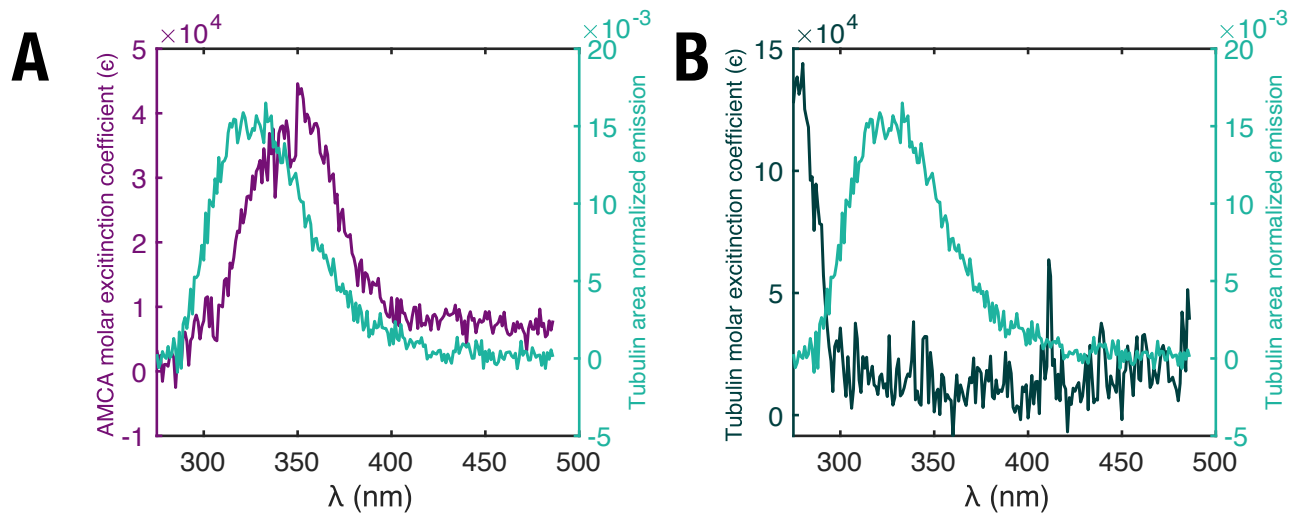


Figure S2. Molar extinction coefficient and area normalized emission spectra of (A) tubulin tryptophan and AMCA, (B) tubulin tryptophan for inter-tryptophan energy transfer.

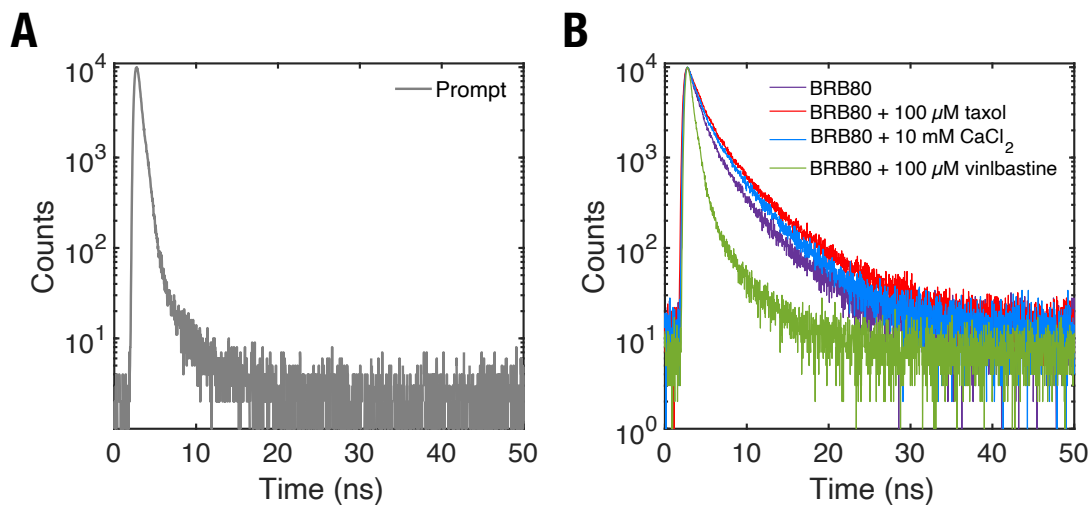


Figure S3. (A), Representative Instrument Response Function (IRF; 'prompt') signal extracted from a ludox colloidal solution, (B), Representative signal from a BRB80, BRB80T (background for microtubule containing solutions), BRB80Ca (background for free GTP-tubulin containing solutions), and BRB80V (background for GTP-tubulin oligomer containing solutions). BRB80V had characteristic lifetimes of 3.67 ns (10.14%), 0.85 ns (5.22%) and 53.6 ps (84.64%).

