IMPOSSIBLE TO POSSIBLE: A GENERAL STRATEGY TO LABEL LIVING SPECIMENS USING “LIVE-CELL INCOMPATIBLE” DYES WITH EXCELLENT OPTICAL PROPERTIES

Yubing Han¹, Zhimin Zhang¹, Wenjie Liu¹, Yuanfa Yao², Yuchen Chen¹, Xin Luo¹, Wensheng Wang¹, Yingke Xu², Xu Liu¹,²,³, Cuifang Kuang¹,²,³, Xiang Hao¹

¹ State Key Laboratory of Modern Optical Instrumentation, College of Optical Science and Engineering, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310027, China
² Department of Biomedical Engineering, Key Laboratory of Biomedical Engineering of Ministry of Education, Zhejiang Provincial Key Laboratory of Cardio-Cerebral Vascular Detection Technology and Medicinal Effectiveness Appraisal, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310027, China
³ Ningbo Research Institute, Zhejiang University, Ningbo 315100, China
⁴ Collaborative Innovation Center of Extreme Optics, Shanxi University, Taiyuan 030006, China

E-mail: haox@zju.edu.cn

KEYWORDS: Fluorescent dyes, specific labeling, living cells and tissues, optical properties, super-resolution imaging

ABSTRACT

Despite the urgent needs of imaging living specimens for the cutting-edge biological research, most of the existing fluorescent labeling methods suffered from either poor optical properties or complicated operations to realize cell-permeability and specificity. A method and a correlative hypothesis are introduced to overcome this tradeoff by incubating living cells and tissues with fluorescent dyes, no matter if they are cell-permeable or not, at particular conditions without additional penetration or chemical modifications. Based on this method, the mitochondrial labeling capability of zwitterionic BODIPY dyes together with interesting interactions between organelles were revealed.

REFERENCE