

## Supplementary Information

### Photoactivation of the BLUF Protein PixD Probed by the Site-Specific Incorporation of Fluorotyrosine Residues

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## Contents

Table S1: Primers used for site-directed mutagenesis	S3
Table S2: Quantum yield (QY) of FMN, PixD, and n-FY8 PixDs	S3
Figure S1: Global analysis of the TRIR data for wild-type PixD and the F-Tyr PixD variants	S4
Figure S2: Global analysis of the TRIR data for Y8F PixD	S5-S6
Figure S3: Mass spectrometric analysis of F-Tyr incorporation into PixD	S7-S8
Figure S4: TRMPS spectra of wild-type and F-Tyr PixDs	S9-S10
Figure S5: Kinetics of the $1515\text{ cm}^{-1}$ band for wild-type and the F-Tyr PixDs	S11
Figure S6: Excited state decay and ground state recovery of wild-type and the F-Tyr PixDs	S12
Figure S7: Comparison of excited state decay and ground state recovery for each PixD	S13
References:	S14

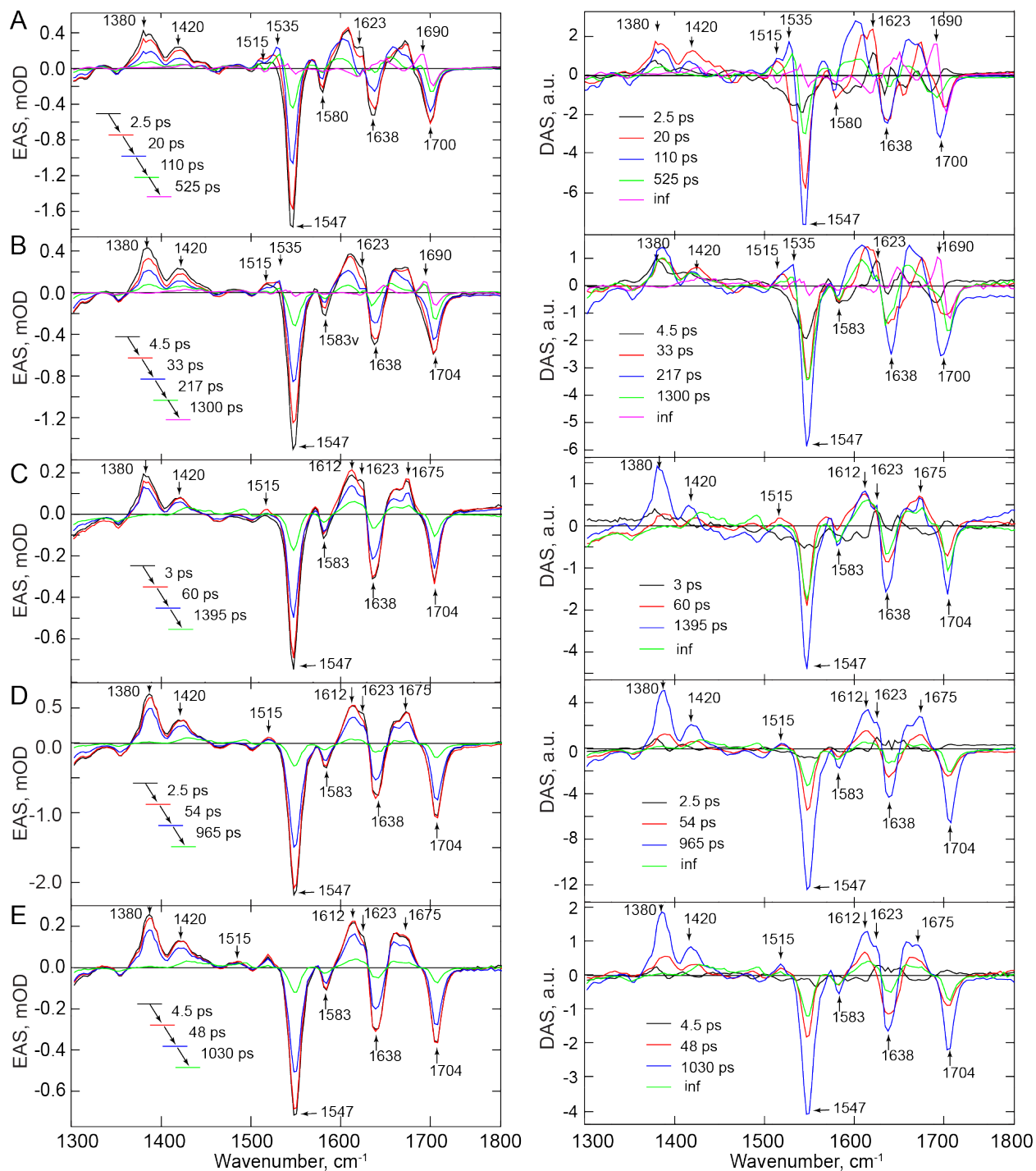
**Table S1: Primers used for site-directed mutagenesis**