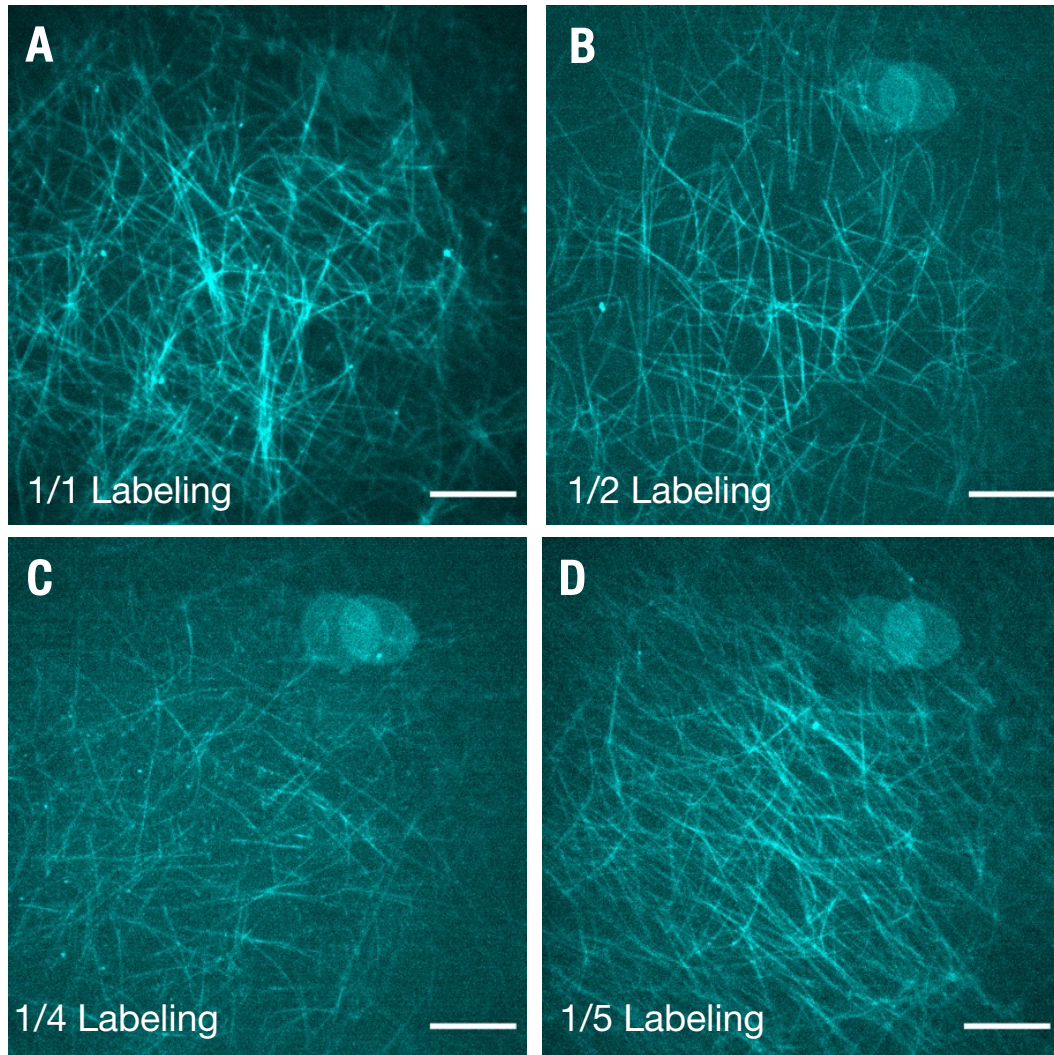


Figure S4. Experimentally evaluating the polymerization of microtubules with differing AMCA concentrations using confocal fluorescence microscopy. Microtubules polymerized using (A), 1/1 labeling ratio (AMCA concentration 2.27 μM in solution; tubulin concentration 2.27 μM in solution), (B), 1/2 labeling ratio (AMCA concentration 1.135 μM), (C), 1/4 labeling ratio (AMCA concentration 0.57 μM) and (D), 1/5 labeling ratio (AMCA concentration 0.45 μM). Scale bars represent 10 μm . While a limited amount of microtubule bundling can be seen in (A) and (D), no bundling was observed in the larger solution.

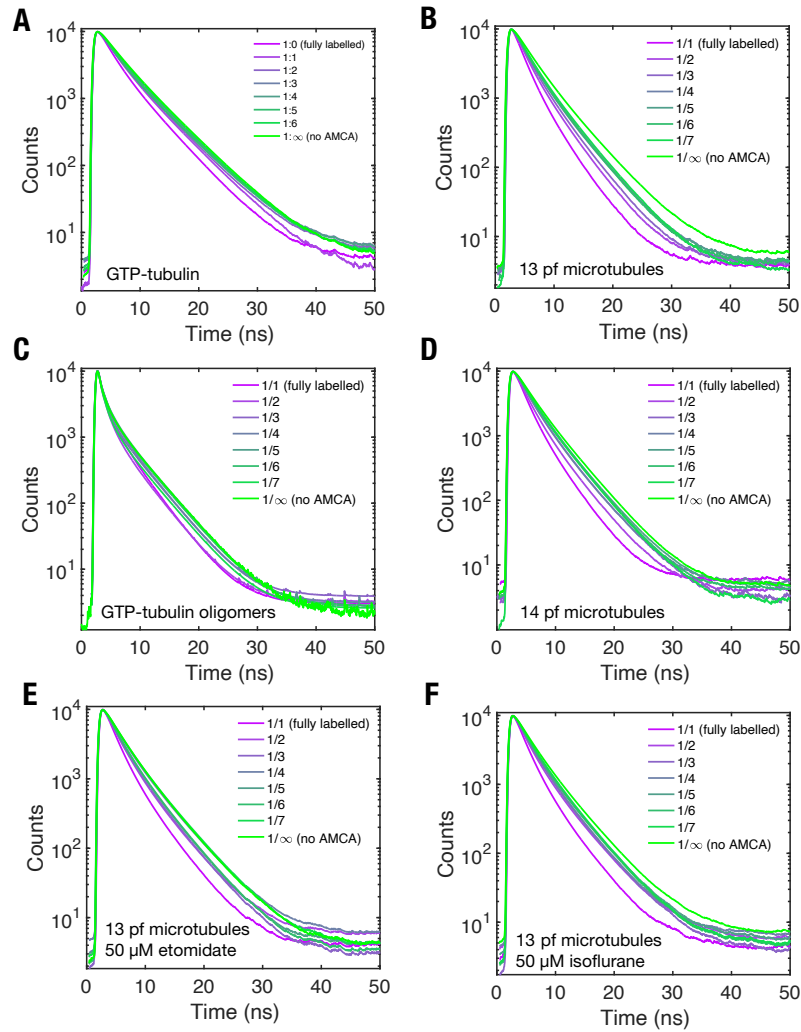


Figure S5. Time resolved fluorescence spectroscopy showing the influence of AMCA labeling ratio on tryptophan fluorescence lifetimes in (A), free GTP-tubulin in solution, (B), 13 protofilament microtubules, (C), GTP-tubulin oligomers, (D), 14 protofilament microtubules (E), 13 protofilament microtubules in the presence of 50 μM etomidate, (F), free 13 protofilament microtubules in the presence of 50 μM isoflurane, as a function of AMCA labeling ratio.

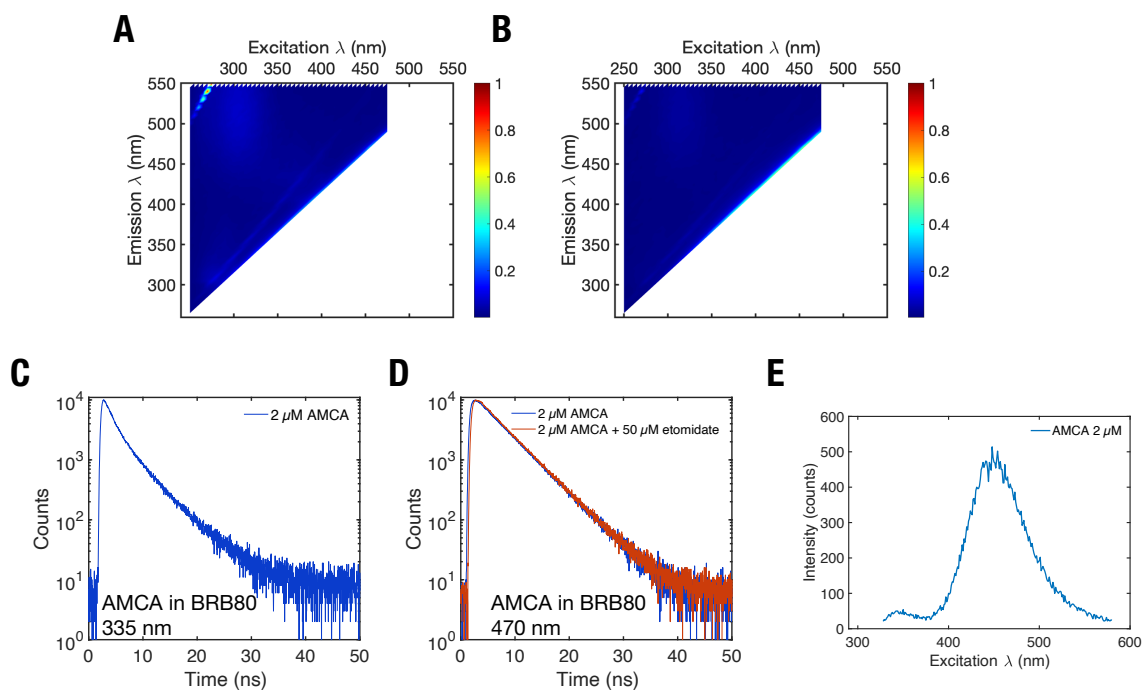


Figure S6. Intensity normalized fluorescence spectra of (A), 50 μM etomidate in BRB80 showing highest fluorescence emission at Raman scattering peaks of water, (B), 50 μM isoflurane in BRB80 showing highest fluorescence emission at Raman scattering peaks of water. These spectra show that etomidate and isoflurane contribute to negligible fluorescence in the excitation 270-310 nm and emission 300-350 nm range, where tryptophan is active. (C), Representative signal from a 2 μM AMCA solution, measured at excitation 305 nm, emission 335 nm (conditions and background solution condition identical to that of GTP-tubulin polymerized microtubules), (D), 470 nm in the presence of agents etomidate, isoflurane and picrotoxin, (E), Steady-state emission spectrum of AMCA at excitation 305 nm recorded using the TCSPC instrumentation.

