

激光调控细胞钙信号的技术与机制

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摘要 钙离子是细胞内重要的第二信使, 调节基因转录、能量合成及细胞增殖和凋亡等功能。细胞膜与细胞器上钙相关蛋白协同作用, 形成复杂而有序的钙信号网络。在亚细胞结构上特异性激活与抑制某个钙相关蛋白而不影响其他蛋白及其他细胞器能够极大促进亚细胞结构钙信号调节机制及相关功能研究。然而, 由于药物在细胞内的自由扩散及蛋白在细胞内的广泛表达, 药物的分子特异性及空间特异性有限, 因此基于激光的钙信号调节方法得到发展。主要讨论了光解锁笼、光遗传以及全光调控三种基于激光的高空间分辨率的细胞内钙信号调控技术的优点及局限性。理论上, 它们对细胞的刺激可以局限在亚微米区域。特别地, 分析阐述了基于多光子激发的低功率近红外飞秒激光调控细胞内钙信号的新型技术与机制。

关键词 生物光学; 多光子激发; 光解锁笼; 光遗传; 全光调控; 飞秒激光

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1 引言

钙离子(Ca^{2+})是真核细胞内重要的第二信使。细胞各结构协同工作, 形成复杂而有序的钙信号网络, 参与一系列的信号转导, 进而调节众多细胞过程, 如细胞增殖、分化、代谢和程序性死亡等^[1-6]。

细胞膜(PM)是细胞与外界环境的第一道屏障, 通过膜上钙相关受体、钙通道、交换子将外界刺激转化为细胞内钙信号。在静息状态下, 细胞内外存在大约 2 万倍的钙浓度差, 胞浆内的钙浓度(后文统称 cytoCa^{2+})维持在 100 nmol/L 左右。胞浆内的自由钙离子可以与钙结合蛋白结合从而诱发下游信号。细胞器是细胞内的主要钙存储位点。内质网(ER)庞大的单层膜结构为钙离子提供了主要的存储空间。静息状态的内质网钙浓度维持在 200 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ 左右。线粒体是重要的钙缓冲细胞器, 静息状态下钙水平为 100 nmol/L。据报道, 溶酶体^[7-8]和高尔基^[9-10]也是钙存储细胞器。部分研究指出, 在细胞核内可能也存在钙存储^[11-15]。但一些研究表明, 细胞核内的钙浓度很低, 细胞核内的钙信号主要是由胞浆内的钙流入调节的。目前, 钙进出细胞核的机制尚不清晰^[15-29]。细胞内广泛存在的膜结构为细胞器提供了很多膜接触位点^[30-31], 例如内质网-线粒体^[32-33]、内质网-细胞膜、内质网-细胞核接触位点。接触位点处局部的钙交换行使着很多重要的细胞功能。位于这些细胞器上的钙感受蛋白、钙通道、钙泵、钙交换子、钙结合蛋白可以协同作用, 从而形成复

杂的细胞钙信号网络。当 cytoCa^{2+} 上升时, 多余的钙离子会被细胞膜的钙泵泵出胞外, 或者线粒体内膜上的线粒体钙离子单向转运蛋白(MCU)将钙转运至线粒体基质中。当 cytoCa^{2+} 下降时, 细胞膜发生去极化, 从而细胞膜上电压控钙离子通道(VOCs)打开且钠钙交换子(NCX)通道逆转, 细胞外钙内流, 从而维持胞浆钙平衡; 内质网通过肌醇 1, 4, 5-三磷酸受体(IP_3R)钙离子通道释放钙离子^[34], 线粒体通过膜通透性转换孔(mPTP)释放钙离子进入胞浆, 维持胞浆钙平衡。

大量钙相关蛋白分布在各个细胞器, 形成复杂有序的钙信号网络, 从而调节细胞增殖、分化等生理功能。但是, 精确调控单个细胞器甚至微米区域的钙信号而不干扰其他细胞器是有难度的。通常细胞器接触位点之间的距离只有几十纳米, 钙变化范围小, 这增加了相关钙调节机制研究的难度。独立调控细胞核而不影响其他细胞器的钙信号对于研究细胞核钙调节机制具有重大意义。具有高时空分辨率的钙信号调控技术可以极大地促进亚细胞结构钙信号调控机制及其功能的研究。目前, 一系列药物被广泛应用于激活或抑制目标蛋白, 具有一定分子特异性。然而, 考虑到大多数试剂在细胞内自由扩散, 目标钙相关蛋白通常广泛存在于整个细胞中, 并且试剂通常与一系列分子结合, 所以试剂对亚细胞钙储存目标蛋白调控的特异性会减弱, 最终导致细胞内全局钙增加或振荡, 引起其他分子的变化。

为了提高钙调控技术的空间分辨率, 研究者们提

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出了光解锁笼和光遗传两种基于光学的技术。激光通过激活预先孵育到细胞内或者细胞溶液中的钙锁笼化合物和光遗传蛋白诱导钙释放。理论上,激光具有衍射极限分辨率,实现亚微米尺寸的精确钙调控,然而这两种方法的特异性和效率受限于钙锁笼化合物以及光遗传蛋白在细胞内的分布。最近,学者们提出了一种仅通过激光控制细胞内钙信号的全光学技术。

本文讨论了光解锁笼、光基因及全光方法三种调控技术的优点和局限性。特别地,我们重点分析了全光学钙信号调制方法中激光与细胞相互作用的机制。基于多光子激发的低功率近红外飞秒激光调控细胞内钙信号的技术具有亚微米空间分辨率,对细胞器钙信号的研究具有重要意义。

2 钙信号的光学调制技术

激光在生物领域的应用不断发展。超分辨、超快成像不断突破应用极限,激光越来越多地用于调节生命活动。光解锁笼技术、光遗传技术、全光调控技术分别利用激光激发钙锁笼化合物、光遗传蛋白以及细胞内源分子来调节细胞内钙信号。理论上,激光具有衍射极限(亚微米)空间分辨率,从而可以在亚细胞器空间分辨率上实现对钙信号的局部调控。