	<b>Forward Primer</b>	<b>Reverse Primer</b>
<b>PixD Y8F</b>	GTACCGTTTGATTTTCAGCAGTCAGGGC	GCCCTGACTGCTGAAAATCAAACGGTAC
<b>    PixD</b>	GTACCGTTTGATTTAGAGCAGTCAGGGC	GTACCGTTTGATTTAGAGCAGTCAGGGC
<b>    Y8TAG</b>		

**Table S2. Quantum yield (QY) of FMN, PixD, and n-FY8 PixDs**

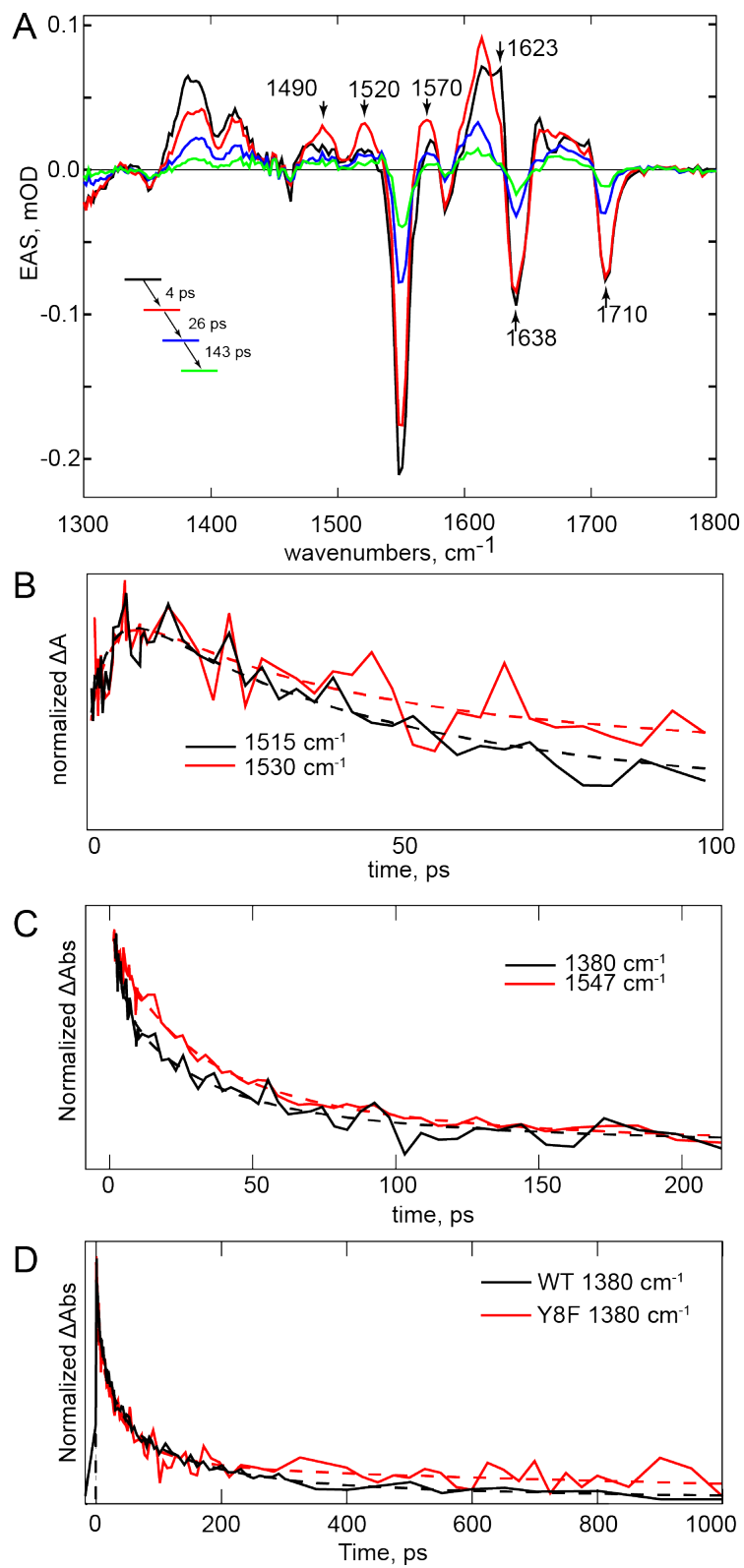
	FMN	PixD	3-FY8 PixD	2,3-F <sub>2</sub> Y8 PixD	3,5-F <sub>2</sub> Y8 PixD	2,3,5-F <sub>3</sub> Y8 PixD
<b>QY (%)</b>	21	1-2	3.6	6.6	5.8	5.5