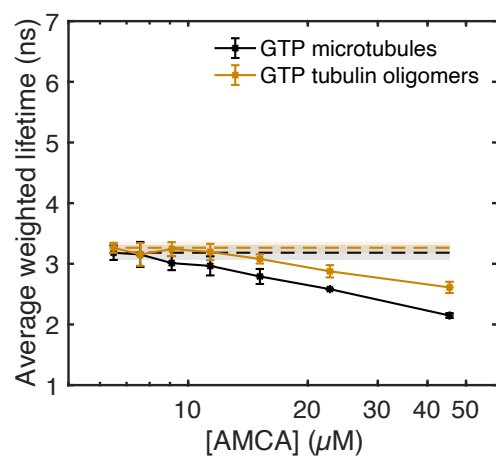


Figure S7. Average weighted tryptophan fluorescence lifetime of GTP tubulin oligomers as a function of AMCA concentration.

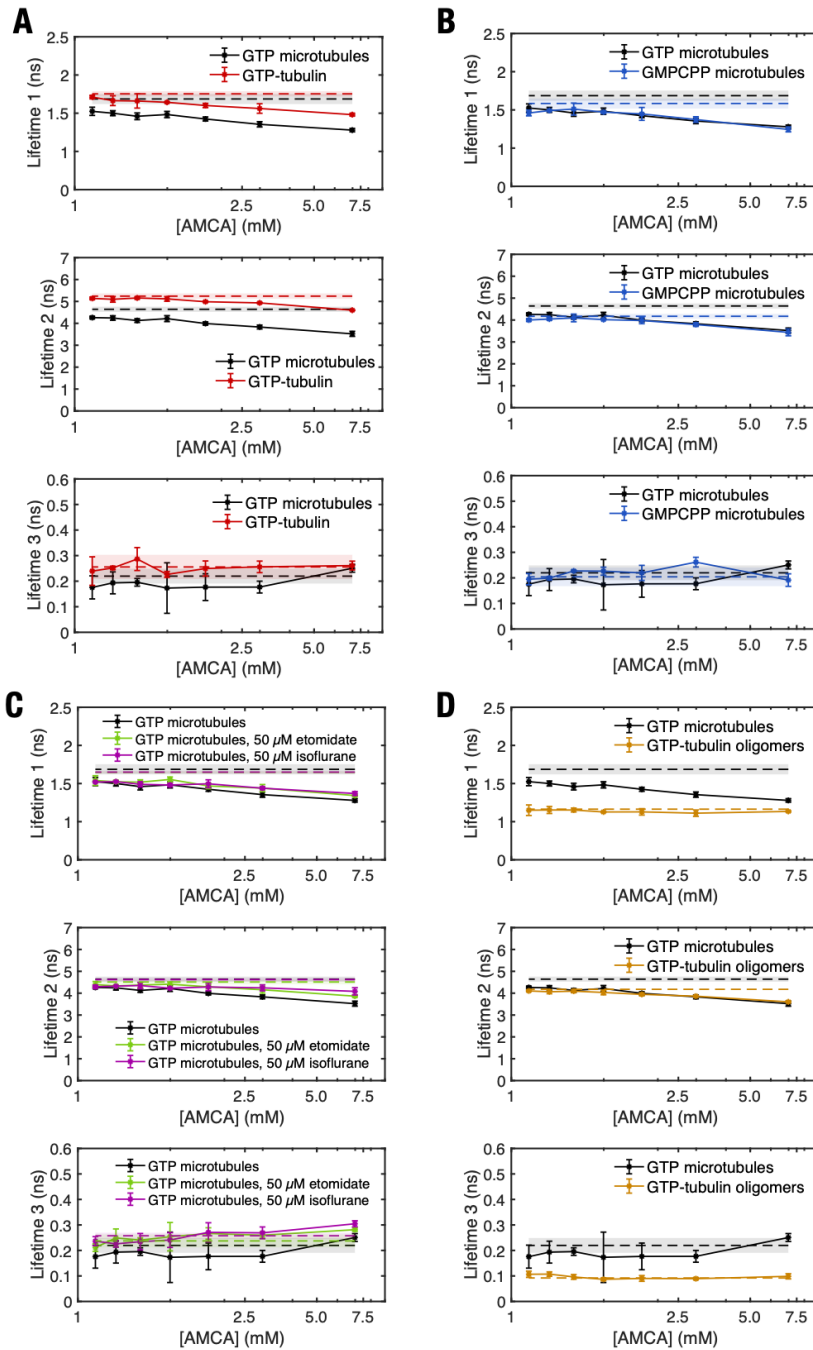


Figure S8. Tryptophan fluorescence lifetimes of different tubulin polymers as a function of AMCA concentration Fitted lifetimes of tryptophan fluorescence as a function of AMCA labeling ratio for (A), GTP-tubulin compared to that of 13 protofilament microtubules, (B), 14 protofilament microtubules compared to that of 13 protofilament microtubules, (C), GTP-tubulin oligomers compared to that of 13 protofilament microtubules, (D), 13 protofilament microtubules in the presence of etomidate and isoflurane compared to that of 13 protofilament microtubules in their absence.

