

## Supporting Online Material for

### **Mammalian Expression of Infrared Fluorescent Proteins Engineered from a Bacterial Phytochrome**

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Published 8 May 2009, *Science* **324**, 804 (2009)  
DOI: 10.1126/science.1168683

#### **This PDF file includes**

Materials and Methods  
SOM Text  
Figs. S1 to S11  
Table S1  
References

## Supporting Online Material

### Materials and Methods

*Gene synthesis, mutagenesis and screening.* A gene encoding IFP1.0 with codons optimized for *Escherichia coli* was synthesized by overlap extension PCR (S1). Genetic libraries were constructed by saturation and random mutagenesis as described (S2) and DNA shuffling (S3). IFP1.0 and mutants were cloned into a modified pBAD vector containing the heme oxygenase-1 gene from cyanobacteria. Libraries were expressed and screened as described (S2). A 676 nm laser was used for FACS screening of large libraries, with 710 – 900 nm emission filter.

*Protein expression and characterization.* IFPs in the modified pBAD vector were expressed in *E. coli* strain TOP10. Protein purification, fluorescence characterization and photobleaching experiments were done as described (S2). For quantum yield determinations, the integral of the emission spectrum (corrected for the wavelength-dependence of detection sensitivity) of a solution of IFP in PBS was compared with the analogous integral for an equally absorbing solution of Cy5 in PBS, whose quantum yield was assumed to be 0.27 (S4). For extinction coefficient determination, the holoprotein concentration was calculated based on the assumption that the extinction coefficient of holoprotein at 388 nm was equal to that of free BV, which was measured to be 39,900 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup> in PBS. This is based on the result that the absorbance by the Q band (670 – 700 nm) decreased by ~10-fold after denaturation while the absorbance at 388 nm did not change.

*Chimera construction and imaging.* DNA encoding IFP1.0 with codons optimized for mammals was synthesized by overlap extension PCR (S1). Other IFPs were created by QuickChange Multi site-directed mutagenesis. AKT1's PH domain was fused to the C terminus of IFP1.4 to generate chimeras IFP1.4-PH<sup>AKT1</sup>. All the IFPs and chimera were cloned into pcDNA3.1 vector. HEK293A cells were transfected with IFP cDNAs using Fugene, then imaged 24–48 hr later on a Zeiss Axiovert microscope with redshifted Cy5.5 filter set (Chroma) and a cooled CCD camera (Photometrics, Tucson, AZ), controlled by MetaFluor 2.75 software (Universal Imaging, West Chester, PA).

*Adenovirus construction.* To create adenoviruses expressing IFP1.1 or mKate and GFP, a transcription unit comprising the IFP1.1 or mKate coding sequence, the poliovirus IRES, and GFP was constructed by assembly PCR, cloned into pENTR1a (Invitrogen), and transferred into pAd-CMV-DEST (Invitrogen) by Gateway recombinase (Invitrogen). Viruses were produced in HEK293 cells by transfection followed by one round of amplification, purified by anion exchange chromatography (FastTrap purification kit, Millipore), resuspended in HBSS + 10% glycerol, and stored in aliquots at -80°C. Titers as assessed on HEK293 cells by GFP fluorescence were 5 x 10<sup>10</sup> infectious units (IU) per mL for each virus.

*Mouse imaging.* The University of California San Diego Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approved the protocol. Albino C57BL/6 mice (Jackson Labs) were injected with 2x10<sup>9</sup> infectious units of adenovirus via tail vein. After 5 days, belly fur was removed using a depilatory cream. Mice were imaged on a spectral imager (Maestro,

Cambridge Research Instruments). The IFP channel was excited with a 650/50 nm (center wavelength/full width at half maximum) bandpass filter with a 700 nm long pass filter in series with the imager's tunable emission filter at 710/40 nm. The mKate channel was 590/24 nm bandpass for excitation and 620/20 in series with 630/40 nm for emission. Images for GFP were acquired with 467/45nm excitation and a 515 nm long pass filter in series with the imager's 530/40 nm for emission. Images were taken with 3 seconds exposure. Images for Fig. 3A were acquired before BV and 1 hr after injection of 250 nanomoles of BV, then scaled so that the brightest pixels after BV administration would display at maximum intensity. mKate and GFP images were first scaled with the same parameters as the IFP images, then the mKate images were further brightened 5-fold to make them visible. For fluorescence time course measurement, background-subtracted images of averaged liver intensity of the same region over liver at different time points after 250 nmol biliverdin injection was divided by the fluorescence intensity after 1 hour (Image J, NIH).

For spectral deconvolution, an image cube was collected on the Maestro with excitation at 620/20 nm and emission at 650-800 nm taking an image every 10 nm. Fluorescence region and autofluorescence regions were identified and spectrally unmixed using the instrument's software, revealing true fluorescent protein signal (displayed in red) and autofluorescence (displayed in grey).

For fluorescence molecular tomographic imaging (FMT), an Ad5I infected mouse was anesthetized with ketamine and midazolam, then injected IV with 250 nmol biliverdin in 10% DMSO. One hour later, the mouse was placed in a FMT 2500 imaging system (VisEn Medical, Bedford MA) and imaged in channel 1 with Prosense 680 settings. Images were reconstructed and windowed (106 – 167 nM apparent concentrations depicted in blue to red pseudocolors) to show the 3D distribution of fluorescence viewed from two different angles (Fig. S9).