Quantum yield measurements were done as described before<sup>1</sup> using a Quanta F-3029 integrating sphere attached to a Jobin Yvon Nanolog fluorimeter.



**Figure S1: Global analysis of the TRIR data for wild-type PixD and the F-Tyr PixD variants.**

EAS are shown in the left column and DAS are shown in the right column. (A) Wild-type, (B) 3-FY8 PixD, (C) 2,3-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 PixD, (D) 3,5-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 PixD and (E) 2,3,5F<sub>3</sub>Y8 PixD.



**Figure S2: Global analysis of the TRIR data for Y8F PixD.**

(A) EAS of Y8F PixD from a global fit of the TRIR data. The time constants needed to adequately describe the data are 4 ps, 26 ps, and 143 ps, with another longer lifetime which is currently not distinguishable. There is no evidence for light state formation in this mutant. (B) Kinetic traces show the change in signal at 1515 and 1530  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The rise and decay of the signal is consistent with the formation of an FAD radical, however unlike wild-type PixD there is no evidence for the formation of FADH $\cdot$  following FAD $\cdot$ . This is consistent with the hypothesis that W91 acts as the electron donor in the absence of Y8: since W91 cannot donate a proton, proton transfer following the electron transfer is not observed in this mutant. Raw data are shown as solid lines while global fitting results are shown as dashed lines. (C) Kinetic traces of the excited state decay (1380  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and the ground state recovery (1547  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) showing that the ES decays more rapidly than the ground state recovers, consistent with the formation of an intermediate radical species. (D) Comparison of the excited state decay of wild type and Y8F PixD. Both decay at the same rate.