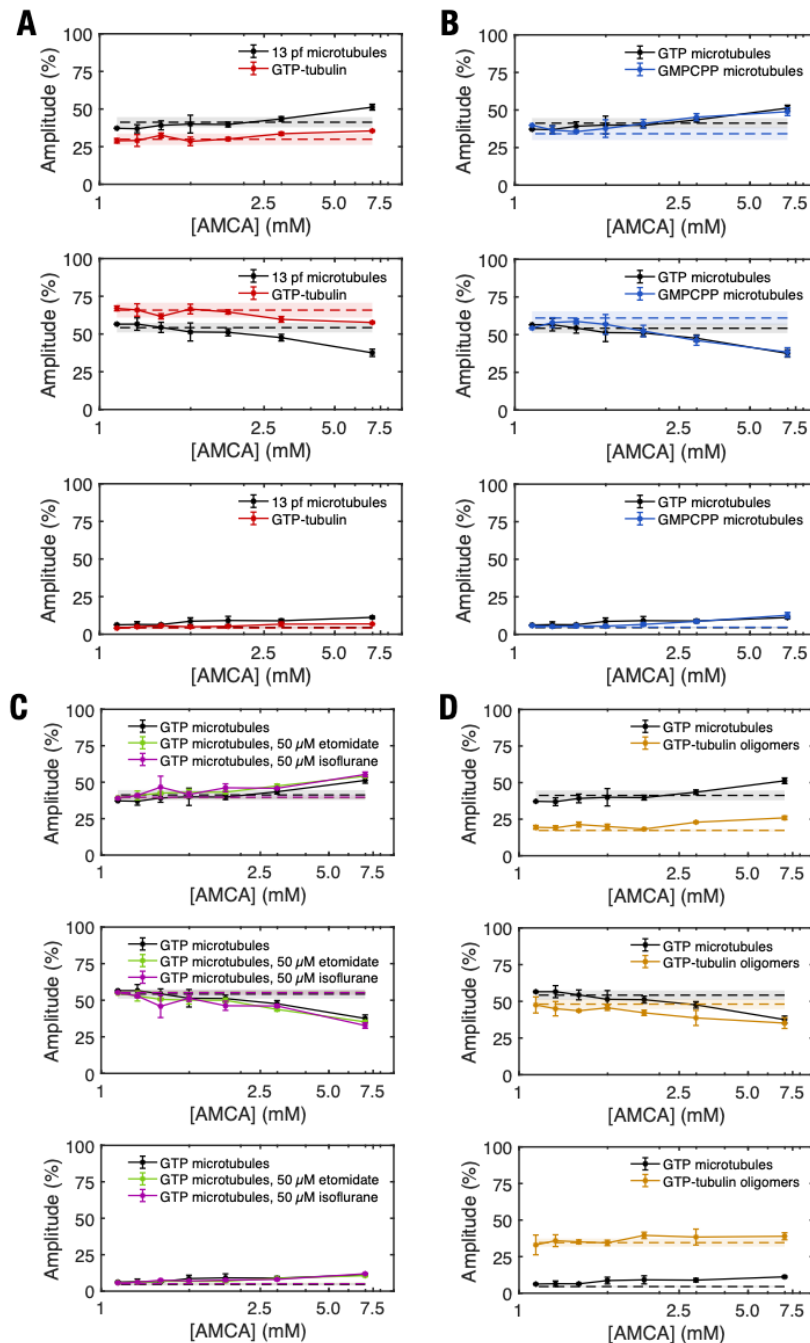


Figure S9. Relative contributions of each lifetime component in tryptophan fluorescence for different tubulin polymers as a function of AMCA concentration. Fitted amplitudes of tryptophan fluorescence as a function of AMCA labeling ratio for (A), GTP-tubulin compared to that of 13 protofilament microtubules, (B), 14 protofilament microtubules compared to that of 13 protofilament microtubules, (C), GTP-tubulin oligomers compared to that of 13 protofilament microtubules, (D), 13 protofilament microtubules in the presence of etomidate and isoflurane compared to that of 13 protofilament microtubules in their absence.

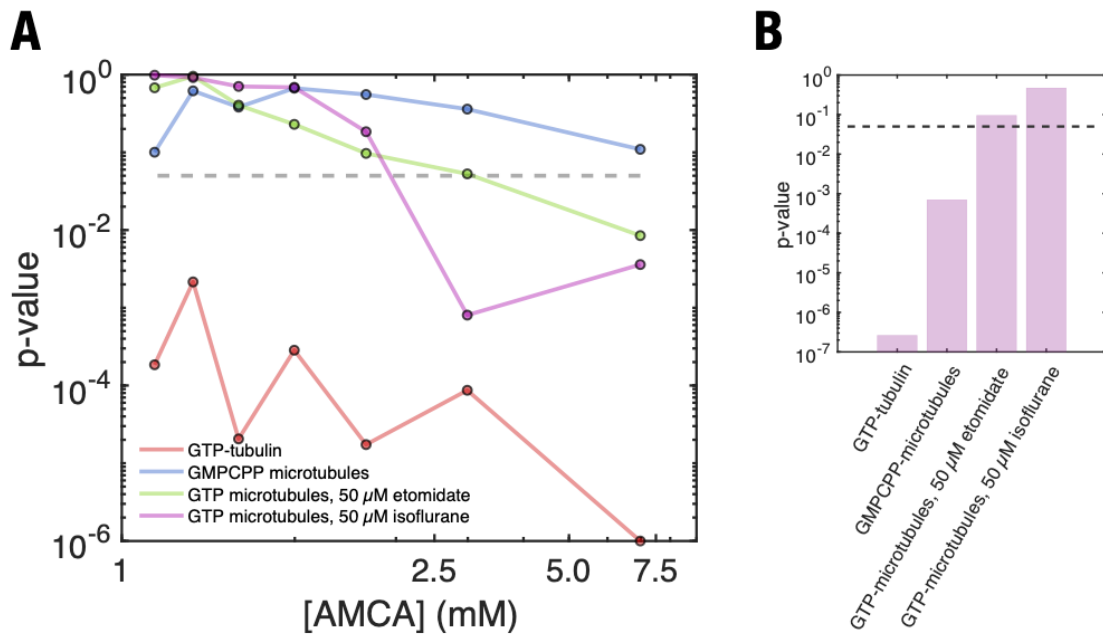


Figure S10. (A) p-values obtained from a two tailed t-test, comparing the values of average weighted lifetimes obtained for GTP-microtubules, to those of GTP-tubulin, GMPCPP microtubules, GTP microtubules in the presence of 50 μ M etomidate and GTP microtubules in the presence of 50 μ M isoflurane in the presence of varying concentrations of AMCA. The dashed grey line represents a p-value of 0.05. (B) p-values obtained by comparing the average weighted lifetimes obtained for unlabeled microtubules with those of unlabeled GTP-tubulin, unlabeled GMPCPP microtubules, unlabeled GTP microtubules in the presence of 50 μ M etomidate and unlabeled GTP microtubules in the presence of 50 μ M isoflurane. The dashed line represents a p-value of 0.05.

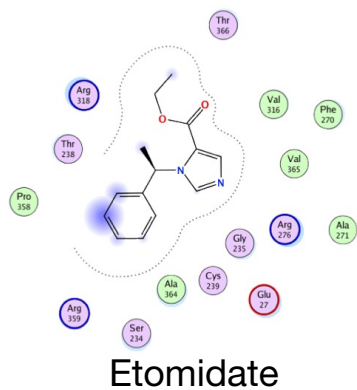
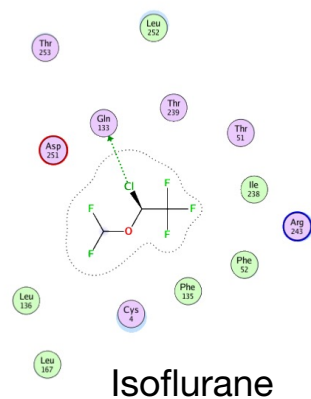
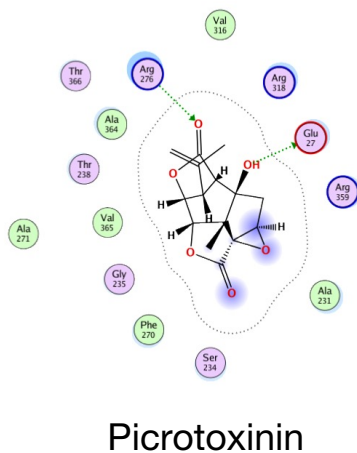
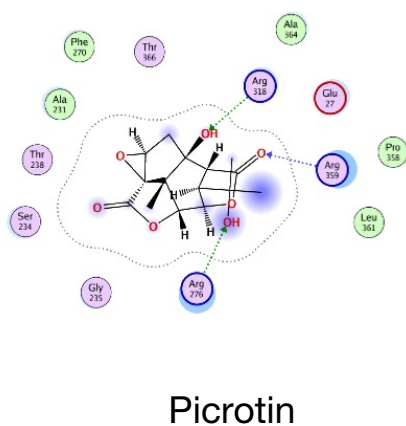
A**B****C****D**

Figure S11. (A), Weak interactions between etomidate and binding site residues of Site 5, which featured the best predicted binding energy, (B), Detailed interactions between isoflurane and binding site residues of Site 3, which featured the best predicted binding energy, (C), Interactions between picrotoxinin and the taxol binding site, which featured the best predicted binding energy, d, Interactions between picrotin and binding site residues of the taxol binding site, which featured the best predicted binding energy.