2.1 药理学调控

利用药物特异性激活或抑制不同目标蛋白极大地推动了细胞内钙信号及其功能的研究^[35-40]。然而,大多数药物试剂通常与一系列分子结合,特异性较差;且试剂可以在细胞内自由扩散,目标蛋白通常广泛存在于整个细胞中,因此细胞器靶向性差,试剂通常导致细胞内全局钙变化。例如,2-氨基乙氧基二苯基硼酸盐(2-APB)是内质网IP₃R受体的抑制剂,可以抑制钙离子通过IP₃R受体从内质网释放到胞浆^[41]。但是IP₃R在细胞核膜上也存在,并且2-APB同时可以通过抑制

钙释放激活钙调节器1(Orai1)来抑制钙内流,也可以激活细胞膜上钙释放激活钙调节器3^[42]。钌红(Ruthenium Red)可以是线粒体MCU的抑制剂^[43],同时也可以抑制心肌肌浆网Ca²⁺-ATP酶(SERCA)以及兰尼碱受体(RyR)的活性^[44]。特别地,用于调控细胞核的药物对膜穿透性设计有特定要求,要求药物穿透细胞膜,核膜(NE)进入细胞核内部,对内侧核膜蛋白进行调控。例如,莫能菌素(monensin)和氨苯蝶啶(CB-DMB)分别是核膜上NCX的激活剂和抑制剂,可分别增加和减少核膜内钙浓度。但是,monensin和CB-DMB具有膜不可通透性,不能用于完整的细胞处理^[45]。细胞器的局部钙信号具有调控能量生成、自噬等重要功能,因此细胞器接触位点的药理学开发也至关重要。细胞器接触位点之间的距离为几十纳米,需要药物能够局域在此区域,但是考虑到大多数试剂在细胞内自由扩散,接触位点的靶点蛋白也在整个细胞器内存在,因此很难特异性调节细胞器接触位点的钙信号。高时空分辨率地调节钙信号的技术开发尤为重要。

2.2 光解锁笼技术

光解锁笼技术^[46-47]极大地推动了细胞内钙信号调控及其功能的研究,其原理类似于光动力治疗^[48-50]。如图1所示,钙锁笼化合物(caged-Ca²⁺)由发色团与钙离子结合而成,紫外激光(340~405 nm)激发细胞质指定区域内的钙锁笼化合物后,锁笼化合物解锁笼,从而释放自由钙离子(free Ca²⁺)。研究者们利用光解锁笼这一技术,进行了一系列亚细胞结构钙信号研究。2002年,Lohmann等^[51]在树突的几微米区域内通过光解锁笼技术释放钙,从而恢复了树突的树枝状发展。该结果表明,树突的局部钙增加是发展树突树枝状结构所必需的。同年,Ashby等^[52]在完整细胞的不同区域释放锁笼钙,揭示了钙敏感的钙释放位点更多地位于细胞核附近。2021年,通过在突触前末端释放锁笼

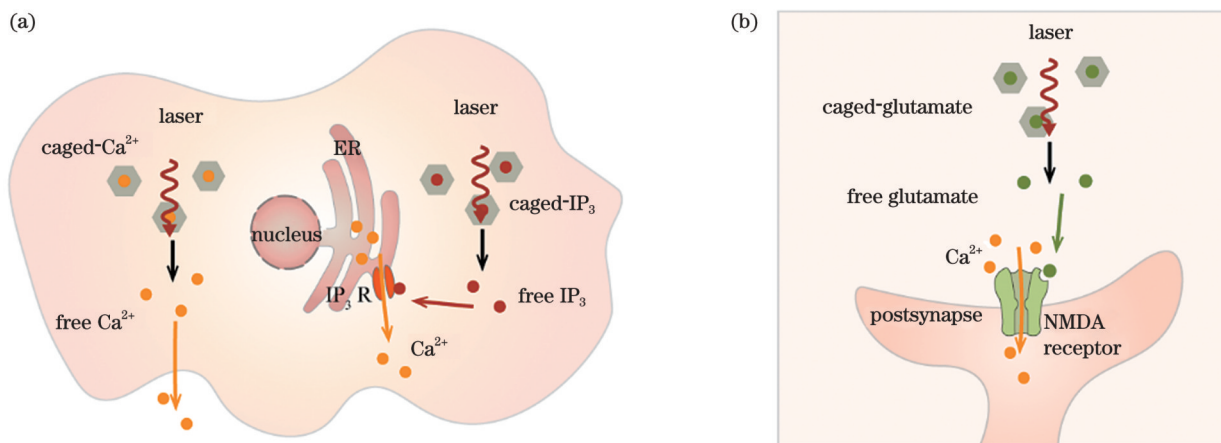


图1 光解锁笼原理图。(a)光激活钙锁笼化合物及三磷酸肌醇锁笼化合物引起细胞钙上升;(b)光激活谷氨酸盐锁笼化合物引起突触内钙上升

Fig. 1 Schematic of photo-uncaging. (a) Increase of cytosolic Ca²⁺ induced by photoactivated caged-Ca²⁺ and caged-IP₃; (b) increase of synaptic Ca²⁺ induced by photoactivated caged-glutamate

钙, Fukaya 等^[53]发现, 环磷腺苷(cAMP)可能通过 P/Q 型钙离子通道在突触前末端的积累来增加神经递质的释放。

如图 1(a) 所示, 将三磷酸肌醇(IP₃)和谷氨酸(glutamate)分别与光敏感化合物结合, 形成 IP₃锁笼化合物(caged-IP₃)和谷氨酸锁笼化合物(caged-glutamate), 被紫外激光(340~405 nm)激活后分别释放 IP₃和谷氨酸, IP₃作用于内质网上的 IP₃R, 引起内质网钙释放, 谷氨酸作用于突触后膜上的 N-甲基-D-天冬氨酸受体(NMDA receptor), 引起钙内流。caged-IP₃以类似于笼状钙的形式作用于细胞, 而 caged-glutamate 通常通过玻璃移液管等机械装置被直接输送到靠近所选神经元/树突的预定义位置, 或溶解在细胞培养缓冲液中。如图 1(b) 所示, 激光照射靠近所选神经元或者树突的预定区域以释放谷氨酸。1994 年, Allbritton 等^[54]利用激光激发胞浆内 caged-IP₃, 释放的 IP₃可以诱导细胞核中的钙瞬时增加, 并且此现象可以被胞浆中 IP₃R 的抑制剂抑制。表明细胞核中的钙水平不是独立控制的。1997 年, Jaconi 等^[55]使用光解锁笼 caged-IP₃来诱导内质网中钙排