### Figure S3: Mass spectrometric analysis of F-Tyr incorporation into PixD

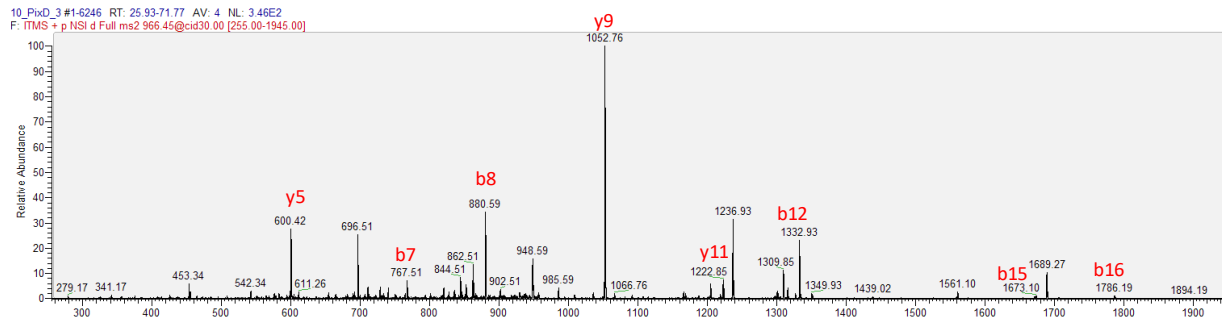
ESI MS/MS mass spectra were acquired on a Thermo Scientific Orbitrap Fusion Lumos. The mass spectra below are for the peptide that contains residue 8:

LIY\*SSQGIPNLQPQDLK

In each case no precursor masses were identified for peptides containing the unmodified Tyr.

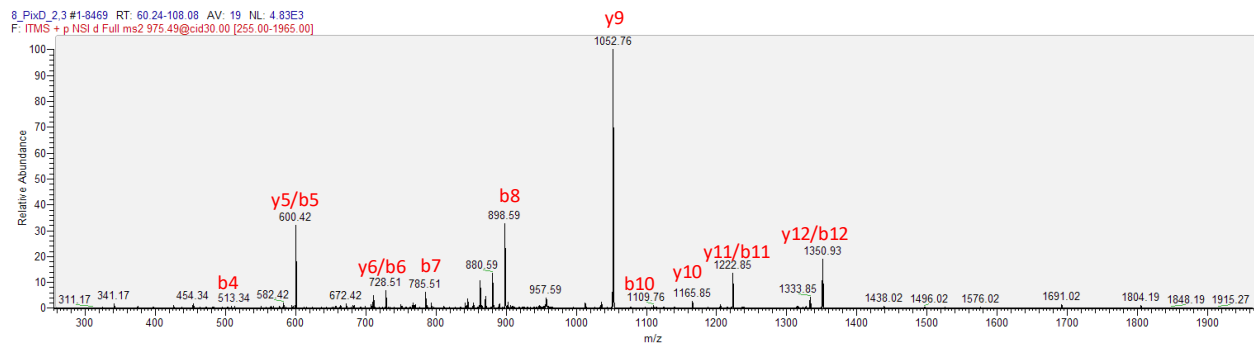
#### (A) 3-FY8 PixD:

The calculated mass  $[M+2H]^{2+}$  of the 3-FY8 peptide is 966.45. No unmodified peptide at  $m/z$  957.52 was detected.



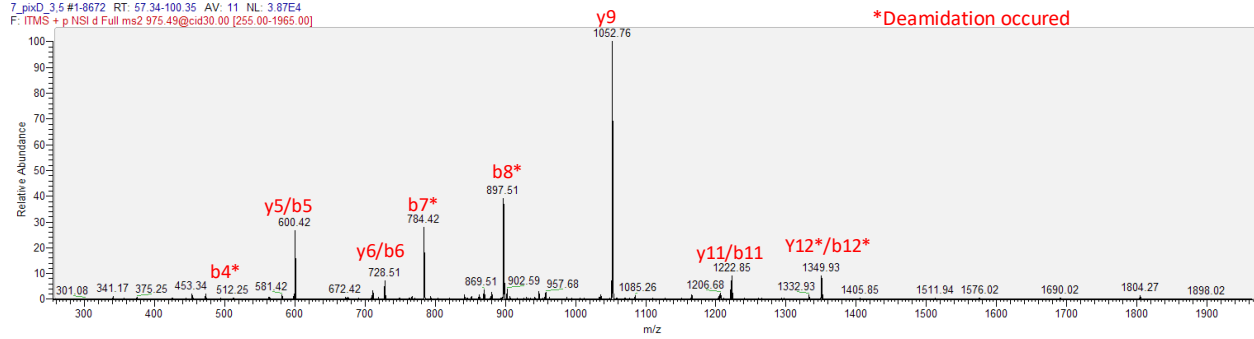
#### (B) 2,3-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 PixD:

The calculated mass  $[M+2H]^{2+}$  of the 2,3-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 peptide is 975.49. No unmodified peptide at  $m/z$  957.52 was detected.