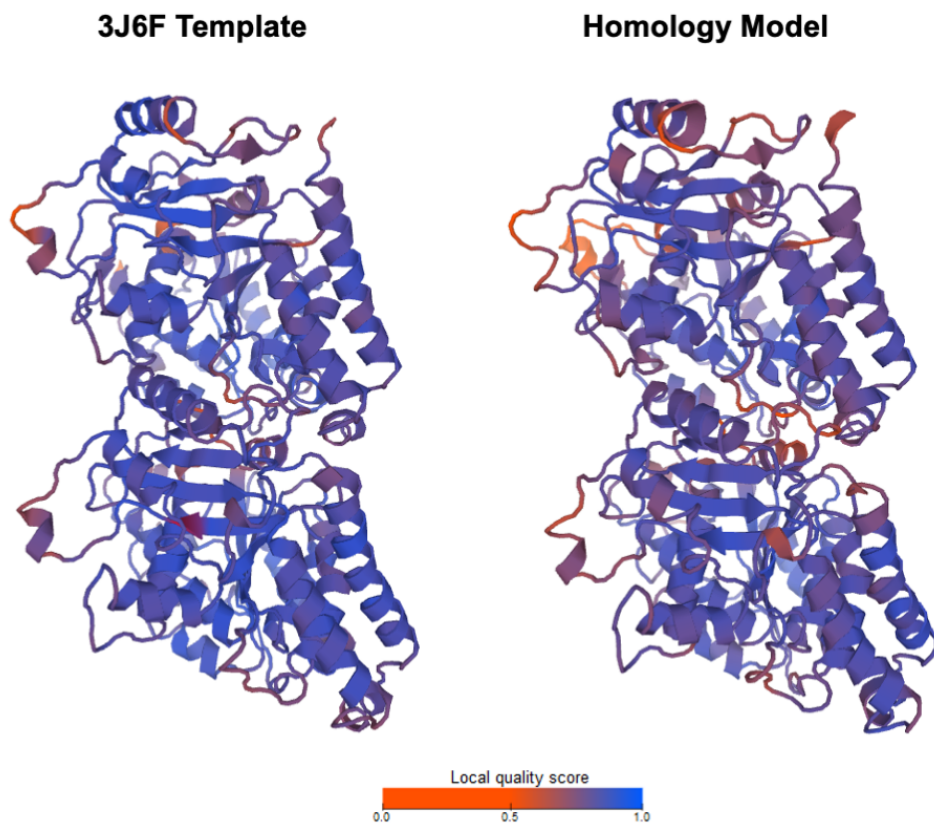


Figure S12. Visual comparison of the distribution of QMeanDisCo scores of the template (PDB ID 3J6F, left) and the final homology model (right).

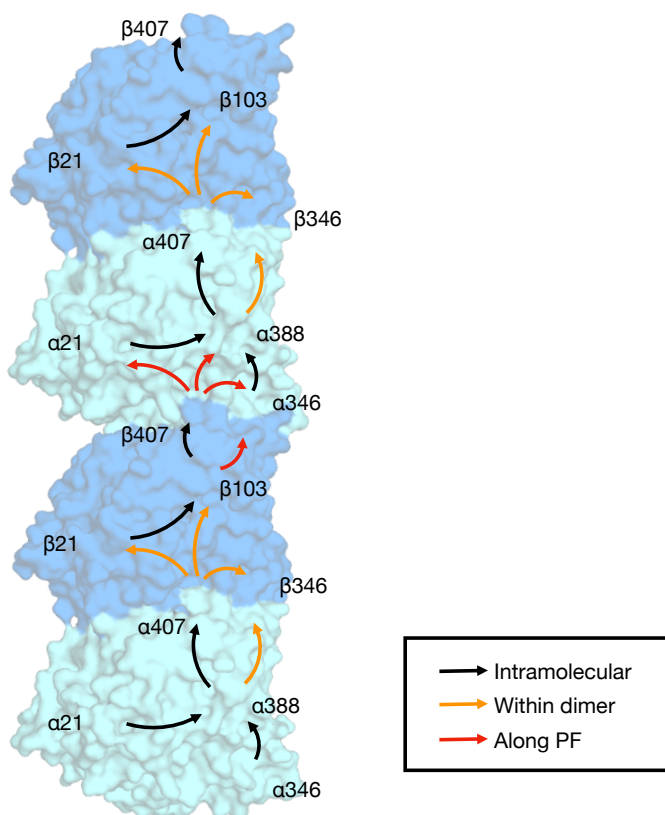


Figure S13. Schematic showing long-range energy transport along a microtubule.

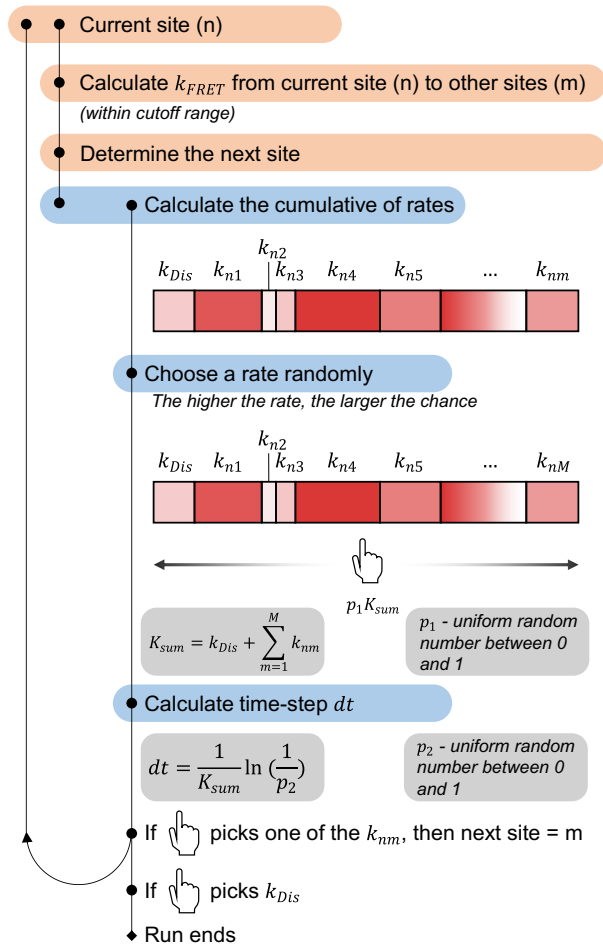


Figure S14. Algorithm used for kinetic Monte Carlo simulations.

