## The structural basis of G protein coupled receptor signaling

Brian Kobilka Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology Stanford

#### The $\beta_2$ AR modulates the activity of multiple signaling pathways







## **GPCR-G** Protein Cycle

## Outline

- •Overview of approaches to characterize GPCR structure
- •GPCR crystallography
- Mechanistic insights into GPCR-G protein activation



## **GPCR-G** Protein Cycle

## Cloned DNA Sequence (1986)

GAATTCATGCCGCGTTTCTGTGTTGGACAGGGGTGACTTTGTGCC GGATGGCTTCTGTGTGAGAGCGCGCGCGCGAGTGTGCATGTCGGTGA GCTGGGAGGGTGTGTCTCAGTGTCTATGGCTGTGGTTCGGTATAAG CGGTGGGCACTCTCGTTTCCTTCCGAATGTGGGGCAGTGCCGGTG TGCTGCCCTCTGCCTTGAGACCTCAAGCCGCGCAGGCGCCCAGGG CAGGCAGGTAGCGGCCACAGAAGAGCCCAAAAGCTCCCGGGTTGG GGGTAGCCGGGAAGCAGTGGTGGCCCGCCCTCCAGGGAGCAGTT GGGGAGGGAAAGGGGAGGAGTGCCTCGCCCCTTCGCGGCTGCC GGCGTGCCATTGGCCGAAAGTTCCCGTACGTCACGGCGAGGGCA GTTCCCCTAAAGTCCTGTGCACATAACGGGCAGAACGCACTGCGA AGCGGCTTCTTCAGAGCACGGGCTGGAACTGGCAGGCACCGCGA GCCCCTAGCACCCGACAAGCTGAGTGTGCAGGACGAGTCCCCACC ACACCCACACCACAGCCGCTGAATGAGGCTTCCAGGCGTCCGCTC GCGGCCCGCAGAGCCCCGCCGTGGGTCCGCCTGCTGAGGCGCCC CCAGCCAGTGCGCTTACCTGCCAGACTGCGCGCCATGGGGGCAACC CGGGAACGGCAGCGCCTTCTTGCTGGCACCCAATAGAAGCCATGC GCCGGACCACGACGTCACGCAGCAAAGGGACGAGGTGTGGGTG GTGGGCATGGGCATCGTCATGTCTCTCATCGTCCTGGCCATCGTGTT TGGCAATGTGCTGGTCATCACAGCCATTGCCAAGTTCGAGCGTCTG CAGACGGTCACCAAC

Sequence analysis
secondary structure (transmembrane domains)

### Amino Acid Sequence

MGQPGNGSAFLLAPNRSHAPDHDVT QQRDEVWVVGMGIVMSLIVLAIVFGN VLVITAIAKFERLQTVTNYFITSLACADLV MGLAVVPFGAHILMKMWTFGNFWCE **FWTSIDVLCVTASIETLCVIAVDRYFAITS** PFKYQSLLTKNKARVIILMVWIVSGLTSF LPIQMHWYRATHQEAINCYANETCCDF FTNQAYAIASSIVSFYVPLVIMVFVYSRV FQEAKRQLQKIDKSEGRFHVQNLSQVE **QDGRTGHGLRRSSKFCLKEHKALKTLGII** MGTFTLCWLPFFIVNIVHVIQDNLIRKE VYILLNWIGYVNSGENPLIYCRSPDERIA FQELLCLRRSSLKAYGNGYSSNGNTGEQ SGYHVEQEKENKLLCEDLPGTEDFVGH QGTVPSDNIDSQGRNCSTNDSLL

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## Sequence analysis secondary structure (transmembrane domains)

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•Sequence analysis

secondary structure

(transmembrane domains)

• post-translational modifications





- •Sequence analysis
  - secondary structure

- post-translational modifications
- •<u>Chimeric Receptors and site-directed</u> <u>mutagenesis</u>
  - ligand binding and G protein coupling



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  - secondary structure

- post-translational modifications
- •<u>Chimeric Receptors and Site-directed</u> <u>mutagenesis</u>
  - ligand binding and G protein coupling
  - •enhance expression and purification

#### Expression and purification





#### •Sequence analysis

secondary structure

- post-translational modifications
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### Approaches to characterizing β<sub>2</sub>AR structure:



- •Sequence analysis
  - secondary structure

- post-translational modifications
- •<u>Chimeric Receptors and site-directed</u> mutagenesis
  - ligand binding and G protein coupling
  - enhance expression and purification
- •Biochemistry
  - unstructured, flexible sequence

### Approaches to characterizing β<sub>2</sub>AR structure:



- •Sequence analysis
  - secondary structure

- post-translational modifications
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  - ligand binding and G protein coupling
  - enhance expression and purification
- •Biochemistry
  - unstructured, flexible sequence
- Spectroscopy (Fluorescence, EPR, NMR)
  - •ligand-specific conformational states
  - dynamic, flexible character
    useful tool for monitoring receptor activity

