

Molecular Logic-based Computation: A Scientific Field Originating in Sri Lanka and Northern Ireland



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**



Molecular logic is chemical computation.

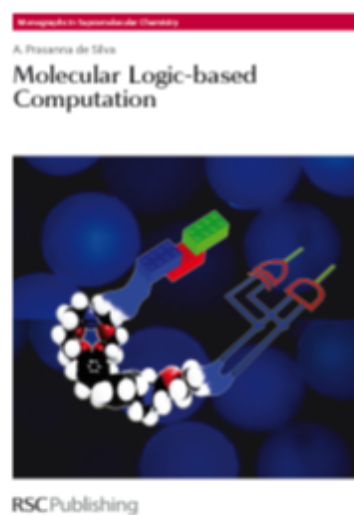
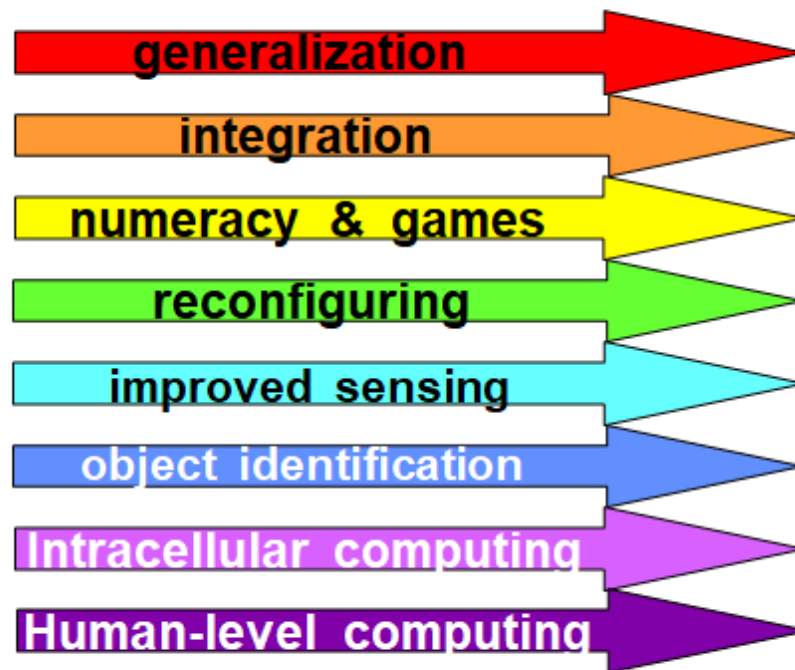
It sheds light on chemical and biological information processing

Nimal Gunaratne, Colin McCoy
Nature 1993, 364, 42



George Boole

1849-64, Cork



Over 1730 labs have joined.

The PET design (generalized in Colombo/Belfast) is robust



OFF state



$h\nu$

ON state



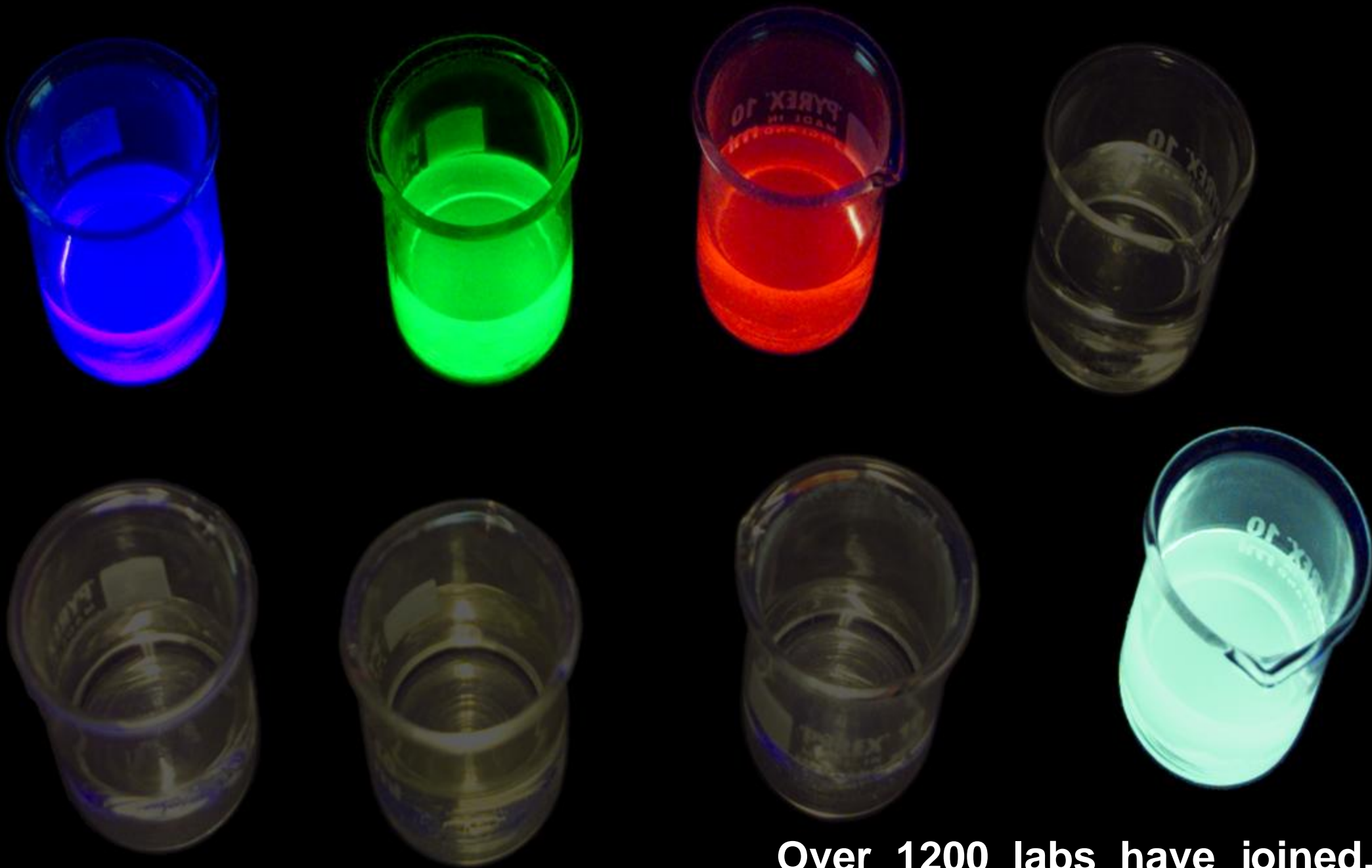
$h\nu$

$h\nu$

~~PET~~

Chem. Rev.
1997, 97, 1515

Chem. Soc. Rev.
2015, 44, 4203



Over 1200 labs have joined.