A

Absorption and emission spectra

Spectral overlap

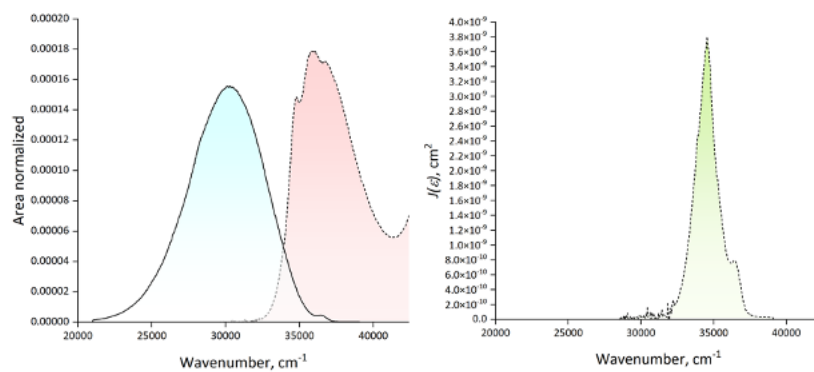
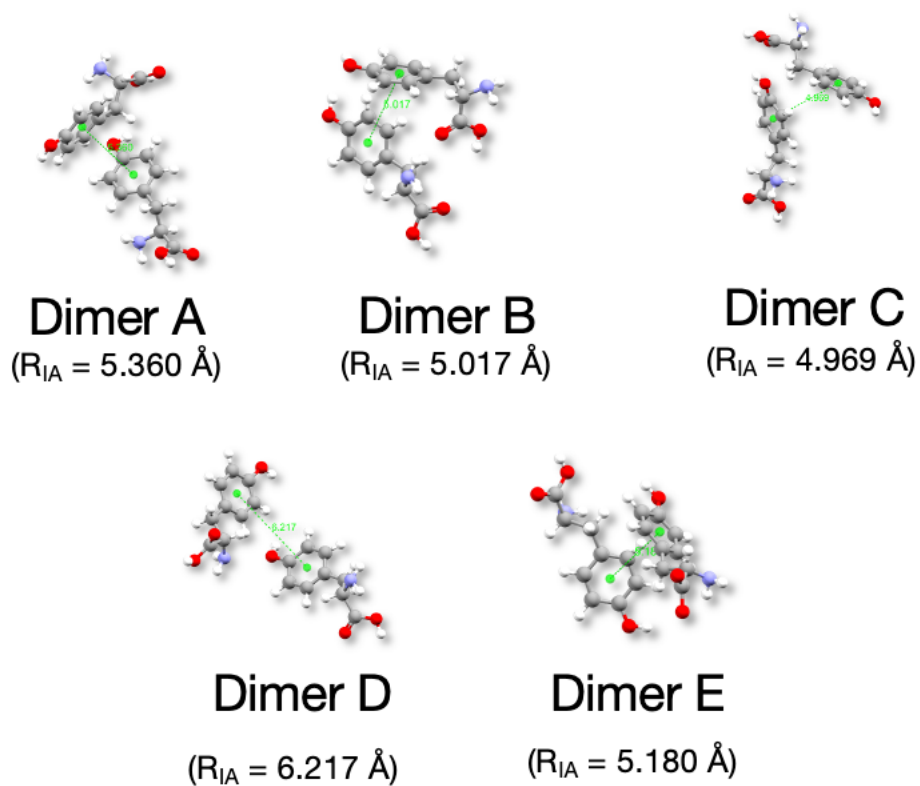
**B**

Figure S15. (A) Spectral overlap integral values for photoexcitation donor acceptor pairs (B) Graphs showing absorption and emission spectra used for calculations. (C) Representative TYR dimers with short inter-aromatic distance (R_{IA}) selected for calculating hole and electron transfer integrals.

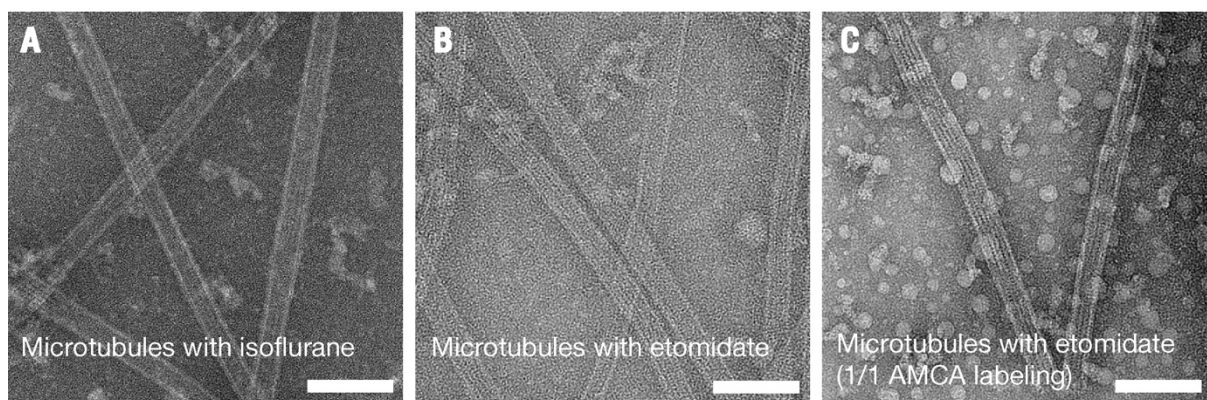


Figure S16. TEM validating microtubule presence in anesthetic containing solutions. Paclitaxel stabilized microtubules in the presence of (A) 50 μ M isoflurane, (B) 50 μ M etomidate (C) 50 μ M etomidate and microtubules polymerized using tubulin labeled with AMCA. Scale bars represent 100 nm.

Table S1. Nearest neighbor distances (\AA) between tryptophan residues in different tubulin polymers. CD2 (carbon at the delta-2 position) atoms in pairs of tryptophan residues were used to measure distances between residues.

| | 14 protofilament microtubules (6DPU) | GTP-tubulin (3J6G) | 13 protofilament microtubules (3J6G) | GTP-tubulin oligomers (Vinblastine stabilized) |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| TUB α 1 W21 | 27.9 | 28 | 27.7 | 26.6 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | 14.3 | 19.9 | 15.2 | 13.8 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | 17.9 | 19.9 | 19.9 | 20.3 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | 15.8 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 15.9 |
| TUB β W21 | 26.8 | 26.3 | 26.3 | 26.2 |
| TUB β W103 | 13.9 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 13.5 |
| TUB β W346 | 15.8 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 15.9 |
| TUB β W407 | 13.9 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 13.5 |
| average min | 18.2875 | 19.3125 | 18.6875 | 18.2125 |
| std min | 5.7543617 | 5.325528143 | 5.435974745 | 5.51735897 |

Table S2. Distances (Å) between tryptophan residues for 13 and 14 protofilament microtubules.

