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Upon light activation ...

... of channelrhodopsin-2 the isomerization of the retinal chromophore triggers a sequence of structural changes finally emerging in an outward movement of the transmembrane helix B. In their Communication on page 9705 ff., C. Bamann et al. show that this movement could be linked to the transition from the closed to the open state that allows the permeation of cations through the light-gated cation channel.



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