After mice were killed, they were dissected and imaged using both IFP and mKate filter sets at 3 levels during dissection: with the skin on, with the skin removed, and then with the peritoneum and rib cage removed. Using Image J software, regions of 80x300 pixels were selected from below the liver up to the mid thorax. These regions were analyzed by plotting the profile. The values were normalized by dividing each pixel by the average of the last 30 vertical pixels over the thorax. These data represent contrast of liver to adjacent thoracic background.

*Liver histology.* Livers were frozen for cryohistology to compare fluorescence protein signal strength and relative expression. Sections were cut at 10  $\mu$ m and then imaged on a fluorescence stereomicroscope (Lumar, Zeiss). Filter sets used were ex 470/40 nm and em 525/50 nm for GFP, ex 560/25 nm and em 607/36 for mKate, and ex 665/45 and em 725/50 for IFP. Images were acquired at 15s exposures for IFP and mKate channels and 3s exposure for the GFP channel, then displayed with intensity enhancements of 2, 1, and 1, respectively. Therefore the relative gains for the IFP, mKate, and GFP channels were 10, 5, and 1, respectively.

## SOM Text

*Evolution of IFP1.4.* Random mutagenesis of IFP1.1 with fluorescence activated cell sorting using a 676 nm laser resulted in IFP1.2 with 32% increase in quantum yield (QY), due to an additional M54V mutation. However, the parent of IFP1.2, *DrCBD*, was previously shown to be a dimer. Multiple angle light scattering at 785 nm (Dawn 8+, Wyatt Technology, Santa Barbara CA) of IFP1.2 gave an apparent molecular weight 80 kDa, about twice the predicted monomeric size of 36.5 kDa, suggesting that IFP1.2 was also a dimer. To monomerize IFP1.2, Leu311 was rationally mutated to a lysine since it is in the hydrophobic dimer interface based on the crystal structure of *DrCBD* (Fig. S3). Size exclusion chromatography (SEC) showed that the resulted mutant (named as IFP1.3) was eluted later than IFP1.2 (Fig. S3B), suggesting that IFP1.3 is possibly a monomer. SEC of IFP1.2/IFP1.3 mixture confirmed the result (Fig. S3B). However, the QY of IFP1.3 was slightly decreased (8%). Another round of random mutagenesis and screening generated IFP1.4 with increased brightness. SEC (Fig. S2) and multiple angle light scattering at 12 μM concentration (apparent molecular weight 41.5 kDa ± 10%) confirmed that IFP1.4 is monomeric. A sequence alignment of IFP1.4 with *DrCBD* is shown below with internal mutations shaded in blue. The S2A mutation (shaded in red) is to optimize the Kozak sequence when expressed in mammalian cells, and the C-terminal hexahistidine motif is to enable immobilized metal ion affinity chromatography.

<i>DrCBD</i> IFP1.4	MSRDPLPFFPPLYLGGPEITTENCEREPIHIPGSIQPHGALLTADGHSGEVLQMSLNAAAT M <b>R</b> DPLPFFPPLYLGGPEITTENCEREPIHIPGSIQPHGALLTADGHSGEVLQ <b>V</b> SLNAAT	60
<i>DrCBD</i> IFP1.4	FLGQEPTVLRGQTLAALLPEQWPALQAAALPPGCPDALQYRATLDWPAAGHLSLTVHRVGE FLGQEPTVLRGQTLAALLPEQWPALQAAALPPGCPDALQYRATLDWPAAGHLSLTVHRV <b>A</b> E	120
<i>DrCBD</i> IFP1.4	LLILEFEPTEAWDSTGPHALRNAMFALESAPNLRLAEEVATQTVERLTGFDRVMLYKFAP LLILEFEPTEAWDST <b>T</b> GPHALRNAMFALESAPNLRLAEEVATQTVERLTGFDRVMLYKFAP	180
<i>DrCBD</i> IFP1.4	DATGEVIAEARREGLHAFLGHRFPASDIPAQARALYTRHLLRLTADTRAACVPLDPVLNP DATGE <b>M</b> IAEARREG <b>M</b> AFLGHRFPAS <b>H</b> TPAQARALYTRHLLRLTADTRAACVPLDPVLNP	240
<i>DrCBD</i> IFP1.4	QTNAPTPLGGAVLratsPMHMQYLRLNMVGSSLSVSVVVGQLWGLIACHHQTPYVLPPD QTNAPTPLGGAVLratsPMHMQYLRLNMVGSSLSVSVVVGQLWGL <b>I</b> CHHQTPYVLPPD	300
<i>DrCBD</i> IFP1.4	LRTTLEYLGRLLSLQVQVKEA LRTTLEY <b>LGRL</b> LS <b>QVQ</b> RKEA <b>EFHHHHHH</b>	321

*Increase of cellular IFP fluorescence by exogenous BV.* HEK293A cells were transiently transfected with IFP1.4 in one 10-cm dish and incubated for 24 hours, trypsinized and replated into 5 wells of 6-well plate with ~ 400,000 cells per well. After another 24 hours incubation, different amounts of BV (final concentrations 5, 10, 20, 40 μM) were added, followed by 90 minutes incubation. Then cells were trypsinized and washed with PBS and resuspended for fluorescence measurement by a 96-well plate reader with monochromators (Safire, TECAN). Untransfected HEK293A cells with additions of exogenous BV were used as controls. Infrared fluorescence of transfected HEK293A cells increased upon the increase of added exogenous BV concentration and was saturated at 20 μM, while the untransfected cells did not show infrared fluorescence either with or without BV (Fig. S6A). Addition of exogenous BV rapidly (within 10 minutes) led to infrared fluorescence of matured P2 cortical neurons, two weeks after

transfection of IFP1.1 (Fig. S6B), which were practically nonfluorescent before addition of BV.