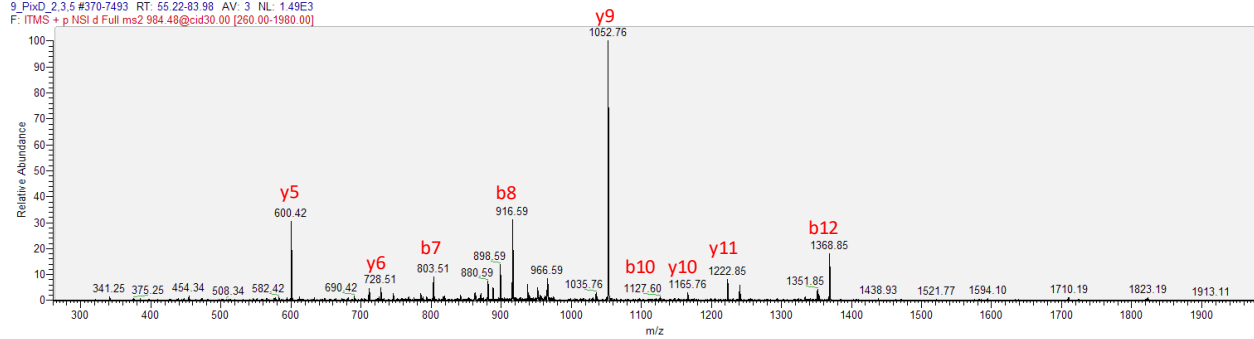
**(C) 3,5-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 PixD:**

The calculated mass  $[M+2H]^{2+}$  of the 3,5-F<sub>2</sub>Y peptide is 975.49. No unmodified peptide at m/z 957.52 was detected.