Flame test for sodium

also

switches 'on' a light signal

and

has been used to count Na^+



'Off-On' sensors selective for Na⁺

Jim Tusa, Marc Leiner,
Hua-Rui He,
Mark Mortellaro

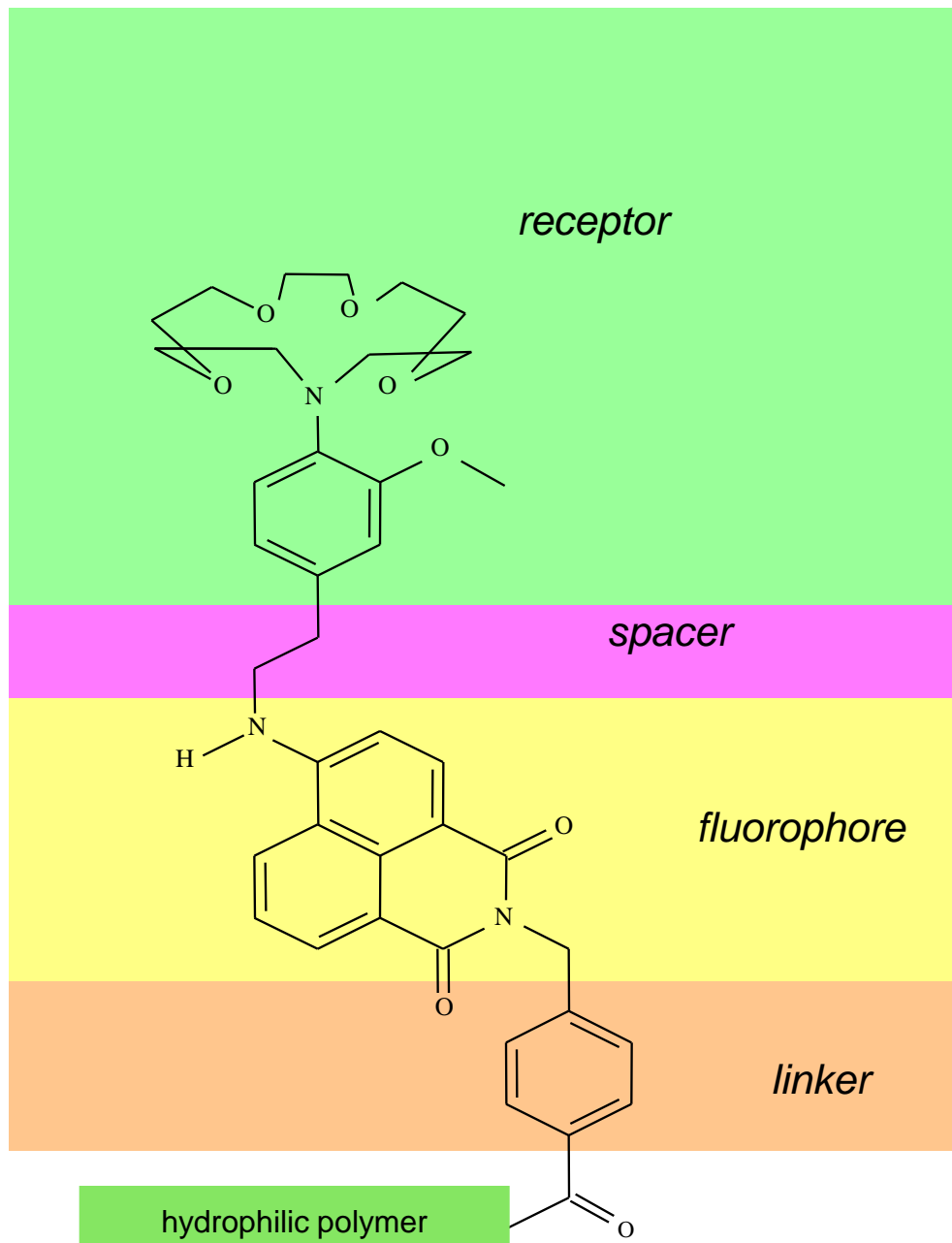


**OPTI
products**

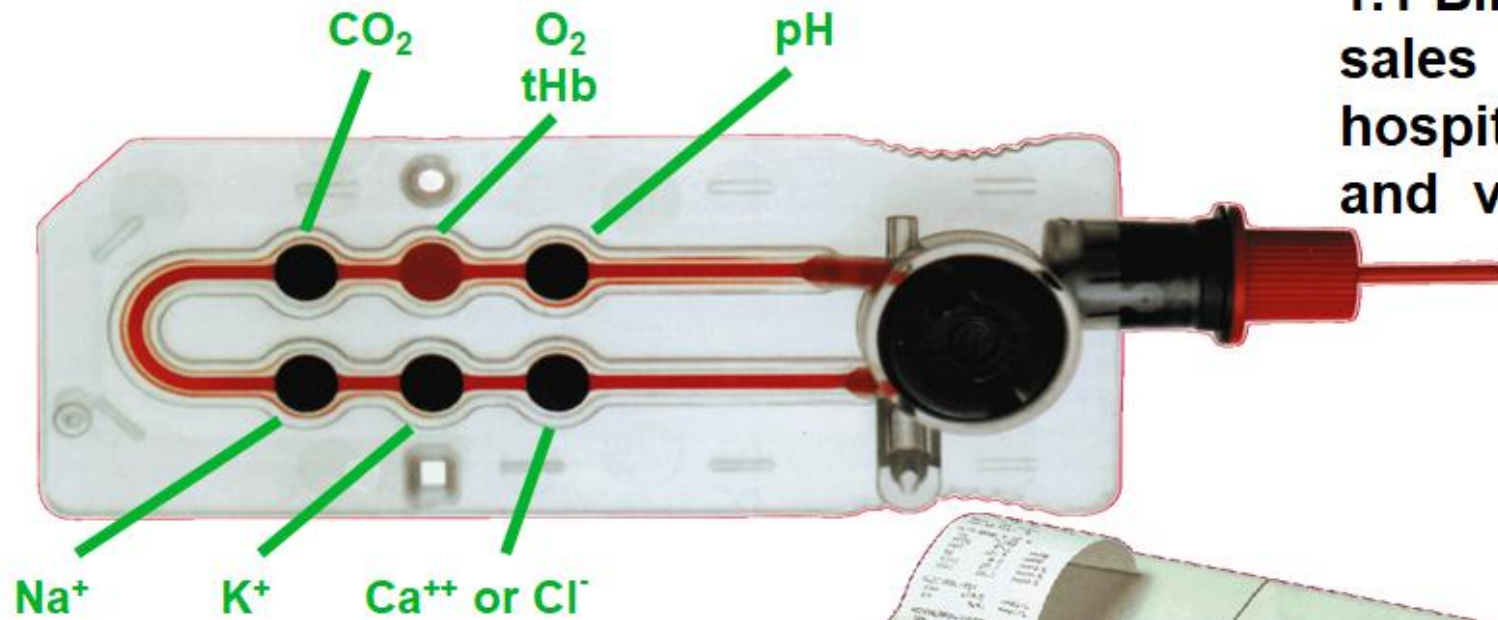


**VETSTAT
products**

Sodium



1.1 Billion USD Cassette sales for ambulances, hospitals, GP surgeries and veterinary surgeries



Disposable Cassette and OPTI Critical Care Analyzer (CCA). Also IDEXX VetStat Analyzer

Molecular logic is chemical computation.

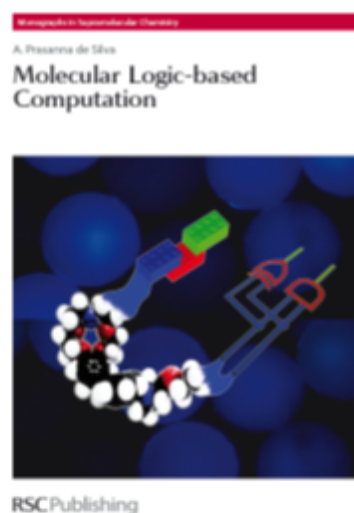
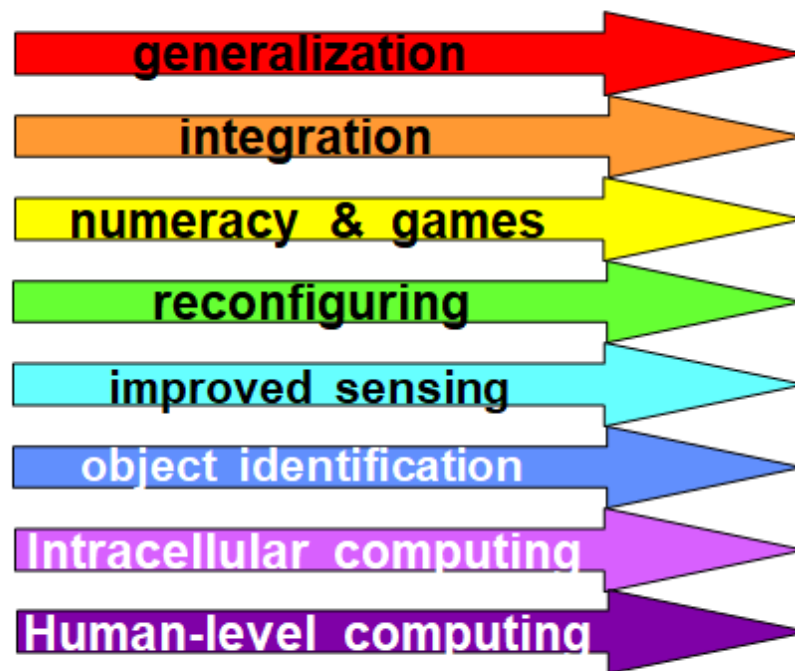