*Half-life of IFP1.4.* Cycloheximide (30 µg/ml final concentration) was added to HEK293A cells 24 hours after transfection of IFP1.4. Infrared fluorescence was fitted with single exponential decay assuming first-order decay kinetics of protein degradation (S5) (Figs. S7 and S8). The half-life of IFP1.4 in HEK293A cells with or without exogenous BV was calculated to be 4.44 and 3.61 hours, whose average is  $4.03 \pm 0.41$  hours.

*Multiple sequence alignment.* Below, 130 bacteriophytochrome-like sequences from NCBI database are aligned using *DrCBD* as the query (S6). It is suggested that readers zoom in to read the alignment.



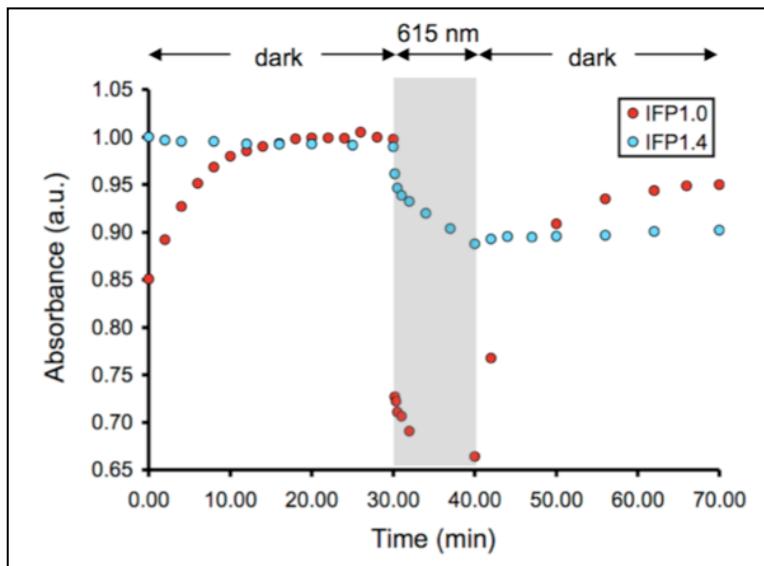




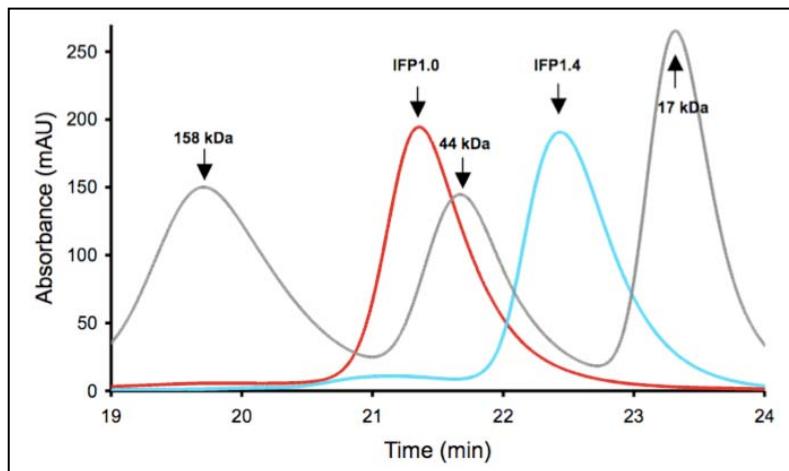
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 YF\_285375 192 WS.Q.....D.VISPLS.DFH.....S.....SNTV.IIP.IGYRPS..L.DR.. 250  
 YF\_285376 193 WS.Q.....D.VISPLS.DFH.....S.....SNTV.IIP.IGYRPS..L.DR.. 250  
 NP\_442237 181 NNN..D...EKP.Y.T.Y..LHY..T...Q...K..SQNNI..IPN.YQQPAIV.TN.. 240  
 ZP\_01628825 181 WN.T...EKP.Y.T.Y..LHY..T...T...K..SQNNI..IPN.YQQPAIV.TN.. 240  
 NP\_466939 181 QWQ.K...VKP.Y.TST..LNY..T...Q...K..SQNNI..IPN.AKYP..IV.. 240  
 YF\_285377 182 QWQ.K...VKP.Y.TST..LNY..T...Q...K..SQNNI..IPN.AKYP..IV.. 240  
 YF\_488044 173 FS.....D.T..VES..LHY..P...R...R..TNCPI..IIP.IDYIP..IV.GHD 232  
 ZP\_01459223 166 WH...L..SK.G.MDG..MH..T..V.....NP..I..A..RP..L.PVV 225  
 NP\_948356 190 WS.Q.....D.DS.IPSL.DFH..S.....S.....INPV.IIP.IGYRPS..V.DI.. 249  
 YF\_285378 191 YF\_285379 192 YF\_285380 193 YF\_285381 194 YF\_285382 195 YF\_285383 196 YF\_285384 197 YF\_285385 198 YF\_285386 199 YF\_285387 200 YF\_285388 201 YF\_285389 202 YF\_285390 203 YF\_285391 204 YF\_285392 205 YF\_285393 206 YF\_285394 207 YF\_285395 208 YF\_285396 209 YF\_285397 210 YF\_285398 211 YF\_285399 212 YF\_285400 213 YF\_285401 214 YF\_285402 215 YF\_285403 216 YF\_285404 217 YF\_285405 218 YF\_285406 219 YF\_285407 220 YF\_285408 221 YF\_285409 222 YF\_285410 223 YF\_285411 224 YF\_285412 225 YF\_285413 226 YF\_285414 227 YF\_285415 228 YF\_285416 229 YF\_285417 230 YF\_285418 231 YF\_285419 232 YF\_285420 233 YF\_285421 234 YF\_285422 235 YF\_285423 236 YF\_285424 237 YF\_285425 238 YF\_285426 239 YF\_285427 240 YF\_285428 241 YF\_285429 242 YF\_285430 243 YF\_285431 244 YF\_285432 245 YF\_285433 246 YF\_285434 247 YF\_285435 248 YF\_285436 249 YF\_285437 250 YF\_285438 251 YF\_285439 252 YF\_285440 253 YF\_285441 254 YF\_285442 255 YF\_285443 256 YF\_285444 257 YF\_285445 258 YF\_285446 259 YF\_285447 260 YF\_285448 261 YF\_285449 262 YF\_285450 263 YF\_285451 264 YF\_285452 265 YF\_285453 266 YF\_285454 267 YF\_285455 268 YF\_285456 269 YF\_285457 270 YF\_285458 271 YF\_285459 272 YF\_285460 273 YF\_285461 274 YF\_285462 275 YF\_285463 276 YF\_285464 277 YF\_285465 278 YF\_285466 279 YF\_285467 280 YF\_285468 281 YF\_285469 282 YF\_285470 