| Residue 1 | Residue 2 | 14 protofilament microtubule (6DPU) | 13 protofilament microtubule (3J6G) |
|---|---------------------|---|--|
| | | CD2 Distance (Å) | CD2 Distance (Å) |
| TUBα1 Intradimer | | | |
| TUB α 1 W21 | TUB α 1 W346 | 36.8 | 37.6 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | TUB α 1 W388 | 29.2 | 28 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | TUB α 1 W407 | 35.4 | 35 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | TUB α 1 W388 | 17.9 | 19.9 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | TUB α 1 W407 | 42.8 | 43.5 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | TUB α 1 W407 | 25.8 | 24.4 |
| TUBβ Intradimer | | | |
| Tub β W21 | Tub β W103 | 26.8 | 26.3 |
| Tub β W21 | Tub β W346 | 38 | 37.9 |
| Tub β W21 | Tub β W407 | 35.3 | 35.2 |
| Tub β W103 | Tub β W346 | 33.8 | 33.5 |
| Tub β W103 | Tub β W407 | 13.9 | 14.3 |
| Tub β W346 | Tub β W407 | 45.7 | 45.5 |
| TUBα1 to TUBβ across dimer | | | |
| TUB α 1 W21 | Tub β W21 | 41 | 40.8 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | Tub β W103 | 59.3 | 58.3 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | Tub β W346 | 43.3 | 43 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | Tub β W407 | 71.9 | 71.4 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | Tub β W21 | 65.9 | 65.7 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | Tub β W103 | 72.3 | 70.7 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | Tub β W346 | 41.7 | 40.8 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | Tub β W407 | 85.5 | 84.3 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | Tub β W21 | 49.2 | 46.5 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | Tub β W103 | 72.3 | 51.5 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | Tub β W346 | 25 | 23 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | Tub β W407 | 67.8 | 65.1 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | Tub β W21 | 27.7 | 27.7 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | Tub β W103 | 26.9 | 27.7 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | Tub β W346 | 15.8 | 15.9 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | Tub β W407 | 42 | 41.7 |
| Tubα1 to TUBβ along PROTOFILAMENT | | | |
| TUB α 1 W21 | Tub β W21 | 42.9 | 42.7 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | Tub β W103 | 37.9 | 38 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | Tub β W346 | 68.1 | 67.5 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | Tub β W407 | 27.9 | 27.7 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | Tub β W21 | 68.1 | 43.9 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|------|------|
| TUB α 1 W346 | Tub β W103 | 20.7 | 22 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | Tub β W346 | 42.3 | 42.7 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | Tub β W407 | 14.3 | 15.2 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | Tub β W21 | 52.8 | 53.9 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | Tub β W103 | 33.4 | 35.7 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | Tub β W346 | 60 | 61.8 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | Tub β W407 | 20.4 | 22.1 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | Tub β W21 | 72.9 | 72.4 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | Tub β W103 | 55.8 | 55.8 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | Tub β W346 | 85.6 | 85.3 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | Tub β W407 | 42 | 41.6 |
| Tubα1 to TUBα1 across lattice | | | |
| TUB α 1 W21 | TUB α 1 W21 | 48.6 | 48.6 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | TUB α 1 W346 | 79.2 | 79.8 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | TUB α 1 W388 | 71.9 | 70.3 |
| TUB α 1 W21 | TUB α 1 W407 | 63.7 | 63.6 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | TUB α 1 W21 | 48.4 | 50.4 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | TUB α 1 W346 | 61.4 | 62.3 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | TUB α 1 W388 | 58.6 | 59.4 |
| TUB α 1 W346 | TUB α 1 W407 | 57.5 | 58.4 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | TUB α 1 W21 | 48.1 | 48.7 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | TUB α 1 W346 | 67.4 | 68.3 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | TUB α 1 W388 | 59.9 | 59.5 |
| TUB α 1 W388 | TUB α 1 W407 | 50.6 | 50.7 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | TUB α 1 W21 | 64.5 | 64.1 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | TUB α 1 W346 | 88.6 | 87.6 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | TUB α 1 W388 | 77.1 | 74.8 |
| TUB α 1 W407 | TUB α 1 W407 | 58.9 | 58.8 |
| Tubβ to TUBβ across lattice | | | |
| Tub β W21 | Tub β W21 | 48.9 | 48.6 |
| Tub β W21 | Tub β W103 | 60.4 | 59.7 |
| Tub β W21 | Tub β W346 | 81.2 | 81.1 |
| Tub β W21 | Tub β W407 | 63.7 | 63.1 |
| Tub β W103 | Tub β W21 | 59.6 | 59.4 |
| Tub β W103 | Tub β W103 | 59 | 58.7 |
| Tub β W103 | Tub β W346 | 84.9 | 85 |
| Tub β W103 | Tub β W407 | 60.9 | 59.7 |
| Tub β W346 | Tub β W21 | 47.8 | 47.2 |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------|------|
| Tubβ W346 | Tubβ W103 | 48.3 | 47 |
| Tubβ W346 | Tubβ W346 | 62 | 61.8 |
| Tubβ W346 | Tubβ W407 | 56.7 | 55.6 |
| Tubβ W407 | Tubβ W21 | 64.4 | 64.5 |
| Tubβ W407 | Tubβ W103 | 60.9 | 60.9 |
| Tubβ W407 | Tubβ W346 | 90.4 | 90.6 |
| Tubβ W407 | Tubβ W407 | 58.6 | 58.4 |

Table S4. Estimation of 2D diffusion length using Stern-Volmer analysis.

| Variable | Symbol | Value | Estimation method |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Stern-Volmer quenching constant | k_Q | See Table 1 | TCSPC analysis |
| Tryptophan weighted average lifetime in tubulin polymer in the absence of AMCA | τ_0 | See Figure 4 | TCSPC |
| Tryptophan weighted average lifetime in tubulin polymer as a function of [AMCA] | τ | See Figure 4 | TCSPC |
| sum of the radii of tryptophan and AMCA | r | 1 nm | approximate sum |

Table S5. Comparison of 2D diffusion lengths as estimated by Stern-Volmer kinetics and RET using Förster theory.

| Tubulin polymerization state | L_{sv} (nm) |
|--|----------------------------|
| Free GTP-tubulin | 4.07 ± 0.1 |
| 13 protofilament microtubules (GTP-tubulin polymerized) | 6.64 ± 0.1 |
| 14 protofilament microtubules (GMPCPP-tubulin polymerized) | 6.13 ± 0.1 |
| GTP-tubulin oligomers | 4.63 ± 0.1 |
| 13 protofilament microtubules with 50 μM etomidate | 5.61 ± 0.1 |
| 13 protofilament microtubules with 50 μM isoflurane | 5.81 ± 0.2 |

Table S6. Summary of all binding sites found by SiteFinder with a PLB score greater than 0, together with the known binding sites on tubulin of colchicine, taxol and vinca alkaloids.