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Molecular Logical Edge Detection

Animal vision: survival (security)

Early stage of visual perception. Analysis of an outline to save time in deciding whether it is threat or not

We all do it when awake

Machine vision: automation, security

Rapid screening of image outlines to save time on a production line or on closed-circuit TV.

Present as a subroutine in Photoshop™ or Paintshop™

Jue Ling, Gaowa Naren,
Jessica Kelly, Tom Moody

J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2015, 137, 3763

Inspiration:

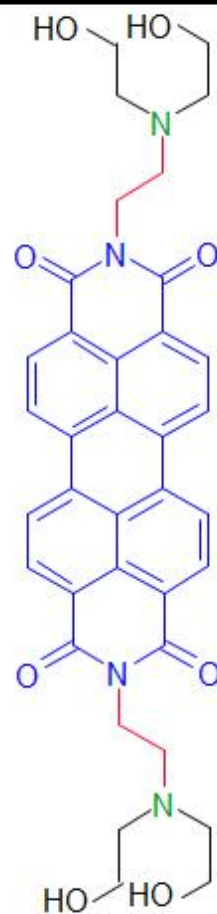
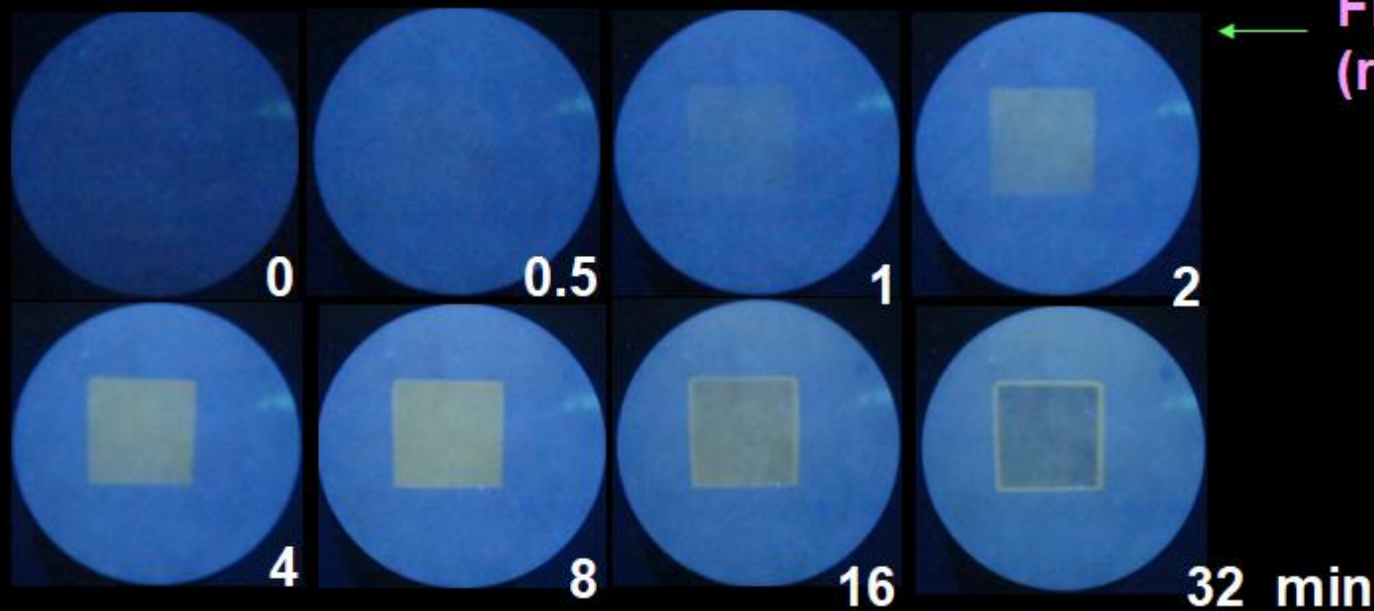
Voigt, Ellington, et al *Cell*
2009, 137, 1272