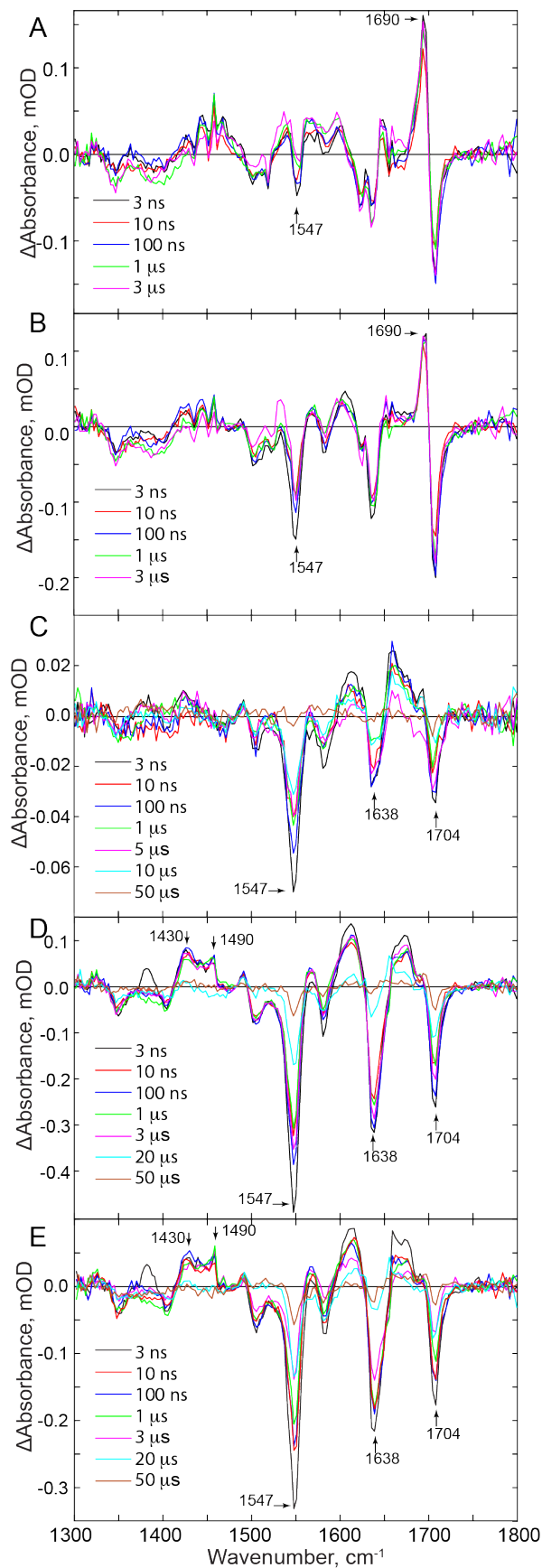


**(D) 2,3,5-F<sub>3</sub>Y8**

The calculated mass  $[M+2H]^{2+}$  of the 2,3,5-F<sub>3</sub>Y peptide is 984.51. No unmodified peptide at m/z 957.52 was detected.

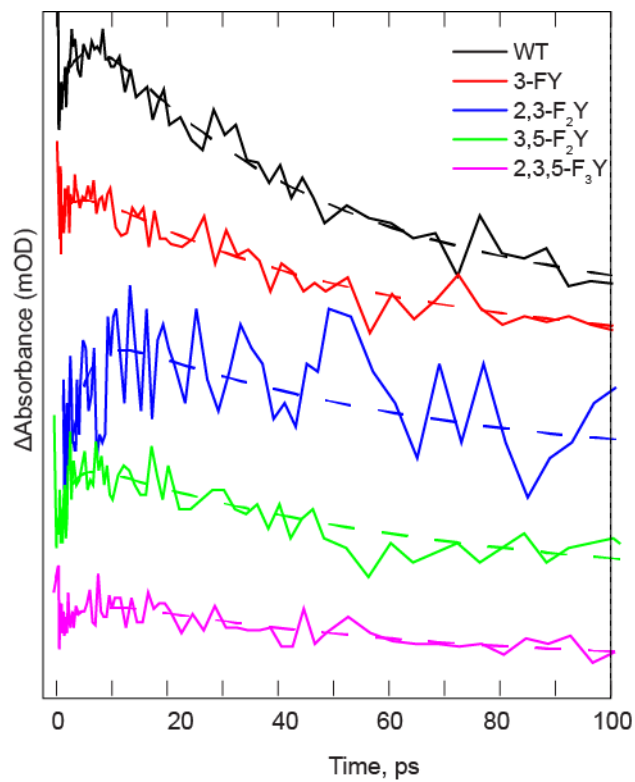






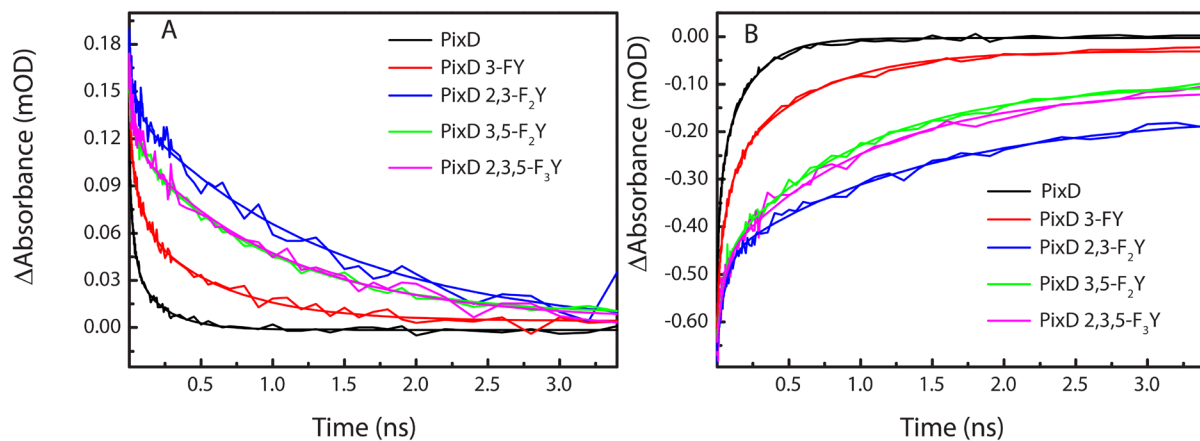
**Figure S4: TRMPS Spectra of wild-type and F-Tyr PixDs**