283 YF\_285471 284 YF\_285472 285 YF\_285473 286 YF\_285474 287 YF\_285475 288 YF\_285476 289 YF\_285477 290 YF\_285478 291 YF\_285479 292 YF\_285480 293 YF\_285481 294 YF\_285482 295 YF\_285483 296 YF\_285484 297 YF\_285485 298 YF\_285486 299 YF\_285487 300 YF\_285488 301 YF\_285489 302 YF\_285490 303 YF\_285491 304 YF\_285492 305 YF\_285493 306 YF\_285494 307 YF\_285495 308 YF\_285496 309 YF\_285497 310 YF\_285498 311 YF\_285499 312 YF\_285500 313 YF\_285501 314 YF\_285502 315 YF\_285503 316 YF\_285504 317 YF\_285505 318 YF\_285506 319 YF\_285507 320 YF\_285508 321 YF\_285509 322 YF\_285510 323 YF\_285511 324 YF\_285512 325 YF\_285513 326 YF\_285514 327 YF\_285515 328 YF\_285516 329 YF\_285517 330 YF\_285518 331 YF\_285519 332 YF\_285520 333 YF\_285521 334 YF\_285522 335 YF\_285523 336 YF\_285524 337 YF\_285525 338 YF\_285526 339 YF\_285527 340 YF\_285528 341 YF\_285529 342 YF\_285530 343 YF\_285531 344 YF\_285532 345 YF\_285533 346 YF\_285534 347 YF\_285535 348 YF\_285536 349 YF\_285537 350 YF\_285538 351 YF\_285539 352 YF\_285540 353 YF\_285541 354 YF\_285542 355 YF\_285543 356 YF\_285544 357 YF\_285545 358 YF\_285546 359 YF\_285547 360 YF\_285548 361 YF\_285549 362 YF\_285550 363 YF\_285551 364 YF\_285552 365 YF\_285553 366 YF\_285554 367 YF\_285555 368 YF\_285556 369 YF\_285557 370 YF\_285558 371 YF\_285559 372 YF\_285560 373 YF\_285561 374 YF\_285562 375 YF\_285563 376 YF\_285564 377 YF\_285565 378 YF\_285566 379 YF\_285567 380 YF\_285568 381 YF\_285569 382 YF\_285570 383 YF\_285571 384 YF\_285572 385 YF\_285573 386 YF\_285574 387 YF\_285575 388 YF\_285576 389 YF\_285577 390 YF\_285578 391 YF\_285579 392 YF\_285580 393 YF\_285581 394 YF\_285582 395 YF\_285583 396 YF\_285584 397 YF\_285585 398 YF\_285586 399 YF\_285587 400 YF\_285588 401 YF\_285589 402 YF\_285590 403 YF\_285591 404 YF\_285592 405 YF\_285593 406 YF\_285594 407 YF\_285595 408 YF\_285596 409 YF\_285597 410 YF\_285598 411 YF\_285599 412 YF\_285600 413 YF\_285601 414 YF\_285602 415 YF\_285603 416 YF\_285604 417 YF\_285605 418 YF\_285606 419 YF\_285607 420 YF\_285608 421 YF\_285609 422 YF\_285610 423 YF\_285611 424 YF\_285612 425 YF\_285613 426 YF\_285614 427 YF\_285615 428 YF\_285616 429 YF\_285617 430 YF\_285618 431 YF\_285619 432 YF\_285620 433 YF\_285621 434 YF\_285622 435 YF\_285623 436 YF\_285624 437 YF\_285625 438 YF\_285626 439 YF\_285627 440 YF\_285628 441 YF\_285629 442 YF\_285630 443 YF\_285631 444 YF\_285632 445 YF\_285633 446 YF\_285634 447 YF\_285635 448 YF\_285636 449 YF\_285637 450 YF\_285638 451 YF\_285639 452 YF\_285640 453 YF\_285641 454 YF\_285642 455 YF\_285643 456 YF\_285644 457 YF\_285645 458 YF\_285646 459 YF\_285647 460 YF\_285648 461 YF\_285649 462 YF\_285650 463 YF\_285651 464 YF\_285652 465 YF\_285653 466 YF\_285654 467 YF\_285655 468 YF\_285656 469 YF\_285657 470 YF\_285658 471 YF\_285659 472 YF\_285660 473 YF\_285661 474 YF\_285662 475

