Labeling Proteins with Fluorophore/Thioamide Förster Resonant Energy Transfer Pairs by Combining Unnatural Amino Acid Mutagenesis and Native Chemical Ligation

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General Information. A QuickChange[®] site-directed mutagenesis kit was purchased from Stratagene (La Jolla, CA). DNA oligomers were purchased from Integrated DNA Technologies, Inc (Coralville, IA). DNA sequencing was performed at the University of Pennsylvania DNA sequencing facility. Protein purification was conducted on a BioCad Sprint fast protein liquid chromatography (FPLC) system (GMI Inc.; Ramsey, MN; originally from Perseptive Biosystems). HPLC purification was carried out on a Varian Prostar system (currently Agilent Technologies; Santa Clara, CA). Intein plasmid pTXB1 and all restriction enzymes were purchased from New England Biolabs (Ipswich, MA).

Synthesis of Thiophenylalanine Precursor Compound.

Synthesis of the thiophenylalanine nitrobenzotriazolide precursor compound **S4** was based on a slight modification of the procedure originally reported by Shalaby *et al.*^{1,2}

CaM Peptide Synthesis and Purification. Peptide synthesis was performed as described in the main text. CaM binding peptides were synthesized on Rink amide resin. Peptides were purified by reverse-phase HPLC using a binary system of aqueous (Buffer A: water $+0.1\%$ TFA) and organic (Buffer B: $CH_3CN + 0.1\%$ TFA) phases. Solvent gradients, column descriptions, and retention times are listed in Tables **S1** and **S2**. Purified peptides were lyophilized or dried in a vacuum centrifuge.

[†]Described in Table S2. [‡]Separable epimers were observed during HPLC purification.

Gradient	Time (min)	Buffer A $(\%)$	Gradient	Time (min)	Buffer A $(\%)$
S ₁	0:00	98	S ₂	0:00	98
	5:00	98		5:00	98
	8:00	71		9:00	69
	29:00	59		25:00	67
	33:00	0		27:00	0
	38:00	0		30:00	0
	43:00	98		35:00	98

Table S2. Solvent Gradients Used for Peptide Purification and Analysis.

Table S3. Calculated and Observed Peptide and Protein Masses.

Peptide	Calculated m/z $[M+H]$ ⁺	Observed m/z [M+H] ⁺	Calculated m/z [M+Na] ⁺	Observed m/z [M+Na] ⁺
FRRIARLVGVLREFAFR (pOCNC)	2106.26	2106.75	2128.24	
F'RRIARLVGVLREFAFR (pOCNC-F'1)	2122.23	2122.43	2128.24	
FRRIARLVGVL'REFAFR (pOCNC-L'11)	2122.23	2122.16	2128.24	
FRRIARLVGVLREFAF'R [‡] (pOCNC-F' ₁₆)	2122.23	2122.62	2128.24	
CaM $F*_{13}F_{100}F_{139}$ (CaM ^F F [*] ₁₃)	16700.3	16699.8	16722.3	
CaM $F*_{93}F_{100}F_{139}$ (CaM ^F F [*] 93)	16700.3	16699.9	16722.3	
CaM $F*_{100}F_{139}$ (CaM ^F $F*_{100}$)	16700.3	16700.6	16722.3	

Cloning of Calmodulin Expression Constructs. A plasmid containing the wild-type chicken calmodulin (CaM) gene was provided by Joshua Wand from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. An insert containing the CaM gene was cloned into a pET15b vector (Novagen, Gibbstown, NJ) between the NcoI and XhoI cut sites. Quikchange® mutagenesis was used to generate the following mutant plasmids: $pET15b-CaM-TAG_{13}F_{100}F_{139}$, $pET15b-CaM-TAG_{17}F_{100}F_{139}$, $pET15b-CaM-TAG_{93}F_{100}F_{139}$, and $pET15b-CaM-TAG_{100}F_{139}$.

DNA Oligomers used for CaM Quikchange® Mutagenesis

a. Mutation F_{13} to TAG

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Forward: 5' – ACTGACAGAAGAGCAGATTGCAGAATAGAAAGAAGCTTTTTCACTATTTGAC – 3'
Reverse: 5' – GTCAAATAGTGAAAAAGCTTCTTTCTATTCTGCAATCTGCTCTTCTGTCAGT – 3'
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b. Mutation F_{17} to TAG

Forward: 5' – GATTGCAGAATTCAAAGAAGCTTAGTCACTATTTGACAAGGATGGT – 3' Reverse: 5' – ACCATCCTTGTCAAATAGTGACTAAGCTTCTTTGAATTCTGCAATC – 3'

c. Mutation F₉₃ to TAG

Forward: 5' – AATTAGAGAAGCGTTCCGTGTGTAGGACAAGGATGG – 3' Reverse: 5' – CCATCCTTGTCCTACACACGGAACGCTTCTCTAATT – 3'

d. Mutation Y_{100} to F

Forward: 5' – GACAAGGATGGTAATGGTTTCATTAGTGCTGCAGAACTT – 3' Reverse: 5' – AAGTTCTGCAGCACTAATGAAACCATTACCATCCTTGTC – 3'

d. Mutation Y_{100} to TAG

Forward: 5' – GACAAGGATGGTAATGGTTAGATTAGTGCTGCAGAACTTCG – 3' Reverse: 5' – CGAAGTTCTGCAGCACTAATCTAACCATTACCATCCTTGTC – 3'

e. Mutation Y_{139} to F

Forward: 5' – AGACATTGATGGTGATGGTCAAGTAAACTTTGAAGAGTTTGTACA – 3' Reverse: 5' – TGTACAAACTCTTCAAAGTTTACTTGACCATCACCATCAATGTCT – 3'

Figure S1. DNA oligomers for CaM Quikchange**®** mutagenesis.