| Site Number | Subunit | Residues lining the site | PLB score |
|-------------|---------|---|-----------|
| 1 | A | ARG2 GLU27 HIS28 LYS40 GLY45 ASP46 SER48 PHE49 ASN50 THR51 PHE52 ALA240 LEU242 ARG243 PHE244 ASP245 ASN249 ASN356 GLN358 GLN134 ASP197 GLU198 TYR200 VAL236 THR237 | 3.66 |
| 2 | A/B | LEU240 LEU250 LEU253 ALA254 MET257 PHE266 ILE368 | 2.83 |
| 3 | A | THR191 HIS192 THR193 THR194 LEU195 GLU196 ARG264 ILE265 PHE267 ASP424 LEU428 GLN15 THR73 VAL74 ASP76 GLU77 THR80 TYR224 | 2.15 |
| 4 | A/B | LEU42 ASP45 ARG46 PRO243 GLY244 GLN245 ARG320 MET321 SER322 ASP355 | 1.68 |
| 5 | B | ALA19 GLU22 LEU23 LEU26 ARG229 VAL362 VAL363 GLY366 ASP367 LEU368 | 1.45 |
| 6 | B | HIS107 THR150 SER151 LEU152 MET154 GLU155 THR193 THR194 GLU196 HIS197 SER198 PHE255 ASN258 LEU259 PRO261 MET313 ALA314 | 1.18 |
| 7 | A | CYS315 CYS316 TRP346 CYS347 PRO348 GLY350 PHE351 LYS352 | 1.10 |
| 8 | B | ARG2 GLU27 HIS28 LYS40 GLY45 ASP46 SER48 PHE49 ASN50 THR51 PHE52 ALA240 LEU242 ARG243 PHE244 ASP245 ASN249 ASN356 GLN358 GLN134 ASP197 GLU198 TYR200 VAL236 THR237 | 0.38 |
| 9 | A | LEU240 LEU250 LEU253 ALA254 MET257 PHE266 ILE368 | 0.35 |
| 10 | A/B | THR191 HIS192 THR193 THR194 LEU195 GLU196 ARG264 ILE265 PHE267 ASP424 LEU428 GLN15 THR73 VAL74 ASP76 GLU77 THR80 TYR224 | 0.22 |
| 11 | A | LEU42 ASP45 ARG46 PRO243 GLY244 GLN245 ARG320 MET321 SER322 ASP355 | 0.20 |
| 12 | A | ALA19 GLU22 LEU23 LEU26 ARG229 VAL362 VAL363 GLY366 ASP367 LEU368 | 0.06 |
| 13 | A | HIS107 THR150 SER151 LEU152 MET154 GLU155 THR193 THR194 GLU196 HIS197 SER198 | 0.04 |
| Colchicine | A/B | α GLU71 α ASN101 β ARG241 β ARG251 β ARG318 β ALA352 | - |
| Taxol | B | VAL23 ASP26 LEU217 THR219 VAL229 SER230 MET233 PRO272 THR274 SER275 ARG276 GLY277 SER278 | - |
| Vinca | A | ALA247 LEU248 ASN249 LYS352 VAL353 | - |

Table S7. Predicted GBVI/WSA binding energy of etomidate in each analyzed binding site, reported as mean \pm standard deviation among the top 5 poses in each site after energy minimization and rescoring.

| Site | GBVI/WSA ΔG [kcal/mol] |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | -6.10 \pm 0.18 |
| 2 | -5.45 \pm 0.25 |
| 3 | -5.22 \pm 0.12 |
| 4 | -5.76 \pm 0.13 |
| 5 | -6.53 \pm 0.23 |
| 6 | -5.51 \pm 0.15 |
| 7 | -5.18 \pm 0.04 |
| 8 | -5.85 \pm 0.14 |
| 9 | -5.34 \pm 0.08 |
| 10 | -6.22 \pm 0.29 |
| 11 | -4.85 \pm 0.22 |
| 12 | -5.29 \pm 0.05 |
| 13 | -5.48 \pm 0.21 |
| Colchicine | -5.56 \pm 0.23 |
| Taxol | -6.15 \pm 0.09 |
| Vinca | -5.90 \pm 0.21 |

Table S8. Predicted GBVI/WSA binding energy of isoflurane in each analyzed binding site, reported as mean \pm standard deviation among the top 5 poses in each site after energy minimization and rescoring.

| Site | GBVI/WSA ΔG [kcal/mol] |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | -4.21 \pm 0.06 |
| 2 | -4.15 \pm 0.16 |
| 3 | -4.52 \pm 0.09 |
| 4 | -4.27 \pm 0.07 |
| 5 | -4.21 \pm 0.15 |
| 6 | -3.83 \pm 0.09 |
| 7 | -3.93 \pm 0.10 |
| 8 | -3.81 \pm 0.18 |
| 9 | -3.94 \pm 0.07 |
| 10 | -4.19 \pm 0.10 |
| 11 | -3.94 \pm 0.07 |
| 12 | -3.91 \pm 0.05 |
| 13 | -4.21 \pm 0.11 |
| Colchicine | -4.22 \pm 0.03 |
| Taxol | -4.07 \pm 0.10 |
| Vinca | -4.14 \pm 0.15 |

Table S9. Predicted GBVI/WSA binding energy of Picrotoxinin in each analyzed binding site, reported as mean \pm standard deviation among the top 5 poses in each site after energy minimization and rescoring.

| Site | GBVI/WSA ΔG [kcal/mol] |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | -5.03 \pm 0.09 |
| 2 | -5.26 \pm 0.09 |
| 3 | -4.89 \pm 0.03 |
| 4 | -5.11 \pm 0.29 |
| 5 | -5.54 \pm 0.11 |
| 6 | -5.03 \pm 0.12 |
| 7 | -4.92 \pm 0.05 |
| 8 | -4.82 \pm 0.18 |
| 9 | -4.93 \pm 0.07 |
| 10 | -5.00 \pm 0.33 |
| 11 | -4.60 \pm 0.14 |
| 12 | -4.87 \pm 0.15 |
| 13 | -0.40 \pm 1.12 |
| Colchicine | -1.16 \pm 0.71 |
| Taxol | -5.57 \pm 0.20 |
| Vinca | -0.46 \pm 1.04 |

Table S10. Predicted GBVI/WSA binding energy of picotrin in each analyzed binding site, reported as mean \pm standard deviation among the top 5 poses in each site after energy minimization and rescoring.

| Site | GBVI/WSA ΔG [kcal/mol] |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | -5.23 \pm 0.11 |
| 2 | -5.3 \pm 0.24 |
| 3 | -5.08 \pm 0.09 |
| 4 | -5.36 \pm 0.17 |
| 5 | -5.55 \pm 0.11 |
| 6 | -4.94 \pm 0.15 |
| 7 | -4.94 \pm 0.11 |
| 8 | -5.03 \pm 0.1 |
| 9 | -4.86 \pm 0.29 |
| 10 | -5.32 \pm 0.1 |
| 11 | -4.46 \pm 0.17 |
| 12 | -4.8 \pm 0.3 |
| 13 | -3.84 \pm 0.42 |
| Colchicine | -4.29 \pm 1.12 |
| Taxol | -5.58 \pm 0.12 |
| Vinca | -3.68 \pm 0.58 |

Table S11. Spectral overlap integrals between tyrosine and tryptophan residues.

| D-A pair | J_{so} (10^{-6} cm) |
|-------------------------|--|
| Tryptophan > Tryptophan | 7.53 |
| Tyrosine > Tyrosine | 16.15 |
| Tryptophan > Tyrosine | 5.63 |
| Tyrosine > Tryptophan | 30.52 |

Table S12. Magnitudes of hole ($|t_h|$) and electron transfer integrals ($|t_e|$) for TYR dimers at short inter-aromatic distances.

| | $R_{IA}(\text{\AA})$ | $ t_h (\text{cm}^{-1})$ | $ t_e (\text{cm}^{-1})$ |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dimer A | 5.36 | 49.62 | 34.83 |
| Dimer B | 5.02 | 12.62 | 85.56 |
| Dimer C | 4.97 | 52.25 | 137.47 |
| Dimer D | 6.22 | 51.25 | 175.40 |
| Dimer E | 5.18 | 89.53 | 419.39 |

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