空, 并发现胞外的钙离子从排空了内质网的细胞膜附近进入到胞浆中。谷氨酸光解锁笼通常被用来模拟神经元突触的刺激, 可用于研究突触可塑性等神经功能^[56-61]。

为了进一步提高空间分辨率, 如图 2 所示, 其中 S₀为基态, S₁为激发态。基于近红外光的双光子激发被应用于光解锁笼, 目前广泛用于光解锁笼的近红外光多在 720 nm 附近。双光子激发的要求是两个光子在大约 10⁻¹⁸ s 内同时被吸收, 每个光子的能量只有相应的单光子吸收时的一半^[62]。笼状化合物的双光子吸收横截面非常小。与单光子激发相比, 双光子激发需要更高的光子通量(约 10⁶倍)使两个光子同时入射到荧光团。因此飞秒脉冲激光常用于双光子激发。除了更高的光子通量外, 使用高数值孔径(NA)物镜对激光进行聚焦会进一步压缩光子通量的空间分布, 从而进一步增加两个光子同时入射到荧光团上的概率。如图 2(b) 所示, 双光子激发在焦平面以外没有光吸收和荧光, 因此没有光漂白和光毒性。由于双光子激发对光子密度的要求高, 因此基于双光子的光解锁笼能以亚微米空间分辨率调节钙信号。

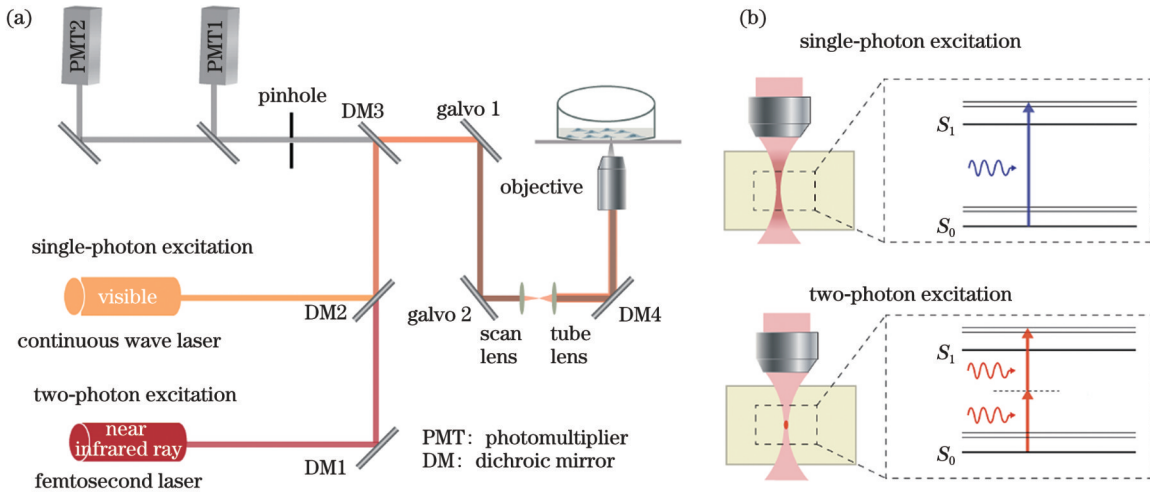


图 2 单光子和双光子激发解锁笼原理图。(a)解锁笼光路图;(b)能级图

Fig. 2 Schematics of photo uncaging by single photon excitation and two-photon excitation. (a) Optical path of uncaging system; (b) energy level diagram

这些化合物无论它们本身还是它们释放的 Ca²⁺、IP₃和谷氨酸, 对细胞几乎没有毒性。一般来说, 光解锁笼的空间分辨率和效率同时取决于激光聚焦和细胞中锁笼化合物的空间分布。光锁笼化合物也需预先孵育到细胞内部, 由于缺少分子特异性或细胞器靶向, 化合物最终会扩散至整个胞浆。激光可以在预定义的空间和时间位置进行解锁笼过程。然而, 由于 IP₃R 和 NMDA receptor 在细胞内广泛分布, 或钙诱导的钙释放(CICR)过程, 光解锁笼通常会导致细胞内整体钙水平发生变化。

2.3 光遗传学技术

基因工程以及视紫红质(rhodopsin)的发现推动了

光基因技术的出现, 它使细胞或动物能够在基因水平上稳定且特异性地表达行使着离子通道功能的光敏蛋白。在 2002 年第一篇将光基因用于控制神经活动的研究论文得到报道之后, 光基因技术快速发展^[63-67]。如图 3(a) 所示, 将带有视紫红质的基因片段导入腺病毒, 注射到小鼠脑部, 光遗传蛋白在小鼠神经元中得到稳定表达。小鼠脑部插入光纤, 以一种表达在细胞膜上的紫红质通道蛋白 2(ChR2) 为例, 黑暗中 ChR2 保持关闭状态; 在 470 nm 激光照射下, ChR2 打开, 引起钙离子内流。