Native PAGE Gel Analysis of CaM Mutants. CaM peptide binding can be detected by native (non-denaturing) PAGE gel analysis.³ In order to determine whether mutant CaM was capable of binding peptide, 25 µL samples were prepared containing 10 µM of each CaM mutant, with or without a stoichiometric equivalent of pOCNC-F'₁. Prepared samples were then incubated for one hour at 4 °C and loaded into a non-denaturing gel with 2.5 µL of 60% glycerol and 2.5 µL of .01% bromophenol blue to assist loading. The gel was stained with Coomassie blue and scanned.

Figure S2. Native PAGE analysis of CaM WT and mutants. Left: PAGE analysis demonstrates upward shift of the CaM protein band upon addition of pOCNC-F'₁. No shift is observed upon addition of pOCNC- F'_{1} to CaM $^{F}F_{17}$, indicating this CaM mutant does not bind pOCNC-F'₁.

Calmodulin Circular Dichroism Measurements. Mutant stability was evaluated through both wavelength-dependent and temperature-dependent circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy. The wavelength-dependent signature for both the calcium-containing CaM (holo CaM) and calcium-free CaM (apo CaM) was examined. Since holo CaM is thermostable, only the thermal unfolding of apo CaM was determined. The apo form of the protein was prepared by dialyzing the protein into 2 mM EDTA in 50 mM HEPES, pH 6.70. The holo form of the protein was prepared by dialyzing into 6 mM CaCl₂, 15 mM HEPES, 140 mM KCl, pH 6.70. Prepared samples containing 20 μ M CaM were monitored at 222 nm between 5 and 95 °C using the variable temperature module for temperature-dependent scans and between 200 and 300 nm at room temperature for wavelength-dependent scans. Data were collected with a 1 °C/min slope, 30 s averaging time, 2 min temperature equilibration, 5 s response, and 1 nm band width. The data were processed as previously described.⁴

Figure S3. Temperature and wavelength-dependent circular dichroism measurements of CaM Mutants. Left: Temperature-dependent trace shown for apo CaM mutants. Middle: Wavelength-dependent trace (25 °C) shown for apo CaM mutants. Right: Wavelength-dependent trace (25 °C) shown for holo CaM mutants. Coloring scheme for all three plots CaM $^{\mathsf{F}}\mathsf{F}^*{}_{13}$ (red), CaM $^{\mathsf{F}}\mathsf{F}^*{}_{93}$ (green), CaM $^{\mathsf{F}}\mathsf{F}^*{}_{100}$ (blue).

Fluorescence Spectroscopy. Corrected fluorescence spectra were collected in triplicate using quartz fluorometer cells with path lengths of 1.00 cm. For all Cnf experiments, the excitation wavelength was 240 nm and emission data was collected from 275 - 400 nm as the average of three scans. The excitation and emission slit widths were 5 nm, the scan rate was 120 nm/min, the averaging time 0.5 s, and the data interval 1.0 nm.

CaM/pOCNC Binding Assays. Titration assays were performed by preparing individual samples containing increasing concentrations of each pOCNC peptide with each CaM mutant as described in the main text.

Figure S4. Fluorescence scans of pOCNC binding with CaM mutants. Left: CaM^FF^{*}₁₃, Middle: CaM^FF*₉₃, Right: CaM^FF*₁₀₀.

Figure S5. Fluorescence scans of thioamide pOCNC mutants binding with CaM^FF*₁₀₀. Left: pOCNC-F'₁, Middle: pOCNC-L'₁₁, Right: pOCNC-F'₁₆.

Figure S6. Fluorescence scans of pOCNC mutants binding with CaM^FF*₉₃. Left: pOCNC-F'₁, Right: pOCNC-L'₁₁.

Figure S7. Fluorescence scans of pOCNC thioamide mutants Binding with CaM^FF*₁₃. Left: pOCNC-F'₁, Right: pOCNC-L'₁₁.

Titration Analysis of Binding Studies with CaM Mutants. Normalized titration curves were obtained by plotting the ratio of the fluorescence of thioamide pOCNC complexes to the corresponding oxoamide pOCNC complexes (both measured at 295 nm) as a function of CaM/pOCNC ratio.

Figure S8. Binding of thioamide-containing-pOCNC with CaM^FF*₁₀₀. In each set, Left: Pymol figure illustrating the distance between the chromophores. Right: titration data for the binding experiment. Top: pOCNC-Fʹ1, Middle: pOCNC-Lʹ11, Bottom: pOCNC-Fʹ16.

Figure S9. Binding of thioamide-containing-pOCNC with CaM^FF^{*}₉₃. In each set, Left: Pymol figure illustrating the distance between the chromophores. Right: titration data for the binding experiment. Top: pOCNC-Fʹ1, Bottom: pOCNC-Lʹ11.

14 Å

Figure S10. Binding of thioamide-containing-pOCNC with CaM^FF*₁₃. In each set, Left: Pymol figure illustrating the distance between the chromophores. Right: titration data for the binding experiment. Top: pOCNC-Fʹ1, Bottom: pOCNC-Lʹ11.