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ZP_01459223	241	23 LQ..LD..SF..T..S...V..I..C..MK..L..M..LI..LLK..D..S..G..GR..LLH..HE..	285
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YP_00159101	239	23 S..GRT..D..TY..A..,ADAGRET..R..AKA..TIAIT..R..N..A..RA..CS..SPF..	298
ZP_00124224	239	23 S..GRT..D..TY..A..,ADAGRET..R..AKA..TIAIT..R..N..A..RA..CS..SPF..	298
YP_0208304	239	23 S..GRT..D..TY..A..,ADAGRET..R..AKA..TIAIT..R..N..A..RA..CS..SPF..	298
ZP_00124224	239	23 S..GRT..D..TY..A..,ADAGRET..R..AKA..TIAIT..R..N..A..RA..CS..SPF..	298
YP_001135775	239	23 S..GRT..D..TY..A..,ADAGRET..R..AKA..TIAIT..R..N..A..RA..CS..SPF..	298
ZP_00161736	248	24 G..G..LD..SHS..S..V..V..E..K..A..M..I..L..I..L..R..V..V..Y..SGNHR..G..	296
YP_00161736	248	24 G..G..LD..SHS..S..V..V..E..K..A..M..I..L..I..L..R..V..V..Y..SGNHR..G..	296
ZP_01715500	248	24 V..G..LD..SD..W..SV..V..V..E..K..A..M..I..L..I..L..R..V..V..Y..SGNHR..G..	296
YP_715500	248	24 V..G..LD..SD..W..SV..V..V..E..K..A..M..I..L..I..L..R..V..V..Y..SGNHR..G..	296
ZP_01227360	235	23 AGLSVED..SDVG..S..V..I..R..A..A..O..A..A..I..I..MD..H..V..DEAKAIS..L..	303
ZP_01227374	235	23 LNRGLDMSL..S..I..V..A..K..AH..VA..M..L..I..L..R..L..S..S..R..R..FV..	300
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ZP_01611010	235	23 EQDN..LD..SISET..S..I..IE..K..A..T..TAII..SK..T..S..Y..KFVN..	292
ZP_01622847	235	23 EGDEN..LD..SISET..S..I..IE..K..A..T..TAII..SK..T..S..Y..KFVN..	292
YP_531134	235	23 GRLEDLMSCL..SM..S..I..L..Q..O..R..T..V..D..K..V..Y..RFPH..	297
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YP_001135775	235	23 AVKG..LD..TD..T..S..I..V..E..K..A..M..I..L..I	

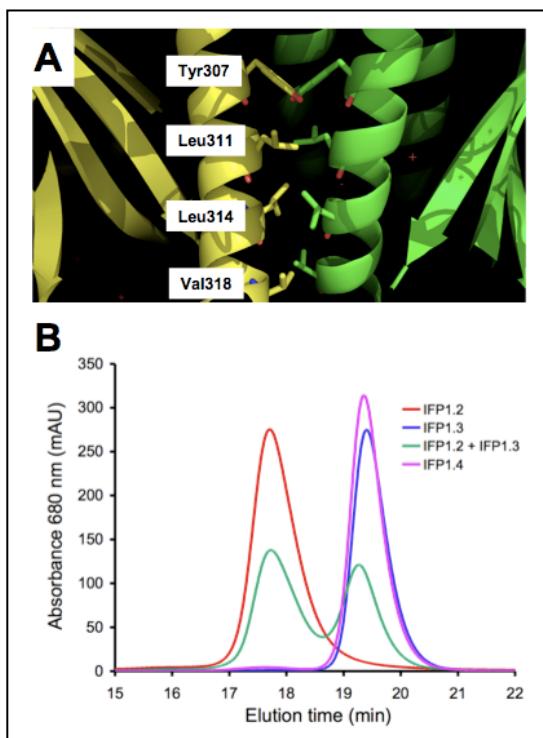




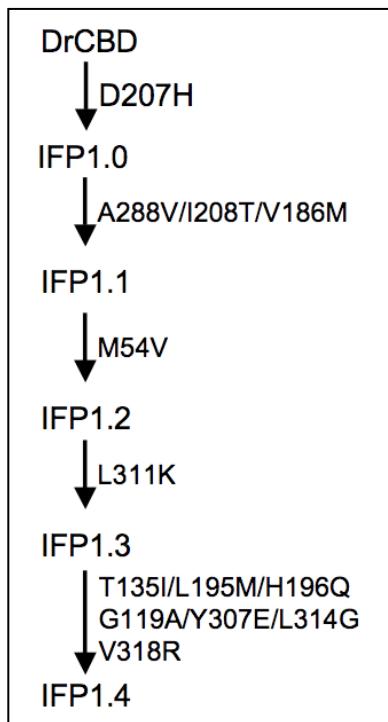
**Fig. S1** Dark and light adapted behavior of IFP1.0 and IFP1.4. Absorbance spectra at different time points were taken in the dark (0 – 30 min.), upon 615 nm light illumination by solar simulator (30 – 40 min.), and then in the dark again (40 – 70 min.).