Chen, Ellington, et al *Nature Chem.*
2013, 5, 1000

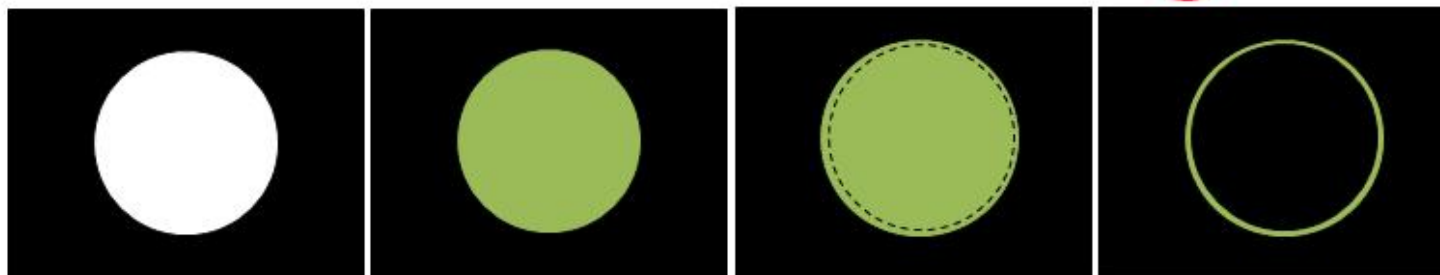
Drying at 50 °C for 4 min
254 nm writing time = t min

← Object (backlit mask)

← Fluorescence image
(read with 366 nm)



Molecular Outline Drawing

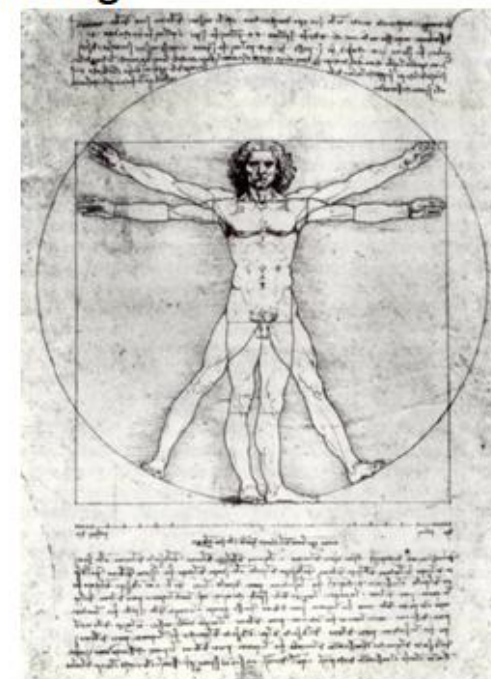
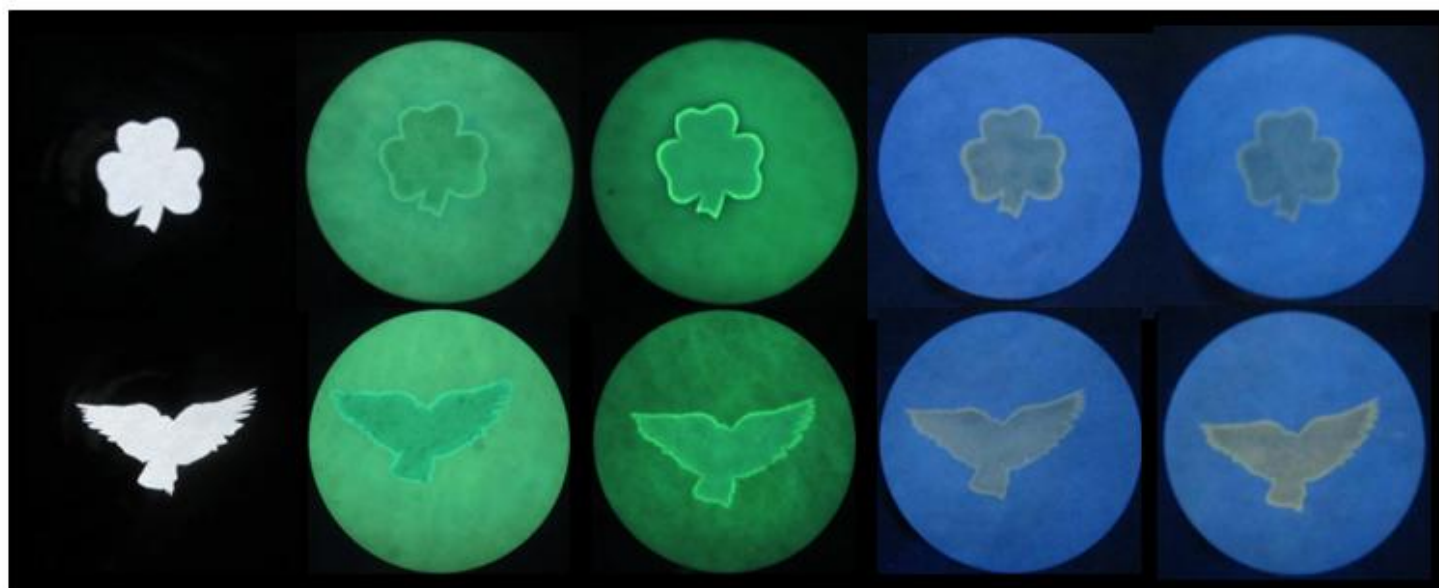