Experimental Förster Distance Calculations (CaM). The Förster distance, R_0 , is given in Å by equation (S1)

$$
R_0^6 = \frac{9000(\ln 10) \kappa^2 Q_D J}{128 \pi^5 n^4 N_A}
$$
 (S1)

where κ^2 is a geometrical factor that relates the orientation of the donor and acceptor transition moments, Q_D is the quantum yield of the donor, *n* is the index of refraction of the solvent, N_A is Avogadro's number, and *J* is the spectral overlap integral defined in units of M^{-1} •cm⁻¹•nm⁴.^{5,6} Combining constants and rearranging gives R_0 as

$$
R_0 = 0.211 \{ Q_D K^2 n^4 J_1^{1/6} \tag{S2}
$$

J is formally defined as

$$
J = \int_{0}^{\infty} f_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda) \kappa_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda) \lambda^{4} d\lambda
$$
 (S3)

where $\varepsilon_A(\lambda)$ is the molar extinction coefficient of the acceptor at each wavelength λ and $f_D(\lambda)$ is the normalized donor emission spectrum given by

$$
f_{\mathcal{D}}(\lambda) = \frac{F_{\mathcal{D}\lambda}(\lambda)}{\int_{0}^{\infty} F_{\mathcal{D}\lambda}(\lambda) d\lambda}
$$
 (S4)

where $F_{D\lambda}(\lambda)$ is the fluorescence of the donor at each wavelength λ . *J* was calculated to be $7.0\times10^{12} \pm 2\times10^{11}$ M⁻¹ • cm⁻¹ • nm⁴ as previously described.⁷ Substituting this result into equation (S1), as well as 0.11 for the quantum yield of Cnf, 1.33 for the index of refraction of water, and 2/3 for κ^2 gives $R_0 = 15.6$ Å for Cnf/thioamide FRET pairs with Cnf at position 100 in CaM.⁸ For Cnf/thioamide FRET pairs with Cnf at position 13 in CaM, we use 0.003 as a quantum yield for Cnf, and calculate $R_0 = 8.6$ Å. For Cnf/thioamide FRET pairs with Cnf at position 93 in

CaM, we use 0.014 as a quantum yield for Cnf, and calculate $R_0 = 11.1 \text{ Å}$. Quantum yields for each mutant were determined by comparing the fluorescence output of the mutant relative to the fluorescence of $CaM^{\text{F}}F^*_{100}$ under oxopeptide (pOCNC) bound conditions using identical concentrations and fluorometer settings. Comparison of $CaM^FF[*]₁₀₀$ fluorescence to free Cnf showed that no substantial quenching occurred in this mutant in the absence of thiopeptide (data not shown).

These values of R_0 were then used in determining experimental chromophore separations (R_{FRET}) for each set of Cnf/thioamide probe locations according to equation (S5)

$$
R_{\text{FRET}} = R_0 \left(\frac{1}{E_Q} - 1 \right)^{1/6} \tag{S5}
$$

where E_Q is defined by equation (S6) as described in the main text.

$$
E_Q = 1 - (F_{\text{Thio}} / F_{\text{Oxo}}) \tag{S6}
$$

The resulting R_{FRET} values are shown in Table 1 in the main text.

Chromophore Geometries from CaM/pOCNC NMR Structure. For each pair of Cnf donor and thioamide acceptor locations, the corresponding residues were identified in the 1SYD PDB file, and a Tcl script was run in VMD (http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/) to cull distance and orientation information for the Cnf ring (using the corresponding positions in the natural Phe or Tyr in 1SYD) and the thioamide Xxxʹ carbonyl (using the corresponding positions in the given amide backbone unit in $1SYD$.⁹ The following positions were determined in accordance with the vectors identified in previous quantum mechanical calculations: the midpoint between CE1 and CE2 (CEmp) of Cnf as a proxy for the center of the Cnf transition dipole; the midpoint between Xxx['] C and N of the next amino acid (CNmp) as a proxy for the midpoint of the thioamide dipole.⁷ The interchromophore distance (R_{NMR}) was determined as the distance between these two midpoints. The culled data were also used to calculate theoretical FRET efficiencies for each set of probe locations. The donor-acceptor dihedral angle (ϕ_{DA}) was determined as the Xxx['] O, CNmp, CEmp, Phe CE2 dihedral angle. The donor angle (θ_D) was determined as the Xxx' O, CNmp, CEmp angle; and acceptor angle (θ_A) was determined as the CNmp, CEmp, CE2 angle. These parameters are illustrated in Figure S11.

Figure S11. FRET Orientational Parameters. Structure 1 from PDB 1SYD shown with atoms used in determining κ^2 and relevant distances and angles illustrated. CNmp and CEmp indicated by black spheres. Shown with nitrile and thioamide modifications for clarity, although geometry calculations are identical for unmodified 1SYD file.

The orientational parameter from Förster theory, κ^2 , was calculated as:

$$
\kappa^2 = (\sin\theta_D \sin\theta_A \cos\phi_{DA} - 2\cos\theta_D \cos\theta_A)^2
$$
 (S7)

where ϕ_{DA} , θ_D , and θ_A are defined as above.⁶ Geometry-specific R_0 values were calculated for each of the twenty structures in PDB 1SYD using equations (S2) and (S3) where the donor quantum yield (Q_D) is taken as 0.11, the spectral overlap integral (*J*) is calculated as above, and the index of refraction (*n*) is taken as 1.33.⁸ For each timestep, this value of R_0 was used to calculate a geometry-specific FRET quenching efficiency (E_Q) using the corresponding donoracceptor separation, R_{NMR} (the CNmp/CEmp distance). E_Q was calculated using equation (S6). Values averaged over all 20 structures in PDB 1SYD for R_{NMR} , κ^2 , R_0 , and E_Q are collected in Table S4. These R_{NMR} values are listed in Table 1 in the main text.