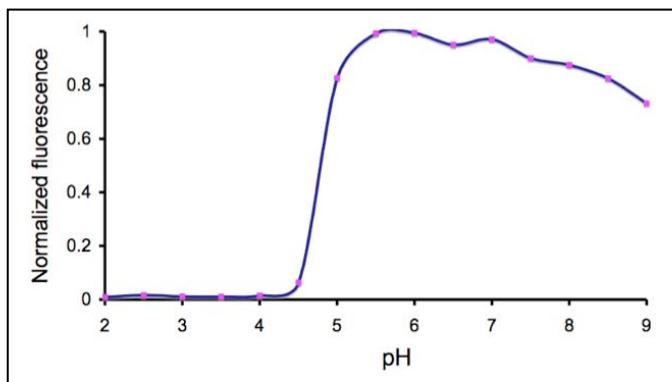
**Fig. S2** Size exclusion chromatography of IFP1.0 and1.4. Three standards are also shown:  $\gamma$ -globulin (158 kDa), ovalbumin (44 kDa) and myoglobin (17 kDa). Absorbance was measured at 280 nm.



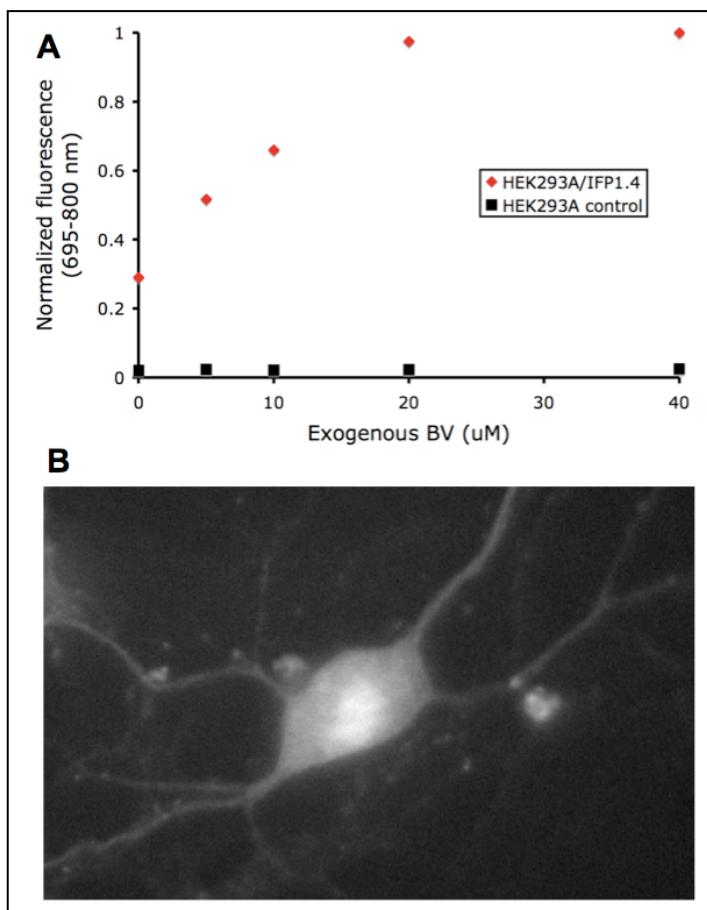
**Fig. S3** IFP monomerization by L311K mutation. (A) The dimer interface in DrCBD is formed from 4 residues (Y307/L311/L314/V318). (B) Size exclusion chromatography of IFP1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and a mixture of IFP1.2 and 1.3.



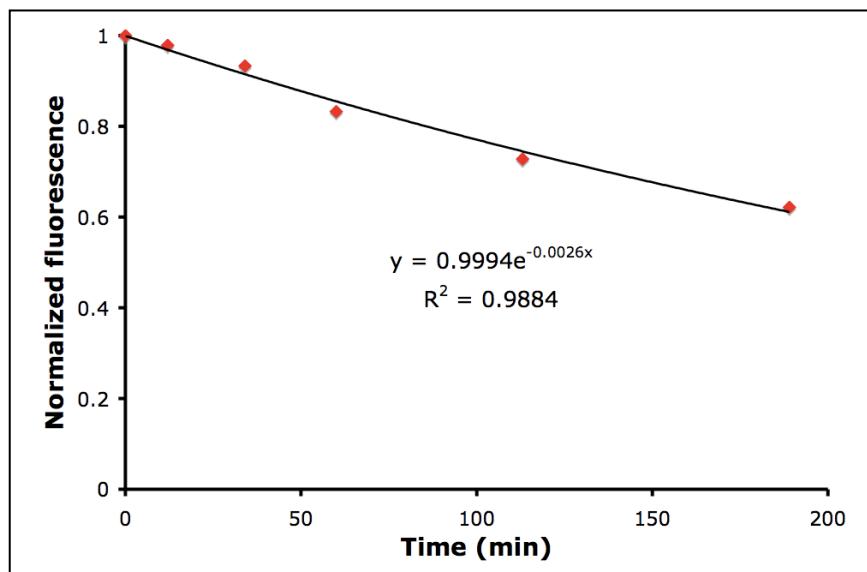
**Fig. S4** Evolution of IFPs showing the mutations introduced at each stage.