为了在高时空精度下操纵钙信号, 研究者们构建了基于亚细胞器的特异性光基因技术^[68], 目前大多数

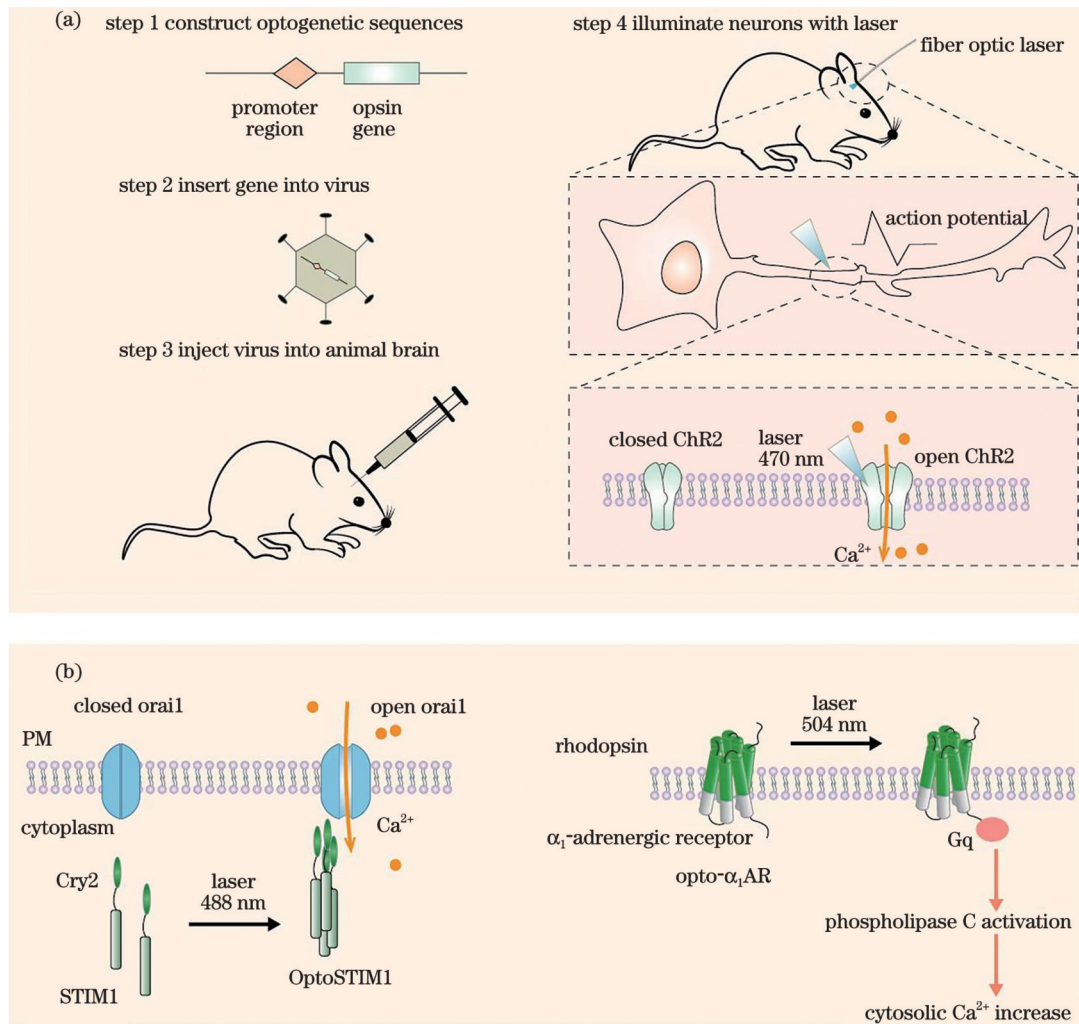


图 3 光遗传激活细胞内钙信号。(a)光遗传实验步骤;(b)光激活 OptoSTIM1 以及 Opto- α_1 AR 原理图

Fig. 3 Optogenetic activation of Ca^{2+} signaling. (a) Experimental steps for optogenetics; (b) schematics of light activation of OptoSTIM1 and Opto- α_1 AR

工作集中在光基因控制细胞膜上相关钙通道。近几年,几个基于钙池调控钙离子通道(SOCs)的光基因工具被开发^[69]。如图 3(b)所示,2015年,Kyung 等^[70]将隐花色素 2(Cry2)融合到截短形式的基质相互作用分子 1(STIM1)上,从而合成 OptoSTIM1。在黑暗中,OptoSTIM1 分布在胞浆中。在 488 nm 激光激发 1.5 s 后,Cry2 发生同源结合,使得 STIM1 寡聚化,寡聚化的 STIM1 能够转移到细胞膜上,与钙释放激活钙调节器 1 结合,引起钙内流。已经在 HeLa 细胞、斑马鱼胚胎和人类胚胎干细胞中成功开展该实验。激活小鼠海马角 1(CA1)区的 OptoSTIM1 能够特异性地增强情境记忆的形成。同年,周育斌课题组构建了由 STIM1 位于胞浆的区域(STIM1-CT)和 Avena sativa phototropin 1 的光可转换 LOV2 (light, oxygen, voltage)区域融合而成的 OptoCRAC 光基因工具^[71]。在黑暗中,STIM1-CT 片段停靠在 LOV2 蛋白上,在受到 470 nm 激光照射后,从 LOV2 蛋白上脱离。释放的 STIM1-CT 片段进一步向细胞膜移动,直接结合 Orai1 并激活 SOC。他们还证明,OptoCRAC 可以作为一

种基因编码的光激活佐剂来改善抗原特异性免疫反应,从而特异性破坏黑色素瘤肿瘤细胞。

2018年,周育斌课题组利用 LOV2-小稳定核糖核酸 A(ssrA)/严格饥饿蛋白 B(sspB)光学二聚体构建了 OptoRGK,从而控制钙内流。LOV2-ssrA 表达在细胞膜上,sspB-磷酸鸟苷结合蛋白(Rem)表达在胞浆中^[72]。黑暗中,ssrA 被锁在 LOV2 中。在 470 nm 的蓝光照射下,ssrA 可以从 LOV2 中释放出来,sspB 从胞浆中转移到细胞膜与 ssrA 结合,进而 Rem 被转移到细胞膜抑制心肌细胞膜上的电压门控钙离子通道(CaV)活性。他们还证明,OptoRGK 可以抑制心脏细胞中胞质钙水平节律性振荡。G 蛋白偶联受体(GPCR)是细胞膜上一类膜蛋白受体的总称,能够结合细胞周围环境中的化学物质并激活细胞内的一系列信号通路。Rhodopsin 是在视杆中发现的一类对光敏感的 GPCR,利用其他 GPCR 在细胞内的区域替换掉 Rhodopsin 的细胞内部分,合成光可激活的嵌合体 G 蛋白偶联受体(optoXR family)^[73]。在激光活化后,OptoXR 可以激活或抑制特定的生化信号通路。如图 3(b)所示,2009