CaM_F ₁₃ /pOCNC_F ₁ (Φ = 0.003)	R_{NMR}	κ^2	R_0	E_Q
Average	14.1	1.01	8.0	0.07
RMSD	0.3	0.63	1.5	0.04
CaM_F ₁₃ /pOCNC_L ₁₁ (Φ = 0.003)	R_{NMR}	κ^2	R_0	E_Q
Average	14.1	0.92	8.1	0.07
RMSD	0.4	0.47	1.3	0.03
CaM_F ₉₃ /pOCNC_F ₁ (0.014)	R_{NMR}	κ^2	R_0	E_Q
Average	8.9	1.12	11.1	0.73
RMSD	0.3	0.58	1.4	0.14
CaM_F ₉₃ /pOCNC_L ₁₁ (0.014)	R_{NMR}	κ^2	R_0	E_Q
Average	12.2	1.19	10.8	0.39
RMSD	0.5	0.68	1.8	0.15
CaM_F ₁₀₀ /pOCNC_F ₁ (0.110)	R_{NMR}	κ^2	R_0	$E_{\rm Q}$
Average	18.9	1.30	16.2	0.32
RMSD	0.3	0.57	2.1	0.11
CaM_F ₁₀₀ /pOCNC_L ₁₁ (0.110)	R_{NMR}	κ^2	R_{0}	$E_{\rm Q}$
Average	24.4	1.02	15.2	0.09
RMSD	0.4	0.58	2.2	0.04
CaM_F ₁₀₀ /pOCNC_F ₁₆ (0.110)	R_{NMR}	κ^2	R_0	$E_{\rm Q}$
Average	31.3	1.05	14.6	0.02
RMSD	0.7	0.68	2.8	0.01

Table S4. Orientation Parameters and Theoretical E_{FRET} from CaM/pOCNC NMR Structures^a

^a Parameters calculated as described in Supporting Information text. All distances in Å.

Epimer Analysis of pOCNC-F'₁₆. Upon purification of pOCNC-F'₁₆, two distinct peaks were observed with different retention times. We attribute this to epimerization resulting from a reversible cyclization reaction similar to the Edman degradation reaction. Both peaks contained the correct mass of pOCNC-Fʹ¹⁶ by MALDI MS. The fluorescence titration assay was performed with a combination of both epimers of the peptide. To confirm that both epimers bound CaM^FF^{*}₁₀₀, a native PAGE gel was run with and without each epimer of pOCNC-F'₁₆ as described previously.

Figure S12. Native PAGE and HPLC analysis of pOCNC-F'₁₆. Left: Gel analysis shows shift upon addition of each epimer of pOCNC-F'₁₆ to CaM^FF*₁₀₀, indicating binding. Right: HPLC purification trace at 277 nm. Peaks **1** and **2** correspond to the peptide epimers.

αS Peptide Synthesis and Purification. Peptide synthesis was performed as described in the main text. αS peptide fragments were synthesized on chlorotrityl resin. Peptides were purified by HPLC using a binary system of Buffer A and Buffer B. Thioesterification was performed as described in the main text. Solvent gradients, column descriptions, and retention times are listed in Tables **S5** and **S7**. Purified peptides were lyophilized or dried in a vacuum centrifuge. Purified proteins were exchanged into Tris buffer (20 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.4).

Table S5. Summary of HPLC Purified Peptides and Proteins.

Peptide	Gradient Description [†]	Retention Time (min)	Column (Size: Brand)
Ac-MDVF'MKGL-S(CH ₂) ₂ CO ₂ Me	S ₃	24.1	Semi-prep: YMCBasic C8
$Ac-MDV'FMKGL-CbPGo$	S4	31.9	Semi-prep: Vydac 218 TP C18
$\alpha S_{123-140}C_{123}A'_{124}$	S5	20.5	Prep: Waters C18
Ac- $\alpha S^F F' {}_4C_9F^*{}_{39}$	S6	31.5	Semi-prep: Vydac 218 TP C4
$Ac-aS^F F'_4C_9F^*_{94}$	S6	28.9	Semi-prep: Vydac 218 TP C4
$\alpha S^F F^*_{39}C_{123}A'_{124}$	S7	28.9	Semi-prep: Vydac 218 TP C4
Ac- $\alpha S^F V_3 C_9 F^*_{39}$	S6	29.5	Semi-prep: Vydac 218 TP C4

Table S6. Calculated and Observed Peptide and Protein Masses.

Gradient	Time (min)	Buffer A $(\%)$	Gradient	Time (min)	Buffer A $(\%)$
S ₃	0:00	98	S ₄	0:00	98
	5:00	98		5:00	98
	10:00	85		10:00	75
	30:00	65		25:00	40
	35:00	$\pmb{0}$		30:00	$\pmb{0}$
	40:00	$\pmb{0}$		35:00	$\pmb{0}$
	45:00	98		40:00	98
S ₅	0:00	95	S ₆	0:00	95
	5:00	95		5:00	95
	10:00	77		10:00	70
	27:00	60		30:00	40
	30:00	$\pmb{0}$		34:00	$\pmb{0}$
	35:00	$\pmb{0}$		38:00	$\pmb{0}$
	40:00	98		43:00	95
S7	0:00	95			
	5:00	95			
	10:00	70			
	30:00	50			
	34:00	$\pmb{0}$			
	38:00	$\pmb{0}$			
	43:00	95			

Table S7. Solvent Gradients Used for Peptide Purification and Analysis.