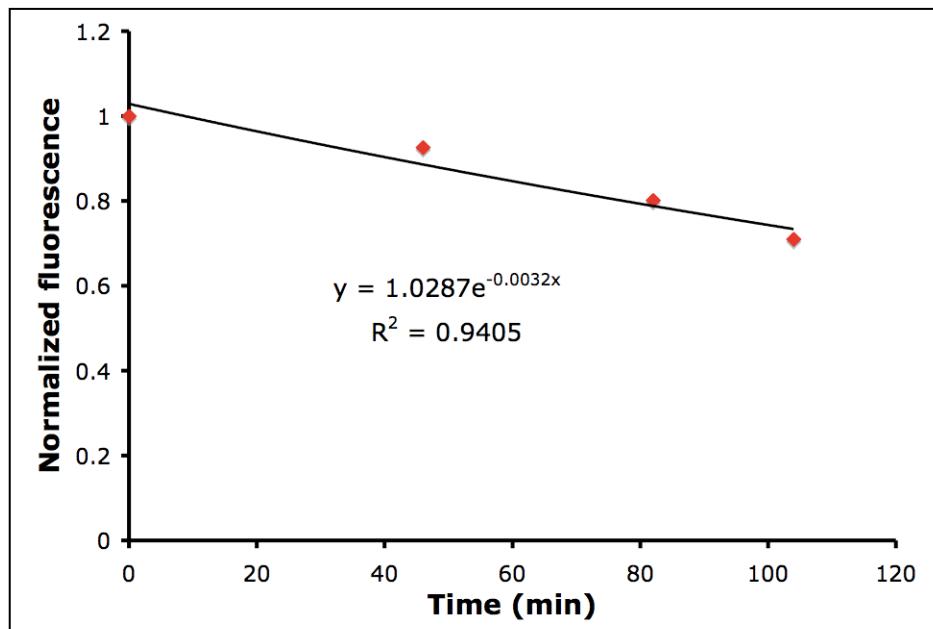
**Fig. S5** pH dependence of IFP1.4 fluorescence. IFP1.4 was excited at 640 nm and its emission at 700 - 800 nm was integrated, normalized and plotted against pH.



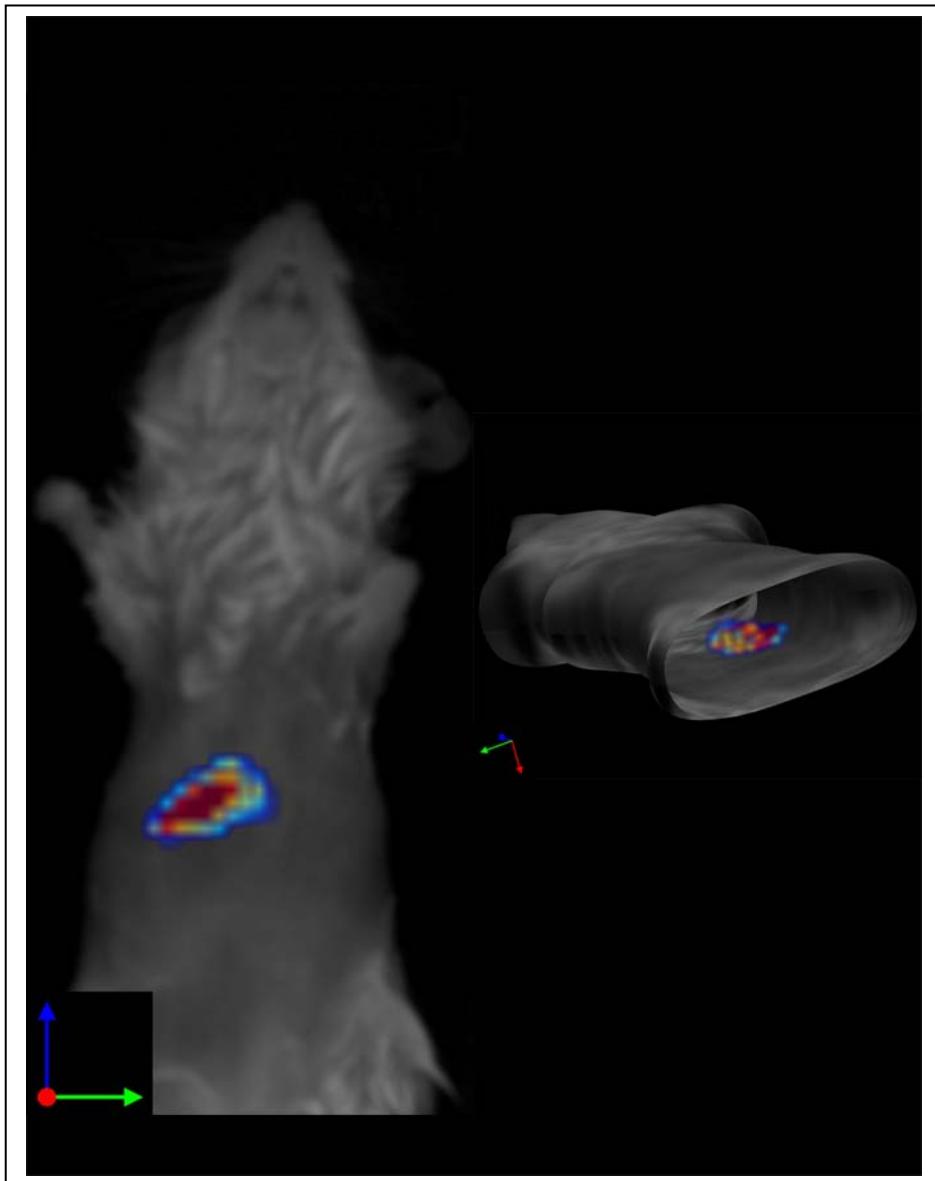
**Fig. S6** Increase of IFP fluorescence by addition of exogenous BV. **(A)** IFP1.4-transfected HEK293A cells indicated increase of fluorescence upon addition of exogenous BV, with untransfected cells as the control. IFP fluorescence was integrated from 695 to 800 nm upon excitation at 660 nm. **(B)** Fluorescence image of a P2 cultured cortical neuron 2 weeks after transfection of IFP1.1, 10 minutes after addition of 25  $\mu\text{M}$  BV.