年, Airan 等^[73]用 α_1 -肾上腺素能受体的细胞内区域替换 Rhodopsin 的细胞内环, 构建了 Opto- α_1 AR。504 nm 激光照射 60 s 后 HEK 细胞中的磷脂酶 C (PLC) 通路被激活, 胞浆内的钙水平上升。Opto- α_1 AR 被进一步用于模拟奖励相关行为中的单胺能输入。相反, 2018 年, Hannanta-Anan 等^[74]构建了一种光遗传学工具 Opto-鸟苷酸结合蛋白信号调节器 2 (RGS2)。在黑暗中, 它在胞浆中自由扩散, 475 nm 激光照射后, 聚集到细胞膜上。RGS2 抑制 Gq 蛋白和 PLC, 从而抑制激动剂诱发的钙振荡。

除了细胞膜上的相关钙通道, 2018 年, Asano 等^[75]建立了内质网上的光基因工具 ChRGR_{ER}。ChRGR_{ER} 使用 RyR 的跨膜螺旋结构作为内质网特异性靶定序列, 从而将光响应性阳离子通道视紫红质 (ChRGR) 特异性靶向内质网。450 nm 的激光照射转染 ChRGR_{ER} 的细胞后, 内质网释放钙离子, 从而引起钙池操纵性钙内流 (SOCE)。

光遗传工具高度可编辑, 可以激活或抑制亚细胞器上的特定通道, 具有分子特异性, 同时空间分辨率也达到衍射极限 (亚微米级)。2009 年, Rickgauer 等^[76]首

次提出了基于双光子激发的光基因工具。2015 年, Packer 等^[77]在单细胞分辨率下同时实现多个神经元快速光遗传调制。双光子光遗传技术快速发展^[78], 极大促进了神经科学研究。

2.4 全光钙调控

在光解锁笼和光基因中, 激光激发外源导入的锁笼化合物或者光基因蛋白, 从而引起钙水平变化。近年来, 研究学者发现, 激光本身能够直接引起细胞内钙水平升高。紫外波段以及可见光波段的纳秒脉冲激光通过空化泡产生的剪切应力引起钙内流, 中红外及近红外飞秒激光分别通过光热效应以及多光子效应引起细胞钙内流。高功率的激光直接聚焦在细胞膜上引起细胞膜穿孔, 从而导致钙内流。

如图 4(a) 所示, 在紫外光以及可见光激光焦点附近, 多个高能光子导致等离子体的形成, 形成空化泡, 产生剪切应力, 触发细胞膜上的机械敏感通道, 引起钙内流, 或者作用于内质网, 引起内质网钙释放, 其中 h 为普朗克常量, ν 为激光频率。有研究表明, He-Ne 激光 (632 nm) 照射巨噬细胞后, 通过 G 蛋白偶联受体作用域细胞膜特异的磷酸肌醇特异性磷脂酶 C, 进而细