Construction of Recombinant pET16b αS Expression Plasmids. The generation of pET16b-His₁₁IEGR- $\alpha S_{\Delta 1.8}C_9$ has been described previously.¹⁰ All tyrosine residues (Y₃₉, Y₁₂₅, Y_{133} , and Y_{136}) were mutated to phenylalanine by multiple rounds of QuikChange® mutagenesis to generate $pET16b-His_{11}IEGR- $\alpha S_{\Delta 1-8}^F C_9$. The amber stop codon (TAG) was subsequently$ mutated into the pET16b-His₁₁IEGR- $\alpha S_{\Delta 1.8}^F C_9$ construct at nucleotides corresponding to position 39 or 94 to generate $pET16b-His_{11}IEGR-\alpha S_{\Delta 1-8}^F C_9TAG_{39}$ and $pET16b-His_{11}IEGR-\alpha S_{\Delta 1-8}^F C_9TAG_{39}$ ${}_{8}C_{9}TAG_{94}$

Construction of Recombinant pRK127 αS Expression Plasmids. A plasmid containing the human wild-type αS gene cloned between NdeI and HindIII in the expression vector pRK172 was provided by Dr. Virginia Lee (Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania). All tyrosine residues were mutated to phenylalanine by multiple rounds of Quikchange**®** mutagenesis to generate $pRK172-\alpha S^F$. The amber stop codon (TAG) was subsequently mutated into the pRK172- αS^F construct at nucleotides corresponding to amino acid position 39 or 94 to generate pRK172- $\alpha S^F T A G_{39}$ and pRK172- $\alpha S^F T A G_{94}$. In order to create N-terminal cysteine constructs for native chemical ligation, a primer was designed to delete nucleotides corresponding to amino acids 2-8 while simultaneously mutating Ser_9 to Cys. This primer was applied to pRK172- $\alpha S^F T A G_{39}$ and pRK172- $\alpha S^F T A G_{94}$ to generate pRK172- $\alpha S^F_{\Delta 2.8} C_9 T A G_{39}$ and $pRK172-\alpha S_{\Delta 2.8}^F C_9TAG_{94}$ (Figure S13). Ser₉ was mutated to Cys in all full-length oxoamide control constructs to yield pRK172- $\alpha S^{F}C_{9}TAG_{39}$ and pRK172- $\alpha S^{F}C_{9}TAG_{94}$.

$pRK172-aS^FTAG$	
a. - ATA CAT ATG <u>GAT GTA TTC ATG AAAGGACTT</u>	TCA AAG GCC - M ₁ D ₂ V ₃ F ₄ M ₅ K ₆ G ₇ L ₈ S ₉ K ₁₀ A ₁₁
$pRK172-aS^F_{A2+8}C_9TAG$	
b. - ATA CAT ATG <u>TGC</u> AAG GCC - M ₁ C ₉ K ₁₀ A ₁₁	

Figure S13. Construction of pRK172-aS $F_{\Delta 2-8}C_9$ TAG mutants. A primer was designed to delete nucleotides corresponding to amino acid residues 2-8 (underlined) and mutate S9 to C (bolded) with a single round of Quikchange**[∆]** mutagenesis.

Construction of Recombinant pTXB1-αS₁₋₁₂₂F^{*}₃₉-H_{Tag} Expression Plasmid. A plasmid containing a wild type αS gene was digested by NdeI and XhoI, gel-purified, and ligated into NdeI/XhoI site of the pTXB1 vector which contained mini-intein GyrA from the *Mycobacterium*

xenopi followed by a chitin binding domain (CBD). An XhoI site (CTCGAG) was introduced at D_{121}/N_{122} of αS using QuikChange[®] mutagenesis . Digestion with XhoI and ligation of the two sticky ends yielded a pTXB1- $\alpha S_{1-122}D_{121}L-N_{122}E-SapI$ site plasmid. Finally, QuikChange® mutagenesis was used to mutate $L_{121}D$ and $N_{122}E$ while simultaneously deleting the SapI site for generating pTXB1- αS_{1-122} plasmid.

Figure S14. Construction of αS₁₋₁₂₂ intein expression plasmid with C-terminal chitin binding domain.

To replace CBD with a polyhistidine tag at the C-terminus of the intein, two HindIII sites were introduced at the N- and C- termini of CBD using QuikChange® mutagenesis. The main portion of the CBD was removed by digestion with HindIII and ligation of the two sticky ends. Then, six His were inserted between the HindIII and stop codon. The plasmid sequence was confirmed by sequencing using T7-promotor as well as T7-terminator primers. Lastly, the amber stop codon (TAG) was introduced at position 39 using QuikChange[®] mutagenesis to generate αS_{1}^{F} . $_{122}TAG_{39}$ -Int construct.

Figure S15. Construction of αS_{1-122} intein expression plasmid with C-terminal His₆ tag.