Template

Initial image

Subsequent image

Final image



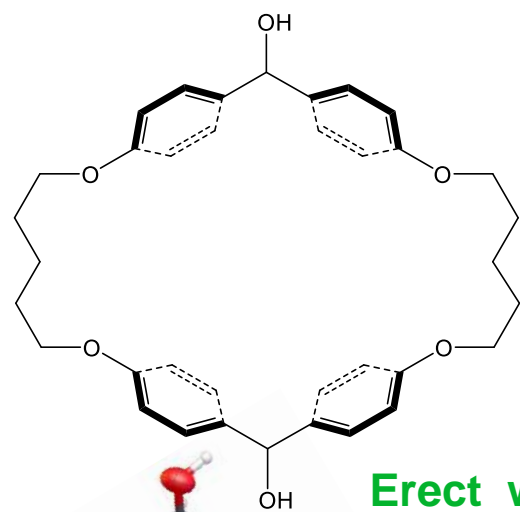
Jue Ling, Gaowa Naren, Jessica Kelly, David Fox
Chem. Sci. 2015, 6, 4472

Molecular Memory with Downstream Logic processing

The problem of Serial Integration of Sequential and Combinational Logic

**Brian Daly, Nimal Gunaratne, Tom Moody,
Allen Huxley, Chao-Yi Yao, Ben Schazmann,
Andre Alves-Areias, John Malone,
Peter Nockemann**

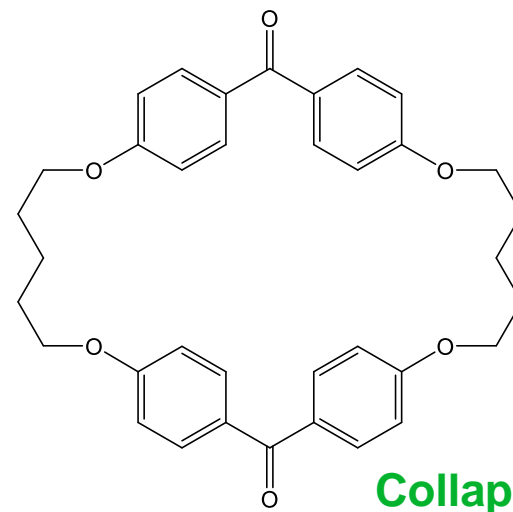
Nature Commun. 2019, 10, 49



O_2 , 110 °C, CsOH

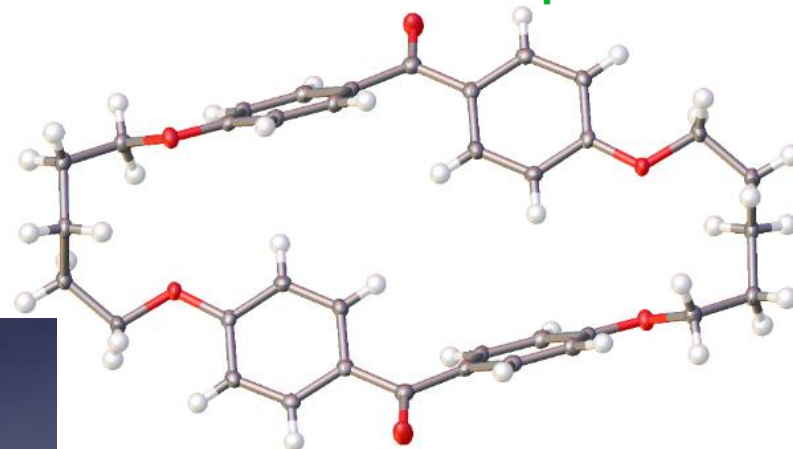
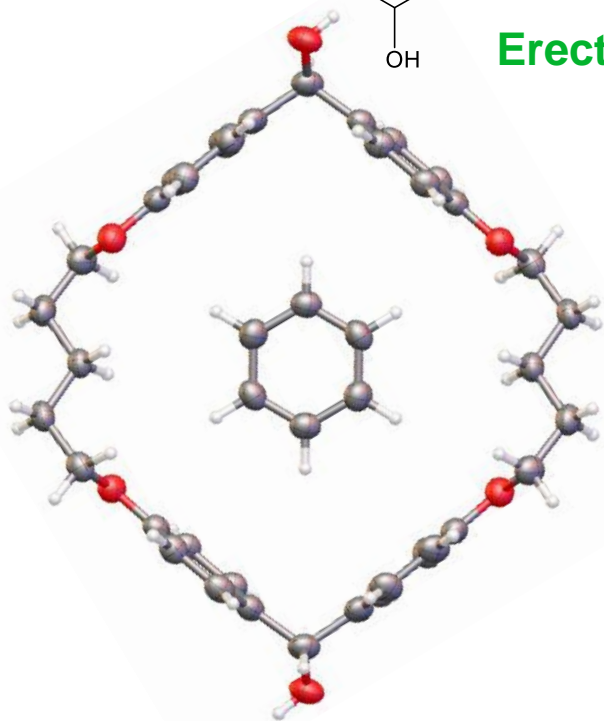