(A) wild-type PixD, (B) 3-FY8 PixD, (C) 2,3-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 PixD, (D) 3,5-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 PixD and (E) 2,3,5-F<sub>3</sub>Y8 PixD. There is no further evolution observed of the transient at 1690 cm<sup>-1</sup> for wild-type and 3-FY8 PixD. For the F<sub>2</sub>Y8 and F<sub>3</sub>Y8 substituted PixDs, the 1690 cm<sup>-1</sup> transient is not observed even on the  $\mu$ s timescale. Transients are observed at 1430 and 1490 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which are indicative of triplet state formation consistent with an increase in lifetime of the excited state.

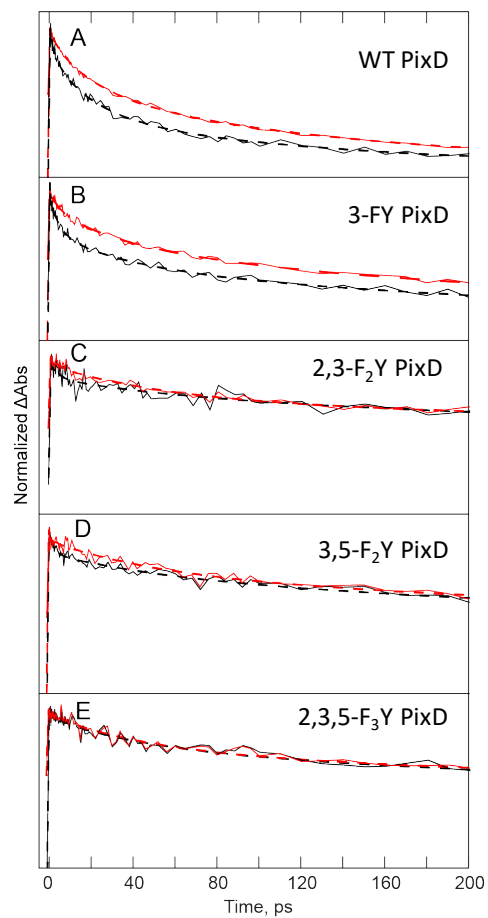


**Figure S5. Kinetics of the 1515 cm<sup>-1</sup> band for wild-type and the F-Tyr PixDs.**

Raw data are shown as solid lines while global fitting results are shown as dashed lines.



**Figure S6: Excited state decay and ground state recovery of wild-type and the F-Tyr PixDs.** The smooth solid lines are from a global fit of the data. (A) Excited state decay. (B) Ground state recovery.



**Figure S7: Comparison of excited state decay and ground state recovery for each PixD.** The excited state decay is in black and the ground state recovery is in red. (A) wild-type PixD, (B) 3-FY8 PixD, (C) 2,3-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 PixD, (D) 3,5-F<sub>2</sub>Y8 PixD and (E) 2,3,5-F<sub>3</sub>Y8 PixD. Raw data are shown as solid lines while global fitting results are shown as dashed lines.

## References

1. Porres, L.; Holland, A.; Palsson, L. O.; Monkman, A. P.; Kemp, C.; Beeby, A., *J Fluoresc* **2006**, *16*, 267.