DNA Oligomers Used for αS QuikChange ® Mutagenesis

a. Mutation $Y_{39}F$ Forward: 5' – GGAAAGACAAAAGAGGGTGTTCTCTTTGTAGGCTCCAAA – 3' Reverse: 5' – TTTGGAGCCTACAAAGAGAACACCCTCTTTTGTCTTTCC – 3' b. Mutation $Y_{125}F$ Forward: 5' – GGATCCTGACAATGAGGCTTTTGAAATGCCTTCTGA – 3' Reverse: 5' – TCAGAAGGCATTTCAAAAGCCTCATTGTCAGGATCC – 3' c. Double Mutation $Y_{133}F_{Y_{136}}F$ Forward: 5' – CCTTCTGAGGAAGGGTTTCAAGACTTCGAACCTGAAGCC – 3' Reverse: 5' – GGCTTCAGGTTCGAAGTCTTGAAACCCTTCCTCAGAAGG – 3' d. Mutation $Y_{39}TAG$ Forward: 5' – AAAAGAGGGTGTTCTCTAGGTAGGCTCCAAAACCAA – 3' Reverse: 5' – CTTGGTTTTGGAGCCTACCTAGAGAACACCCTCTTTT – 3' e. Mutation F₉₄TAG Forward: 5' – GCATTGCAGCAGCCACTGGCTAGGTCAAAAAGGACCAGTTGGG – 3' Reverse: 5' – CCCAACTGGTCCTTTTTGACCTAGCCAGTGGCTGCTGCAATGC – 3' e. Deletion 2-8 and Mutation S_9C Forward: 5' – AGAAGGAGATATACATATGTGCAAGGCCAAGGAGGG – 3' Reverse: 5' – CTCCCTCCTTGGCCTTGCACATATGTATATCTCCTTCT – 3' f. Xhol site introduction at D_{121}/N_{122} Forward: 5' – GGAAGATATGCCTGTGGATCCTCTCGAGGAGGCTTATGAAATGCCTTCTG – 3' Reverse: 5' – CAGAAGGCATTTCATAAGCCTCCTCGAGAGGATCCACAGGCATATCTTCC – 3' g. Mutation $L_{121}D/E_{122}N$ and deletion of SapI site Forward: 5' – GGAAGATATGCCTGTGGATCCTGACAATTGCATCACGGGAGATGCA– 3' Reverse: 5' – TGCATCTCCCGTGATGCAATTGTCAGGATCCACAGGCATATCTTCC – 3' h. Insertion of HindIII – $1st$ site Forward: 5' – TACTGGCCTCACCGGTCTGAAGCTTGGCCTCACGACAAATCC – 3' Reverse: 5' – GGATTTGTCGTGAGGCCAAGCTTCAGACCGGTGAGGCCAGTA – 3' i. Insertion of HindIII – $2nd$ site Forward: 5' – CGTTCCTGCCTTGTGGCAGAAGCTTTGACTGCAGGAAGGGGATCC – 3' Reverse: 5' –GGATCCCCTTCCTGCAGTCAAAGCTTCTGCCACAAGGCAGGAACGT – 3' j. Introduction of His Tag Forward: 5' – CTCACCGGTCTGAAGCTTCATCATCATCATCATCATTAATGACTGCAGGAAGGG – 3' Reverse: 5' –CCCTTCCTGCAGTCATTAATGATGATGATGATGATGAAGCTTCAGACCGGTGAG – 3'

Figure S16. DNA oligomers used for α S mutagenesis.

Generation of pDule2-Cnf-BL21(DE3) *E. Coli* **Cells for Unnatural Amino Acid Mutagenesis.** A plasmid encoding for an orthogonal tRNA_{CUA} and pCnf-tRNA synthetase for the incorporation of pCnf through amber stop codon suppression (pDULE2-Cnf) was provided by Dr. Ryan Mehl (University of Oregon).¹¹ *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells were transformed with this plasmid and plated onto LB agar plates containing streptomycin. Following transformation, competent cells for protein expression were brewed in accordance with the Hanahan method.¹¹ Cells stocks were stored at - 80 ºC in single-use aliquots.

 0 verexpression and Purification of Full-length αS Cnf Mutants. $\alpha S^F C_9F^*{}_{39}, \alpha S^F C_9F^*{}_{94,}$ and $\alpha S^{\text{F}}F^*_{39}C_{123}$ were transformed into competent *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells harboring the orthogonal tRNACUA and pCnf-tRNA synthetase pair. Transformed cells were selected on the basis of ampicillin (Amp) and streptomycin (Strep) resistance. Single colonies were used to inoculate 5 mL of LB media supplemented with Amp (100 ug/mL) and Strep (100 ug/mL). The primary 5 mL culture was incubated at 37 ºC with shaking at 250 rpm for 5 hours. The primary culture was used to inoculate 1 L of a variant of M9 minimal media. To an autoclaved 1L solution containing 6 g Na₂HPO₄, 3 g KH₂PO₄, .5 g NaCl and 1 g NH₄Cl, the following autoclaved solutions were added: 1 mL of 2 M $MgSO₄$, 1 mL of 15 mg/mL FeCl₂ (in 1.0 M HCl), 1 mL of 15 mg/mL ZnCl₂ (in acidified H₂O), 2 mL of 10% BactoTM Yeast Extract 6.5 mL 40% glucose (w/v), and 1 μ L of 1 M CaCl₂. When the OD₆₀₀ of the secondary culture reached 0.8, Cnf was added (100 mg, 0.5 mM final concentration), and the culture was incubated overnight at 37 ºC with shaking at 250 rpm. The cells were harvested at 5000 x g for 15 min and the resulting pellet was resuspended in 20 mM Tris, pH 8. Following sonication, the cell lysate was boiled for 20 minutes prior to centrifugation for 20 minutes at 30,000 x g, 4 ºC. The cleared lysate was dialyzed against 20 mM Tris pH 8.0, loaded onto a Superdex 200 column (25 cm) connected to a BioCad Sprint (FPLC) system and eluted with 20 mM Tris, pH 8. FPLC fractions post size-exclusion chromatography were analyzed by SDS PAGE. The fractions containing αS were then loaded onto a HighTrap Q HP column and eluted over a 100 minute sodium chloride gradient (0 to 0.5M NaCl in 20 mM Tris, pH 8). FPLC fractions post ion-exchange chromatography were dialyzed against 20 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.4 and analyzed by SDS PAGE, MALDI, and fluorescence spectroscopy.