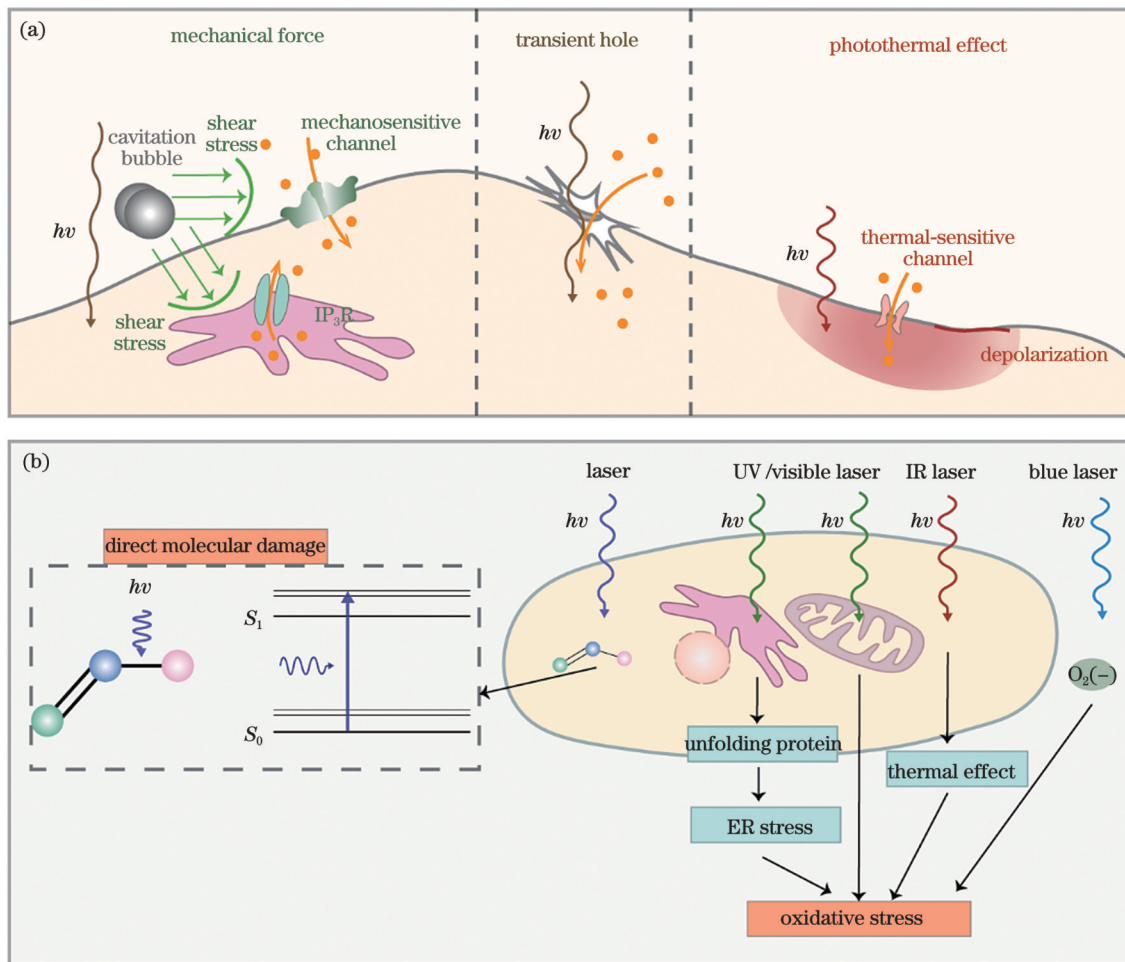


图 4 光与细胞相互作用机制。(a) 单光子对细胞的损伤; (b) 光引起细胞钙内流的机制

Fig. 4 Mechanism of laser-cell interaction. (a) Single photon damage to cells; (b) mechanism for laser induced intracellular Ca^{2+} increase

胞内钙上升^[79]。2014年,Compton等^[80]研究表明,532 nm的脉冲激光在细胞膜附近产生空化泡,从而产生剪切应力。这种机械力触发细胞膜上的机械信号并诱导钙离子从内质网中释放。2017年,Shannon等^[81]指出,空化泡引起的剪切应力会打开细胞膜上的机械敏感通道并诱导胞浆钙升高。也有研究表明,激光引起的空化泡导致细胞膜去极化并增加细胞膜的渗透性,从而诱导钙内流^[82]。在中红外波段,水吸收中红外激光大量能量,温度升高,引起细胞膜上温度敏感通道钙内流或引起细胞膜去极化,从而引起钙内流。2012年,Bezanilla课题组发现,用1889 nm的飞秒激光扫描卵母细胞,光热可逆地改变了靶细胞膜去极化,从而诱导 cytoCa^{2+} 上升^[83]。2021年,Chen课题组利用5.6 μm 激光产生的热效应,刺激听觉皮层中的单个神经元,引起 cytoCa^{2+} 上升^[84]。研究学者进一步利用这种光热效应,采用类似光基因的策略控制细胞钙信号。瞬间受体电位离子通道(TRPA1)是细胞膜上的温度感应钙离子通道,温度升高时,TRPA1开放,钙离子内流。2017年,研究学者利用斑马鱼的神经元异源表达蛇的TRPA1通道^[85]。经1440 nm激光激发后,神经元中的 cytoCa^{2+} 升高,斑马鱼的尾部运动得到调控。如果高功率的飞秒激光聚焦在细胞膜上,高密度的光子可以在细胞膜上通过高阶多光子激发甚至弱等离子体产生

损伤细胞膜结构,产生局部瞬时微小光穿孔,进而细胞外 Ca^{2+} 流入细胞质^[86-87]。然而,这种方式会导致细胞死亡。相关研究揭示,高功率激光直接照射细胞膜会导致细胞膜的局部破坏。

但是,如图4(b)所示,紫外和可见波段的激光光损伤严重,细胞通常遭受不可逆的损伤。激光直接破坏分子键,对细胞造成光损伤,引起细胞钙变化。激光还可以造成内质网未折叠蛋白响应,引起内质网压力响应、细胞氧化应激或者线粒体的氧化应激反应。红外激光引起的热效应和蓝光对超氧根的作用也会引起细胞氧化应激反应。与光遗传学方法相比,这些激光会引起全局破坏性钙上升,缺乏分子特异性,其可控性、空间分辨率或细胞器特异性较差。

近年来,研究学者使用近红外波段的飞秒脉冲激光通过多光子效应诱导细胞内钙水平升高。Smith等^[88]和Iwanaga等^[89]分别使用780 nm和775 nm的近红外激光诱导细胞内 cytoCa^{2+} 增加。2006年,Iwanaga等^[90]指出,近红外飞秒激光通过多光子吸收引发了 cytoCa^{2+} 上升。已经有多个课题组报道了成功应用近红外飞秒激光激活兴奋性神经元和非兴奋性细胞中的钙波^[91-92]。如图5所示,研究发现,810 nm飞秒激光可以引起细胞内质网钙释放,进而引起CICR,使得内质网钙耗尽,进而引起SOCE^[93]。

