

# Supporting Information

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## SI Text

**Calculation of FRET and Correction of Fc.** The spectral separation method for measuring FRET has several advantages. This method eliminates errors from variability in the quantum yield or the expression level of donor and acceptor molecules. Ratio-metric analysis of spectra also has the advantage of an internally consistent control because, over a range of emission wavelengths, a properly subtracted FRET ratio remains constant (1). The measurement of FRET using spectra is complicated by emission from the donor (in this case, CFP) and direct excitation of the acceptor (in this case, YFP) by the 458-nm laser line. To measure the component of the spectra due to FRET, we first measured the ratio (Ratio A) of  $F^{458}$  to the emission of YFP by the 488 laser line (Fig. 2A,  $F_{488}$ , black trace) as in Eq. 1.  $F^{458}$  is determined by subtracting the donor-only component.

$$\text{Ratio A} = F_{458}/F_{488} = (F_{458 \text{ FRET}}/F_{488}) + (F_{458 \text{ direct}}/F_{488}) \quad [1]$$

The value  $F_{458 \text{ FRET}}/F_{488}$  can be solved by first solving for the ratio of  $F_{458 \text{ direct}}$  to  $F_{488}$  (Ratio  $A_0$ ) as in Eq. 2. Ratio  $A_0$  was experimentally determined in a separate control experiment in oocytes expressing an YFP-hERG  $\Delta$ N S620T channel (Fig. 2B) as the ratio of peak intensity from YFP at 488 excitation (Fig. 2B,  $F_{488}$ , black trace) versus 458 excitation (Fig. 2B,  $F_{458 \text{ direct}}$ , red trace) as in Eq. 2.

$$\text{Ratio } A_0 = F_{458 \text{ direct}}/F_{488} \quad [2]$$

Solving Ratio A – Ratio  $A_0$  yields  $F_{458 \text{ FRET}}/F_{488}$ , as in Eq. 3, which is a value related to FRET efficiency, and decreases as FRET decreases and increases as FRET increases (Fig. 2E).

$$\text{Ratio A} - \text{Ratio } A_0 = F_{458 \text{ FRET}}/F_{488} \quad [3]$$

In our experiments, some of the observed CFP intensities are reduced because of transfer of energy to YFP due to FRET. We corrected the FRET-reduced CFP intensity using a method described previously (2) in which the FRET ratio is calculated as

$$\text{FR} = \text{Ratio A}/\text{Ratio } A_0 \quad [4]$$

and the effective FRET efficiency is calculated as

$$E_{\text{eff}} = (\varepsilon \text{YFP}_{458}/\varepsilon \text{CFP}_{458})(\text{FR} - 1) \quad [5]$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is the molar extinction coefficients for monomeric citrine and mCFP (3, 4). The true CFP emission (Fc) was then calculated as

$$F_{\text{CFP\_true}} = F_{\text{CFP\_measured}}/(1 - E_{\text{eff}}) \quad [6]$$

and was reported in Figs. 2–4.

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3. Rizzo MA, Springer G, Segawa K, Zipfel WR, Piston DW (2006) Optimization of pairings and detection conditions for measurement of FRET between cyan and yellow fluorescent proteins. *Microw Microsc Micro* 12:238–254.
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