BH_4^-

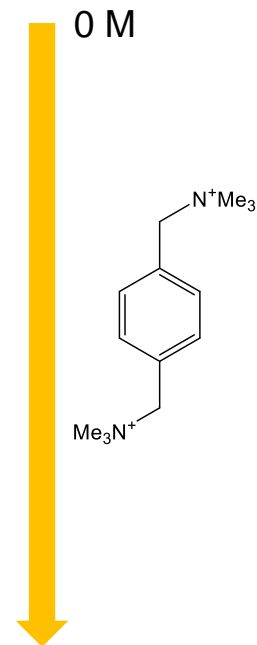
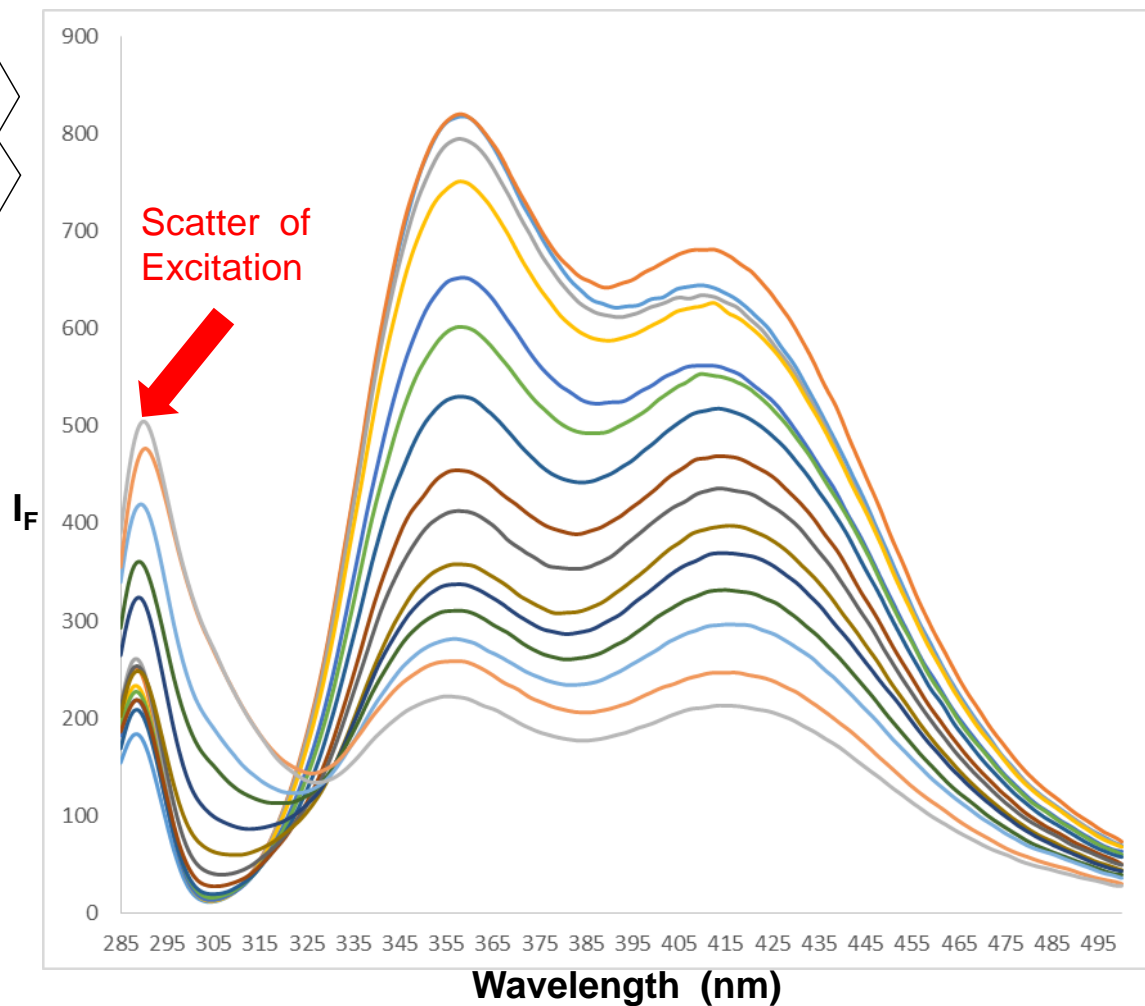
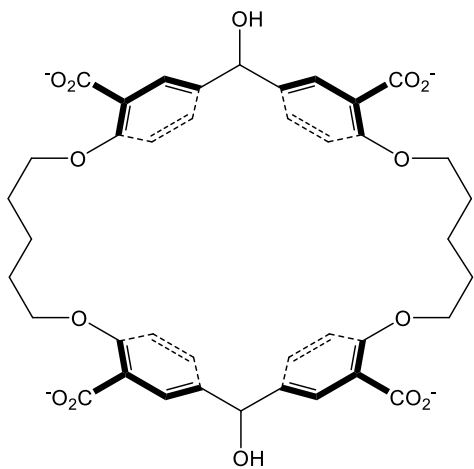


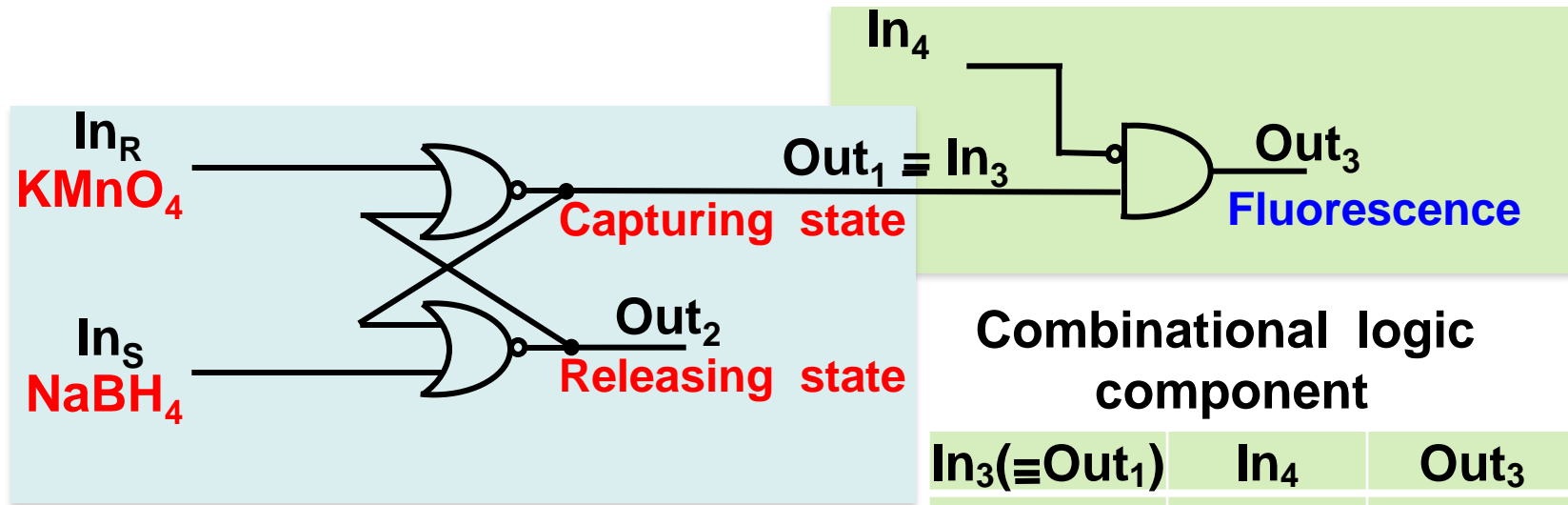
Erect walls

Collapsed walls



Luminescent self-indication of occupancy





**Sequential logic
Component (RS Flip-flop)**

In_R	In_S	Out_1	Out_2
0	0	holds previous state	holds previous state
0	1	1	0
1	0	0	1

