

photoaffinity labelling (PAL)

Technique by which a photochemically reactive molecular entity, specifically associated with a biomolecule, is photo-excited in order to covalently attach a label to the biomolecule, usually via intermediates. Identification of the resulting photo-crosslinked product provides structural information on the protein's binding site.
Note 1: Technique widely used for identifying in general ligand-receptor interactions in biological macromolecules and in particular the binding site within proteins.

Note 2: Typical examples are nitrenes, carbenes, ketone excited states, cations and radicals.

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