Mass Spectrometry and Fluorescence Spectrum of α **S** $^{\mathsf{F}}$ **C₉F** $^*_{39}$

Figure S17. MALDI MS (top left), trypsin digestion (top right), and primary fluorescence (bottom) of fulllength αS $^{\sf F}$ C $_{9}$ F $^{\star}{}_{39}$.Calcd m/z of αS $^{\sf F}$ C $_{9}$ F $^{\star}{}_{39}$:14438.1 Calcd m/z of trypsin fragment 35-43: 961.1

Mass Spectrometry and Fluorescence Spectrum of α **S** $^{\mathsf{F}}$ **C₉F** $^*_{94}$

Figure S18. MALDI MS (top left), trypsin digestion (top right), and primary fluorescence (bottom) of fulllength αS $^{\sf F}$ C $_{9}$ F * _{94.} Calcd m/z of αS $^{\sf F}$ C $_{9}$ F * _{94:} 14438.1 Calcd m/z of trypsin fragment 81-96: 1503.8.

Mass Spectrometry and Fluorescence Spectrum of α **S** $^{\mathsf{F}}$ **F*** $_{39}$ **C** $_{123}$

Figure S19. MALDI MS (top left), trypsin digestion (top right), and primary fluorescence (bottom) of fulllength αS $\overline{^{\mathsf{F}}}\mathsf{F}^*_{39}\mathsf{C}_{123}$. Calcd m/z of αS $\overline{^{\mathsf{F}}}\mathsf{F}^*_{39}\mathsf{C}_{123}$: 14409.1 Calcd m/z of trypsin fragment 35-43: 961.1

Mass Spectrometry of αSF ^Δ1-8C9F* ³⁹ Generated by Met Aminopeptidase Cleavage. Deprotection of N-terminal cysteine adducts formed during protein expression was performed as described in the main text. Prior to deprotection, adducts corresponding to a mass increase of +26, +49, and +70 Da are observed. The reaction progress can be monitored by MALDI MS.

Figure S20. MALDI analysis pre (left) and post (right) overnight incubation with MeONH₂·HCl in 6M Gdn•HCl, pH 4.0, at 4 °C. Calcd m/z of α $\text{S}^{\text{\textsf{F}}}_{\text{\textsf{A1-8}}}$ C $\text{_{9}}$ F *_{39} : 13516.0

Mass Spectrometry of αS^F_{Δ1-8}C₉F*₃₉ Generated by Factor Xa Cleavage. Factor Xamediated cleavage of the N-terminal histidine tag followed by an IEGR recognition site was performed as described in the main text. Removal of the His tag was confirmed by MALDI MS.

Figure S21. MALDI analysis of αS $^{\text{F}}$ _{Δ1-8}C₉F*₃₉ post Factor Xa cleavage. Expected mass of αS $^{\text{F}}$ _{Δ1-8}C₉F*₃₉ post cleavage: 13516.0

HPLC Analysis of Ac-αS^FF'₄C₉F^{*}₃₉ and Ac-αS^FF'₄C₉F^{*}₉₄ Ligations. Conditions for native chemical ligation reactions using mercaptopropionate thioester peptide formed by PyBOP activation were described in the main text. HPLC analyses of the ligation reactions were performed after 20 h.

Figure S22. HPLC analysis of ligation of Ac-αS^F Fʹ4C9F*39. Peaks **a**, **b**, **c**, and **d** correspond to hydrolyzed Ac-αS₁₋₈F'₄ thioester, αS^F_{Δ1-8}C₉F*₃₉, ligation product Ac-αS^FF'₄C₉F*₃₉, and intact Ac-αS₁₋₈F'₄ thioester. Peaks earlier than **a** correspond to hydrolyzed peptide side products.

Figure S23. HPLC analysis of ligation of Ac-αS^F Fʹ4C9F*94. Peaks **a**, **b**, **c**, and **d** correspond to hydrolyzed Ac-αS₁₋₈F'4 thioester, αS^F_{Δ1-8}C₉F*₉₄, ligation product Ac-αS^FF'₄C₉F*₉₄, and intact Ac-αS₁₋₈F'4 thioester. Peaks earlier than **a** correspond to hydrolyzed peptide side products.

Conditions for native chemical ligation reactions using peptide thioester formed by *in situ* deprotection and rearrangement of the C^bPG_o linker are described in the main text. HPLC analyses of the ligation reactions were performed after 20 h. Due to low yields of peptide synthesis, ligation reactions were not fully optimized.

Figure S24. HPLC analysis of ligation of Ac-αS^F Vʹ3C9F*39. Peaks **a**, **b**, and **c**, correspond to hydrolyzed Ac-αS₁₋₈V'₃ thioester, αS^F_{Δ1-8}C₉F*₃₉, and ligation product Ac-αS^FV'₃C₉F*₃₉. Peaks earlier than **b** correspond to hydrolyzed peptide side products.

Mass Spectrometry of Ac-αS^F Fʹ **4C9F*39.**

Figure S25. MALDI MS analysis of Ac-αS^FF'₄C₉F*₃₉ (bottom) and trypsin fragments containing thioamide (top left) or Cnf (top right). Calcd m/z of thioamide-containing trypsin fragment 1-8: 828.4. Calcd m/z of Cnf-containing trypsin fragment: 961.1 Calcd m/z of of Ac-αS^FF'₄C₉F*₃₉: 14494.7

Figure S26. UV absorbance (left) and fluorescence spectrum (right) of Ac-αS^FF'₄C₉F*₃₉. 1 μM samples were prepared in Tris buffer (20 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM BME, pH 7.5).

a

Mass Spectrometry of Ac-αS^F Vʹ **3C9F*39.**

Figure S27. MALDI MS analysis of Ac-αS^FV′₃C₉F*₃₉. Calcd m/z of Ac-αS^FV′₃C₉F*₃₉:14494.7_.

c

b

HPLC Analysis of αS^F F*39 C123Aʹ **124.**

Figure S28. HPLC analysis of αS^F F*39 C123Aʹ124. Peaks under bracket **a** correspond to thioamide peptide and thioamide peptide side products. Unligated αS₁₋₁₂₂F*₃₉ (**b**) and ligated product αS^FF*₃₉C₁₂₃A'₁₂₄ (**c**) are represented by the blue and red shaded regions, respectively.