**Combinational logic
component**

$In_3(\equiv Out_1)$	In_4	Out_3
0	0	0
1	0	1
0	1	0
1	1	0

New redox-switchable receptors for sensing and logic

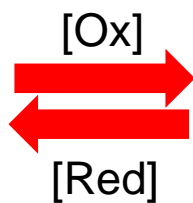
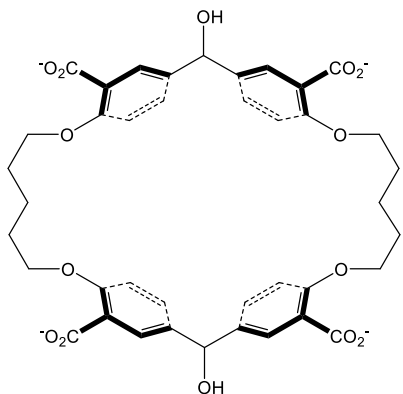
Brian Daly, Nimal Gunaratne, Tom Moody,
Allen Huxley, Chao-Yi Yao, Ben Schazmann, Andre Alves-Areias,
John Malone, Peter Nockemann *Nature Commun.* 2019, 10, 49

Chao-Yi Yao, Hong-Yu Lin, Brian Daly, Yikai Xu, Warispreet Singh,
Nimal Gunaratne, Wesley Browne (Groningen), Steven Bell, Peter
Nockemann, Meilan Huang, Paul Kavanagh *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*
2022, 144, 4977

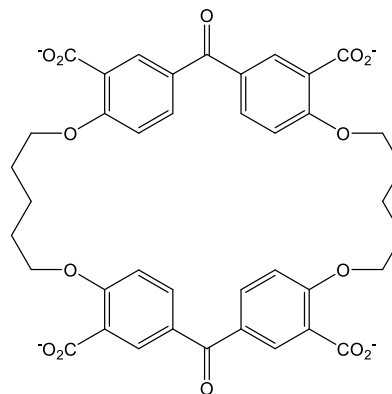
Chao-Yi Yao, Hong-Yu Lin, Philip Morgenfurt (Dublin), Tia Keyes
(Dublin) *Chem. Sci.* 2022, 13, 10856

Hong-Yu Lin, Chao-Yi Yao, Jialu Li, Warispreet Singh, Nimal
Gunaratne, Meilan Huang, Eric Anslyn *JACS Au* 2023, 3, 2257

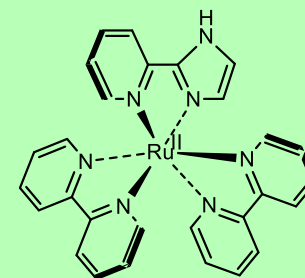
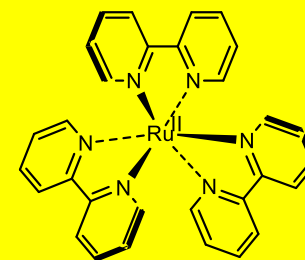
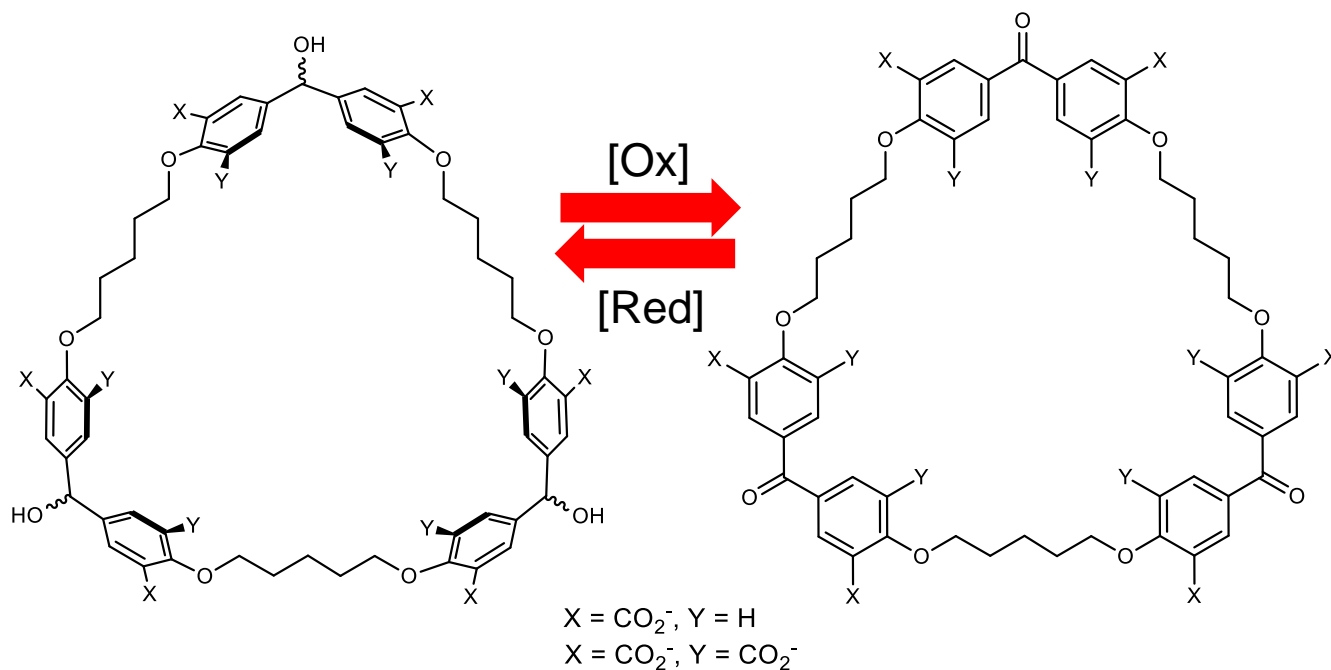
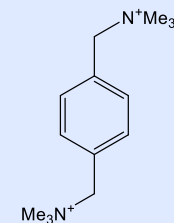
Erect walls



Collapsed walls



guest





After 40 years of work...

Established Fluorescent PET Sensing - a general research tool for chemical, cellular and organism research.

J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. 1985, 1669.

Helped a multinational corporation to build the OPTI blood gas and electrolyte analyzer.

www.optimedical.com

Invented Molecular Logic-based Computation – a new field which bridges chemistry and computer science to shed light on the informational basis of life processes at the level of molecules, cells and organisms.

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Is that all? 40 years wasted?



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Chemistry module sales >1.1B \$. Helped save 1000s of lives.