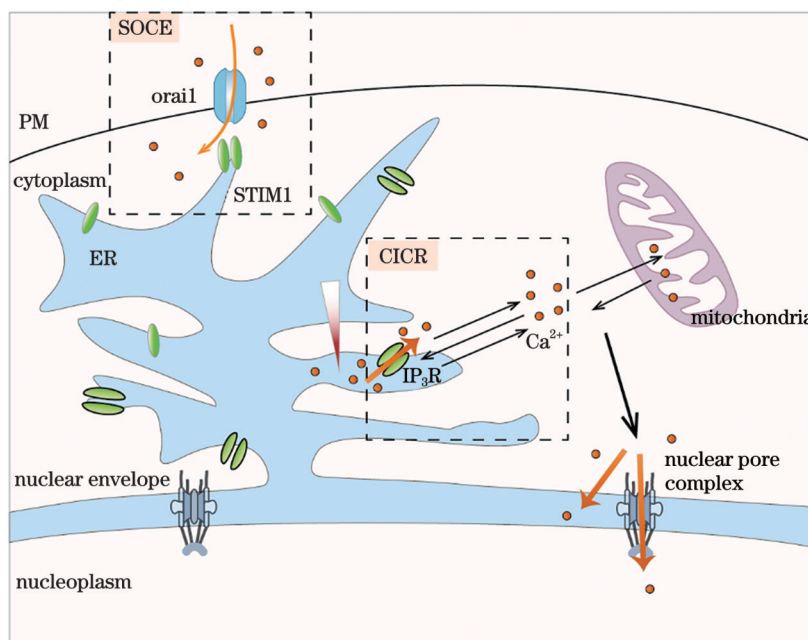


图5 飞秒激光诱导钙释放示意图

Fig. 5 Schematic of femtosecond laser induced Ca^{2+} release

使用低功率的近红外飞秒激光,可以以亚细胞器分辨率实现钙信号调节。水对近红外波段的线性吸收低,超短飞秒脉冲和相对较长的脉冲间隔可以减少光热产生和热沉积,热效应少。由于双光子和多光子激发对光子密度的要求较高,飞秒激光只能在激光焦点内产生高阶多光子激发,在焦平面以外几乎没有光漂

白和光毒性。由于超低热沉积和多光子作用对焦点的限制,这种方法的损伤非常低,适用于细胞器调控,不会直接引起细胞全局性反应或对细胞造成损害^[94]。2010年,研究表明,使用1554 nm的飞秒激光分别照射细胞质和细胞核,细胞核和细胞质中的 Ca^{2+} 相应增加^[95]。2020年,Shi等^[96]通过双光子激发选择性刺激

单个线粒体,成功诱导了单个线粒体的钙脉冲和钙振荡,并诱导了内质网-线粒体钙耦合。2021年,Yu等^[97]研究了飞秒激光刺激单个线粒体诱导单个线粒体钙振荡,进而通过 PINK1-Parkin 通路诱导线粒体自噬,此过程对线粒体膜电位或线粒体活性氧只产生微小扰动。但是近红外飞秒激光对亚细胞结构的刺激取决于

空间分辨率,没有分子特异性。近期,我们课题组在近红外飞秒激光直接特异性控制钙通道方面取得了突破性进展。如图 6 所示,我们使用 700 nm 的飞秒脉冲激光激活了胞浆内光敏分子黄素,与 SOC 通道 Orai1 通过硫醚键结合, Orai1 形成疏水腔,引起细胞外钙内流^[98]。

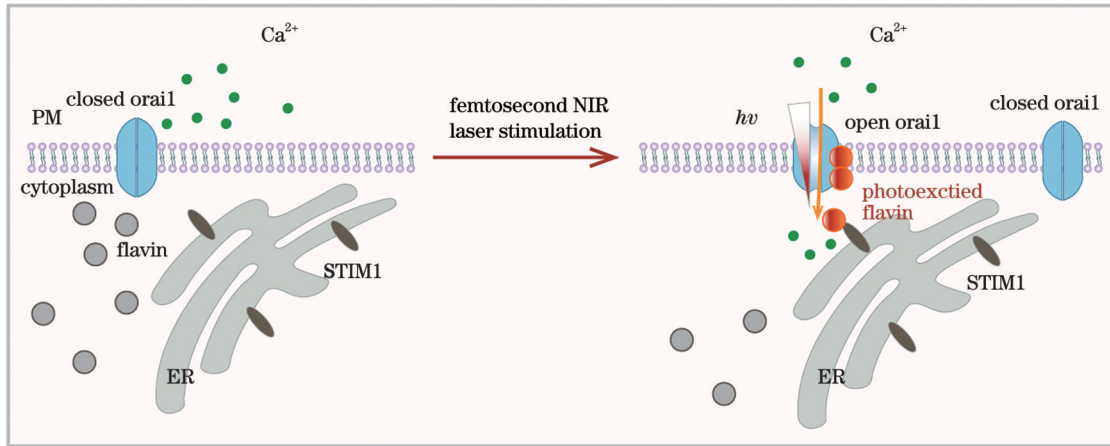


图 6 飞秒激光特异性控制 SOC 的原理示意图

Fig. 6 Schematic of specific SOC modulation by femtosecond laser

综上所述,超低功率的近红外飞秒激光显著降低了激光的光损伤和非特异性扰动。在激光移除后的一分钟或几分钟内,细胞会恢复到原来的钙水平,此过程是可逆的,并且可以重复多次。飞秒激光对钙通道的分子特异性控制表明激光具有精确调控亚细胞区域钙信号的能力,有助于在亚细胞结构空间分辨率上推进钙信号网络研究。

3 结束语

光学技术是一种很好的调控细胞内钙信号的工具。理论上,激光具有亚微米分辨率。光解锁笼、光遗传借助外源导入的化合物或者蛋白对细胞钙信号进行调控。光遗传学为调节亚细胞钙信号提供了一种高度可编辑的工具,具有基因编辑的特异性和靶向性。应该注意的是,在光解锁笼和光遗传学中,激发的空间分辨率和效率同时取决于激光聚焦和细胞中锁笼化合物或光遗传学蛋白的表达/分布模式。激光焦点的空间分辨率受衍射极限的限制,并由物镜决定。但光基因蛋白/光锁笼化合物可能在细胞中分布不均匀,导致钙激发效率不同。双光子激发进一步增加了光解锁笼和光遗传技术的空间分辨率,减少了光对细胞的损伤。

在全光学钙信号调制方法中,可见光和紫外光波段多以光损伤扰乱细胞或者以机械冲击波激活机械敏感通道,从而引起钙变化。低功率的紧致聚焦近红外飞秒激光与细胞的相互作用以多光子吸收为主,具有高空间分辨率。由于近红外波段在细胞中的散射小、吸收少,因此飞秒激光在组织中比连续光或长脉冲激光具有更好的传播优势。高空间分辨率和非侵入性的

全光学钙信号调节方法有助于推进亚细胞钙存储的研究,特别是关于内质网-线粒体接触位点中的局部钙交换和核钙信号研究。在光解锁笼方法中,外源锁笼化合物剂量累积不可知。在光遗传学技术中,转基因之后,蛋白表达量不稳定。而全光学方法无外源物质的导入,光对细胞的作用更加稳定。然而,该技术缺乏分子特异性和细胞特异性。它的特异性很大程度上取决于空间限制,这就是需要紧致聚焦飞秒脉冲的原因。细胞天然发色团黄素可以对近红外激光产生反应,这可能有助于推进分子特异性全光激发钙信号技术的发展。