## Conformational changes in TM6 in response to norepinepherine:



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Fluorescence lifetime experimentsMultiple agonist statesLigand-specific conformational states

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{A} + \textbf{R} \rightleftharpoons \textbf{A} \textbf{R}^{+} \rightleftharpoons \textbf{A} \textbf{R}^{*} \\ \textbf{P} + \textbf{R} \rightleftharpoons \textbf{P} \textbf{R}^{+} \rightleftharpoons \textbf{P} \textbf{R}^{\#} \end{array}$ 





Pejman Ghanouni, 2001

### Insights from spectroscopy studies -fluorescence, NMR, EPR-



•The  $\beta_2$ AR is flexible and dynamic

•TM6 undergoes the largest changes in response to agonists

•Agonist binding and activation occur through a series of conformational intermediates

•Agonists and partial agonists stabilize distinct conformational states

•Agonists alone do not stabilize a single active conformation.

•Fluorescence spectroscopy aided in identifying optimal conditions for crystallography

Ansgar Philippsen & Ron Dror (D.E. Shaw Research)

## Outline

•Overview of approaches to characterize GPCR structure

•GPCR crystallography

Mechanistic insights into GPCR-G protein activation



## **GPCR-G** Protein Cycle



Nov 2004

## Crystals of wild-type $\beta_2 AR$

#### ESRF microfocus beamline ID13, July 2005





## Conformationally uniform GPCR



High-quality crystal



## Conformationally heterogeneous GPCR



#### <u>Challenges for crystallography</u> •Protein dynamics







Approaches for GPCR crystallogenesis:

•Antibodies and protein engineering



#### Approaches for GPCR crystallogenesis:

- •Antibodies and protein engineering
- •Lipid-based media: bicelles and lipidic cubic phase







#### Inactive-state GPCR structures

#### Antibodies and Protein Engineering

T4L

Fab

T4L





Rhodopsin (native)
Schertler (2D crystals) - 1997 \_\_\_\_\_
Palczewski and Okada (3D) - 2000
Ernst and Hofmann (Opsin) - 2008



Recent GPCR-T4L structures from Kobilka Lab and collaborators



Stevens Lab and collaborators

Adenosine A2A D3 Dopamine CXCR4 Histamine S1P1 κ-opioid

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## **GPCR-G** Protein Cycle



#### $\beta_2 AR \text{ ACTIVE } ?$











<u>Nanobody</u> variable domain of a single chain camelid antibody

> Jan Steyaert Els Pardon









<u>Nanobody</u> variable domain of a single chain camelid antibody

> Jan Steyaert Els Pardon

![](_page_35_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_2.jpeg)

<u>Nanobody</u> variable domain of a single chain camelid antibody

> Jan Steyaert Els Pardon

![](_page_36_Picture_5.jpeg)

## Technical contributions to crystallizing the $\beta_2$ AR-Gs complex

- High-affinity agonist BI-167107 (1 of ~ 60 screened)
- Removal of GDP Apyrase
- Detergent: MNG-3 (long-term storage, aids transition into LCP)
- New mesophase lipid (7.7 MAG) to accommodate G protein (provided by Martin Caffrey)
- Nanobody to stabilize G protein complex (Jan Steyaert)
- Amino Terminal T4 Lysozyme
- Project guided by data from negative stain single particle EM (Georgios Skiniotis)

![](_page_37_Figure_8.jpeg)

### Microcrystallography GM/CA-CAT at Argonne National Labs

![](_page_38_Picture_1.jpeg)

Returning from Argonne with final data set April 2011

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

 $\beta_2 AR-Cz$  $\beta_2 AR-Gs$ 

### Active state of $\beta_2 AR$

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_2.jpeg)

 $\beta_2 AR$  - Inactive  $\beta_2 AR$ -Gs

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### $\beta_2$ AR-Active

Rearrangement of conserved amino acids required to accommodate agonist binding.

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

Interactions between the  $\beta_2$ AR and Gs promote GDP release....

![](_page_49_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

## Mobility of alpha helical domain confirmed by EM

![](_page_51_Picture_1.jpeg)

Gerwin Westfield and Georgios Skiniotis, Univ. Michigan

#### **Future Directions**

![](_page_52_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_0.jpeg)

GPCR Workshop, Maui, Dec. 2011

### **Many Thanks**

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#### Stanford

Søren Rasmussen Foon Sun Thian Tong Sun Kobilka Yaozhong Zou Andrew Kruse Ka Young Chung Jesper Mathiesen Bill Weis

### $\beta_2$ AR-Gs Team

University of Michigan Brian DeVree Diane Calinski Gerwin Westfield Georgios Skiniotis Roger Sunahara

University of Wisconsin Pil Seok Chae Sam Gellman Free University of Brussels Els Pardon Jan Steyaert Trinity College Dublin Joseph Lyons Syed Shah Martin Caffrey

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We will miss Virgil Woods (UCSD), 1948-2012