Figure S29. FPLC analysis of αS^FF^{*}₃₉C₁₂₃A'₁₂₄. Peaks **a**, **b**, and **c** correspond to hydrolyzed αS₁. 122F*39SR (αS1-122F*39OH), TCEP, and protein impurities in the 8-9 kDa range. Peaks **d**, **e**, and **f**, and **g** correspond to thioamide peptide side products, $\alpha S^F F^*{}_{39}C_{123}A'{}_{124}$, thioamide peptide-ligated protein dimer, and thioamide peptide dimer.

MALDI MS Analysis of αS^F 1-122F*39-SR Formation.

Figure S30. MALDI MS analysis of $\alpha S_{1-122}F_{39}$ -Intein thiolysis reaction. Calcd m/z of $\alpha S_{1-122}F_{39}$ -OH (M+H⁺): 12350.0, Calcd m/z of $\alpha S_{1-122}F_{39}^{\dagger}S_{10}$ (M+H⁺): 12332.0, Obsvd = 12334.2 (structure below); Calcd m/z of $aS_{1-122}^FF_{39}^S-SR$ (M+H⁺): 12475.2 Obsvd: 12476.4 (structure below). Succinimidyl (Suc) cyclizations are commonly observed for C-terminal Asn residues. See, for example InBase intein protein database (http://tools.neb.com/inbase/index.php).¹³

 α S^F₁₋₁₂₂F^{*}₃₉-Suc α S^F₁₋₁₂₂F^{*}₃₉-OH α S^F₁₋₁₂₂F^{*}₃₉-SR

Absorbance Measurements of Thioacetamide in Trimethylamine Oxide. The absorbance of thioacetamide (approximately 35 μ M) was measured in Tris buffer (20 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM BME, pH 7.5) and in Tris buffer containing 4M trimethylamine oxide. This verified that TMAO did not alter the ability of the thioamide to participate in FRET.

Figure S31. Thioacetamide absorbance in Tris buffer compared to thioacetamide absorbance in Tris buffer containing 4M TMAO.

Fluorescence Measurements of Cnf in Trimethylamine Oxide. The fluorescence of $1 \mu M$ Cnf amino acid was measured in 20 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.5 containing 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4M TMAO. A decrease in fluorescence is observed at higher TMAO concentrations.

Figure S32. Fluorescence intensity of Cnf at 295 nm in increasing concentrations of TMAO upon excitation with 240 nm light.

Fluorescence Measurements of αS Mutants in Trimethylamine Oxide and Urea. Samples were prepared as described in the main text. The background fluorescence of each buffer was independently measured and subtracted from the protein fluorescence spectrum.

Figure S33. Fluorescence scans of oxoamide and thioamide-containing αS mutants in increasing concentrations of TMAO: αS^FCցF*₃₉ (**a**), Ac-αS^FF′₄CցF*₃₉ (**b**), αS^FCցF*₉₄ (**c**), Ac-αS^FF′₄CgF*₉₄ (**d**), αS^FF*₃₉ C123 (**e**), αS^F F*39 C123Aʹ¹²⁴ (**f**).

Figure S34. Normalized fluorescence scans of oxoamide and thioamide-containing αS mutants in 0 and 6 M Urea: Top: αS F C₉F $^*_{39}$ and Ac-αS F F′4C₉F $^*_{39}$, Middle: αS F C₉F $^*_{94}$ and Ac-αS F F′4C₉F $^*_{94}$, Bottom: αS F F $^*_{39}$ C_{123} and αS^FF^{*}₃₉ $C_{123}A'_{124}$.

Experimental Förster Distance Calculations (α **S).** The Förster distance, R_0 , was calculated using equations (S1), (S2), (S3), and (S4) as described above for CaM. Substituting *J* $= 7.0 \times 10^{12} \pm 2 \times 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-1}$ •cm⁻¹ •nm⁴ into equation (S1), as well as 0.11 for the quantum yield of Cnf, 1.33 for the index of refraction of water, and 2/3 for κ^2 gives $R_0 = 15.6$ Å for $\alpha S^F C_9 F^*_{39}$ constructs in 0 M TMAO. For $\alpha S^{F}C_{9}F^{*}{}_{94}$ constructs, we use 0.049 as a quantum yield for Cnf, and calculate $R_0 = 13.6 \text{ Å}$. For $\alpha S^F F^*{}_{39}C_{123}$ constructs, we use 0.045 as a quantum yield for Cnf, and calculate $R_0 = 13.5$ Å. In all cases data in 6 M urea were used to normalize oxo-and thiofluorescence data to ensure that small deviations in concentration did not alter data interpretation. Quantum yields for each mutant in different concentrations of TMAO were determined by comparing the fluorescence output of the mutant relative to the fluorescence of that mutant in 0 M TMAO using identical concentrations and fluorometer settings. Comparison of $\alpha S^{F}C_{9}F*_{39}$ fluorescence to free Cnf showed that no substantial quenching occurred in this mutant in the absence of the thioamide (data not shown). As for CaM, these values of R_0 were then used in determining experimental chromophore separations (R_{FRET}) for each set of Cnf/thioamide probe locations according to equation (S5) where E_0 is defined by equation (S6) as described in the main text. These calculations are summarized in Table S7.

Table S8. R_{FRET} Determination in α -Synuclein Refolding Assay^a

^a Parameters calculated as described in Supporting Information text. All distances in Å.

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