总之,基于激光的光解锁笼、光遗传学和全光学钙信号调节技术为亚细胞结构钙信号网络研究带来了高时空分辨率、低生物扰动的新方法,对亚细胞水平的分子信号研究具有重要的意义和价值。

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Technique and Mechanism of Modulating Cellular Ca^{2+} Signaling Using Laser

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Abstract

Significance Ca^{2+} , an intracellular second messenger, is crucial for cell proliferation, differentiation, metabolism, and programmed cell death by participating in gene transcription, protein modification, adenosine triphosphate (ATP) generation, and the initiation of numerous signaling pathway cascades. Intracellular Ca^{2+} is first arrested by the plasma membrane, the first barrier that maintains an approximately 20000-fold Ca^{2+} concentration gradient from the extracellular environment to the cytosol, by controlling Ca^{2+} influx and efflux through a series of Ca^{2+} channels. Cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} concentration is maintained at approximately 100 nmol/L in most non-excitable cells. Excess cytosolic Ca^{2+} can be chelated by Ca^{2+} -binding proteins, compartmentalized into intracellular Ca^{2+} stores, or extruded into the extracellular environment. Organelles typically play the role of subcellular Ca^{2+} stores (or temporary Ca^{2+} buffers) and further synergize with each other to form a Ca^{2+} network. As nodes on the network, they coordinate with the plasma membrane (PM) to regulate intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling. The endoplasmic reticulum (ER) is the primary Ca^{2+} store, with a resting Ca^{2+} concentration of approximately 200 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, releasing free Ca^{2+} into the cytoplasm. Mitochondria are temporary calcium buffers that transiently accommodate excess Ca^{2+} in the cytosol. Lysosomes and Golgi are small, but important in Ca^{2+} signaling. Among these subcellular structures, the nucleus appears to be a mist for cell calcium research. However, little is known about the existence of Ca^{2+} stores in the nucleus, how nuclear Ca^{2+} is regulated, or how Ca^{2+} is transported through the nuclear membrane. There are lots of membrane contact sites (MCSs) between organelles, such as ER-mitochondria, ER-PM, and ER-nucleus contacts. Local Ca^{2+} interactions at the MCSs also perform vital cellular functions.

A ubiquitous broad group of Ca^{2+} sensors, channels, pumps, exchangers, and binding proteins (receptors) in subcellular structures regulate intracellular Ca^{2+} for dynamic hemostasis. Ca^{2+} signaling modulation techniques with high spatial and temporal resolutions can facilitate the study of subcellular Ca^{2+} modulation mechanisms. To the best of our knowledge, owing to the difficulty of isolating Ca^{2+} solely in the submicron domain, some parts of the intracellular Ca^{2+} network, for example, Ca^{2+} regulation in some MCSs and nuclei, remain unclear. Thus, the conductive method of precisely regulating Ca^{2+} in subcellular organelles may provide further insights into the mechanisms of Ca^{2+} hemostasis and Ca^{2+} -involved cell processes. Pharmacological reagents have been extensively used to control intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling in Ca^{2+} research. Ideally, subcellular Ca^{2+} stores can be precisely modulated by these reagents if they activate the target calcium channels/receptors, or organelles with high specificity. However, in practice, owing to poor specificity, most reagents simultaneously bind with a broad spectrum of molecules and perturb the entire cell, finally leading to a significant calcium increase or Ca^{2+} oscillations that smear all interactions between organelles under physiological conditions. In another dimension, the targeting of pharmacological drugs to organelles deteriorates significantly owing to the global distribution of Ca^{2+} channels/receptors in the entire cell. To improve spatial resolution, Ca^{2+} modulation technologies based on lasers have been developed, which can theoretically work in the submicron region by utilizing lasers and microscopic systems. Progress has been made, but their applications vary and are limited because of their different methodological properties. Therefore, it is important and necessary to discuss the methodological advances and limitations of laser-based techniques to provide a systematic reference for researchers in bio-photonics and related biological fields.

Progress In this review, three laser-based modulation methods of Ca^{2+} signaling are summarized. It is sensible to take advantage of

lasers to precisely control cellular Ca^{2+} at a submicron resolution if the photon energy can be transformed to modulate biochemical processes for Ca^{2+} release. This concept is realized by uncaging (Fig. 1) and optogenetics (Fig. 3), which utilize lasers to excite Ca^{2+} -caged compounds or optogenetic proteins that have been introduced into cells and are sensitive to lasers for Ca^{2+} modulation. Photo-uncaging and optogenetics are effective and powerful tools for studying neuroscience. Theoretically, lasers can achieve diffraction-limited spatial resolution, but the specificity and efficiency of these two methods are limited by the intracellular distribution of Ca^{2+} -caging compounds or the expression of optogenetic genes. Recently, all-optical technology using a laser to control cellular Ca^{2+} with high resolution and specificity has been reported (Fig. 4). Specifically, we provide a deep insight into low-power near-infrared femtosecond laser modulation technologies for precise control of intracellular calcium and derive possible mechanisms for subcellular calcium regulation.

Conclusions and Prospects Laser-based Ca^{2+} modulation techniques are powerful tools for cellular calcium research. In particular, the multiphoton excitation of cells with a near-infrared femtosecond laser contributes to high spatial resolution and facilitates the study of subcellular Ca^{2+} modulation mechanisms in organelle contacts and the nucleus. We propose that lasers are capable of bringing breakthroughs in the calcium theory. The interaction mechanism of lasers with cells requires in-depth and detailed exploration to promote the development of subcellular Ca^{2+} signaling.

Key words bio-optics; multiphoton excitation; photo-uncaging; optogenetics; all-optical modulation; femtosecond laser