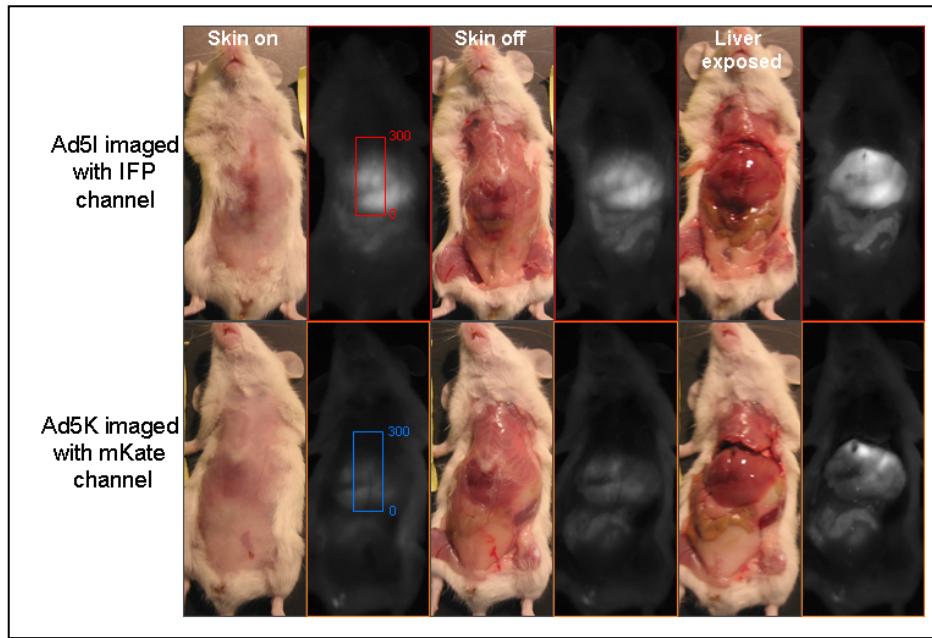
**Fig. S7** IFP1.4 degradation in HEK293A cells with 20  $\mu$ M BV added.



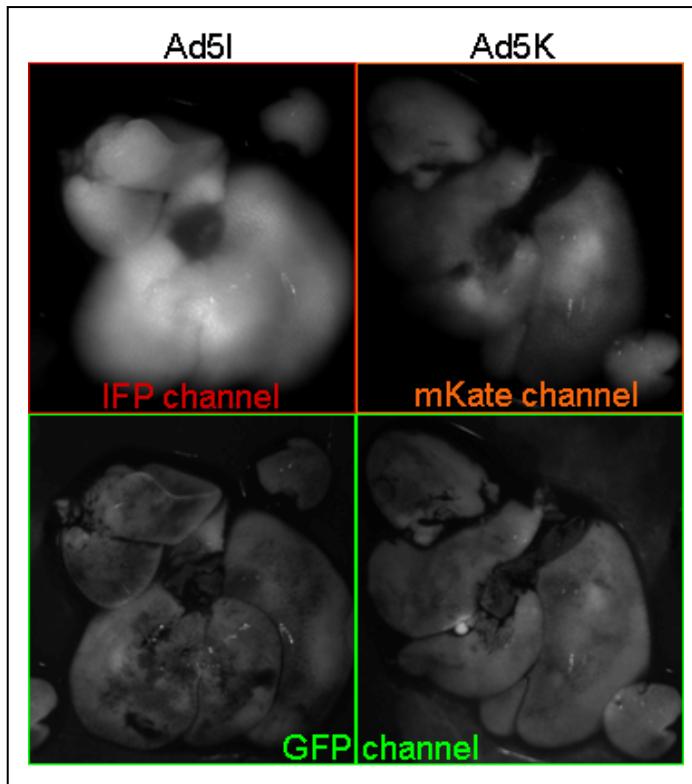
**Fig. S8** IFP1.4 degradation in HEK293A cells without exogenous BV.



**Fig. S9** Noninvasive fluorescence molecular tomographic (FMT) imaging of IFP-expressing mouse liver. Blue, green, and red arrows indicate rostral-caudal, left-right, and dorsoventral axes, respectively. Left: top view. Right: tilted view to show the 3D localization of fluorescence within the mouse.



**Fig. S10** IFP/mKate fluorescence images before dissection (skin on), after removal of skin (skin off), and after removal of overlying peritoneum and ribcage (liver exposed). mKate images were 2.5X brightened relative to IFP images. Note that Ad5I infected mouse was imaged after 250 nmol IV injection of BV.



**Fig. S11** Imaging of extracted livers infected with Ad5I and Ad5K.

**Table S1 Properties of infrared fluorescent protein variants.**

Fluorescent Protein	Absorption max. (nm)	Extinct. coeff. (M <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Emission max. (nm)	Quantum yield	Relative brightness (%)	Stoichiometry
IFP1.0	699	60,000	722	0.028	100	Dimer
IFP1.1	686	86,000	713	0.050	256	Dimer
IFP1.2	684	86,000	707	0.066	338	Dimer
IFP1.3	684	84,000	707	0.061	305	Monomer
IFP1.4	684	92,000	708	0.070	383	Monomer

## Supporting References

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