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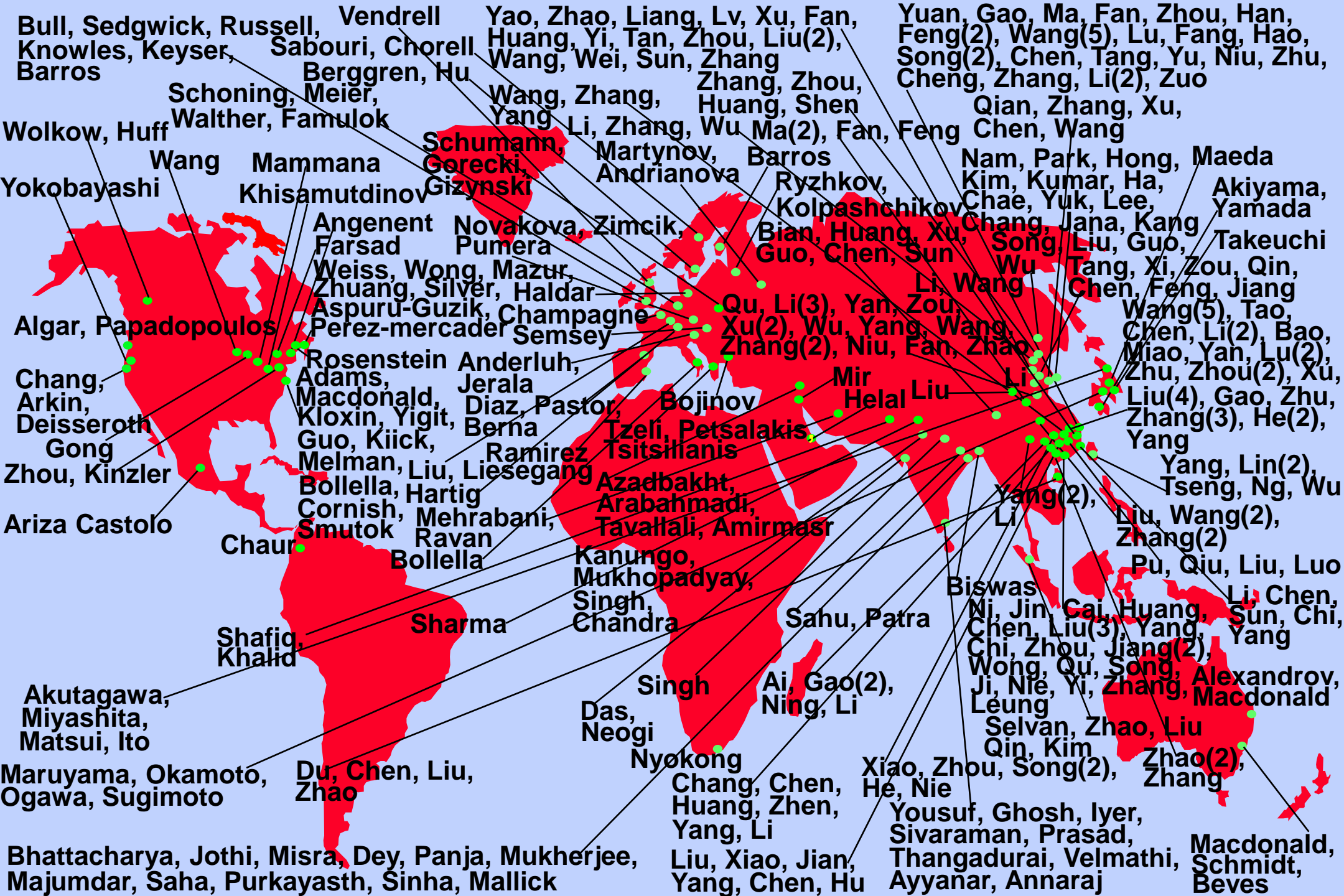
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Mechanism

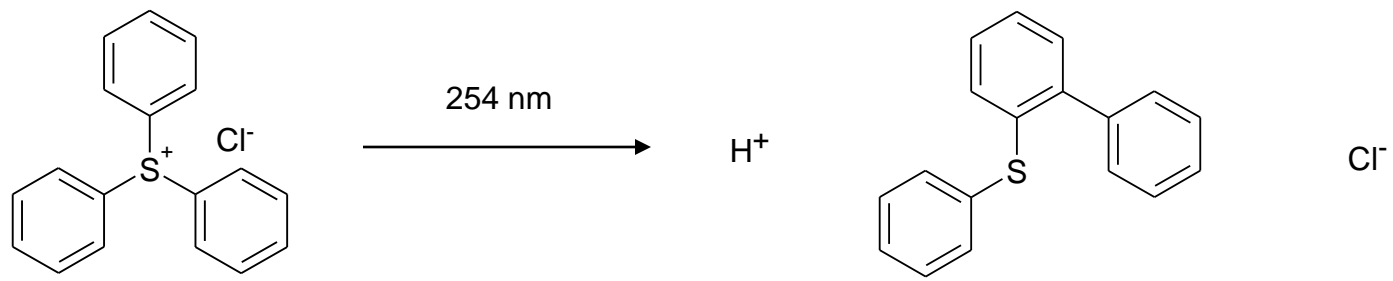
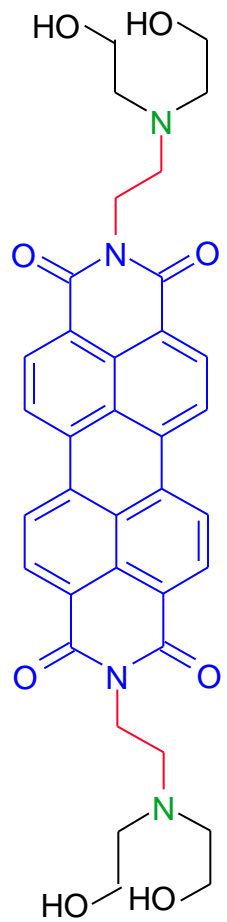


Photo acid generator

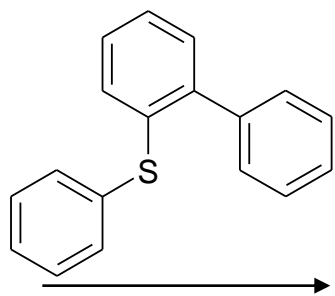
Fluorescence quencher via bimolecular PET



$\xrightarrow{\text{H}^+}$

H⁺-driven fluorescent PET sensor in ON state in acid solution

H⁺-driven fluorescent PET sensor in OFF state via unimolecular PET in weakly basic aqueous buffer



$\xrightarrow{\text{H}^+}$

H⁺-driven fluorescent PET sensor in OFF state in acid solution via bimolecular PET

'Off-on-off' can be XOR logic

