



2004

SBS-922 Membrane Proteins

# Mitochondria and respiratory chains

John F. Allen

School of Biological and Chemical Sciences,  
Queen Mary, University of London



Presentations  
and  
supplementary information  
[jfallen.org/lectures/](http://jfallen.org/lectures/)





# Lectures in Membrane Proteins

- [Lecture 1. Mitochondrial membranes and chemiosmotic coupling. \(Acrobat - .pdf\)](#)
- [Lecture 2. Redox carriers. \(Acrobat - .pdf\)](#)
- [Lecture 3. Complex I. Structure and Function. Part 1 \(Acrobat - .pdf\)](#)
- [Lecture 4. Complex I. Part 2. Complete structure, including the hydrophobic domain. \(Acrobat - .pdf\)](#)
- [Lecture 5. Complex II and complex III Part 1. Structure and Function. \(Acrobat - .pdf\)](#)
- [Lecture 6. Complex III. The Q-cycle. \(Acrobat - .pdf\)](#)
- [Lecture 7. ATP Synthase. \(Acrobat - .pdf\)](#)

---

## Membrane Proteins

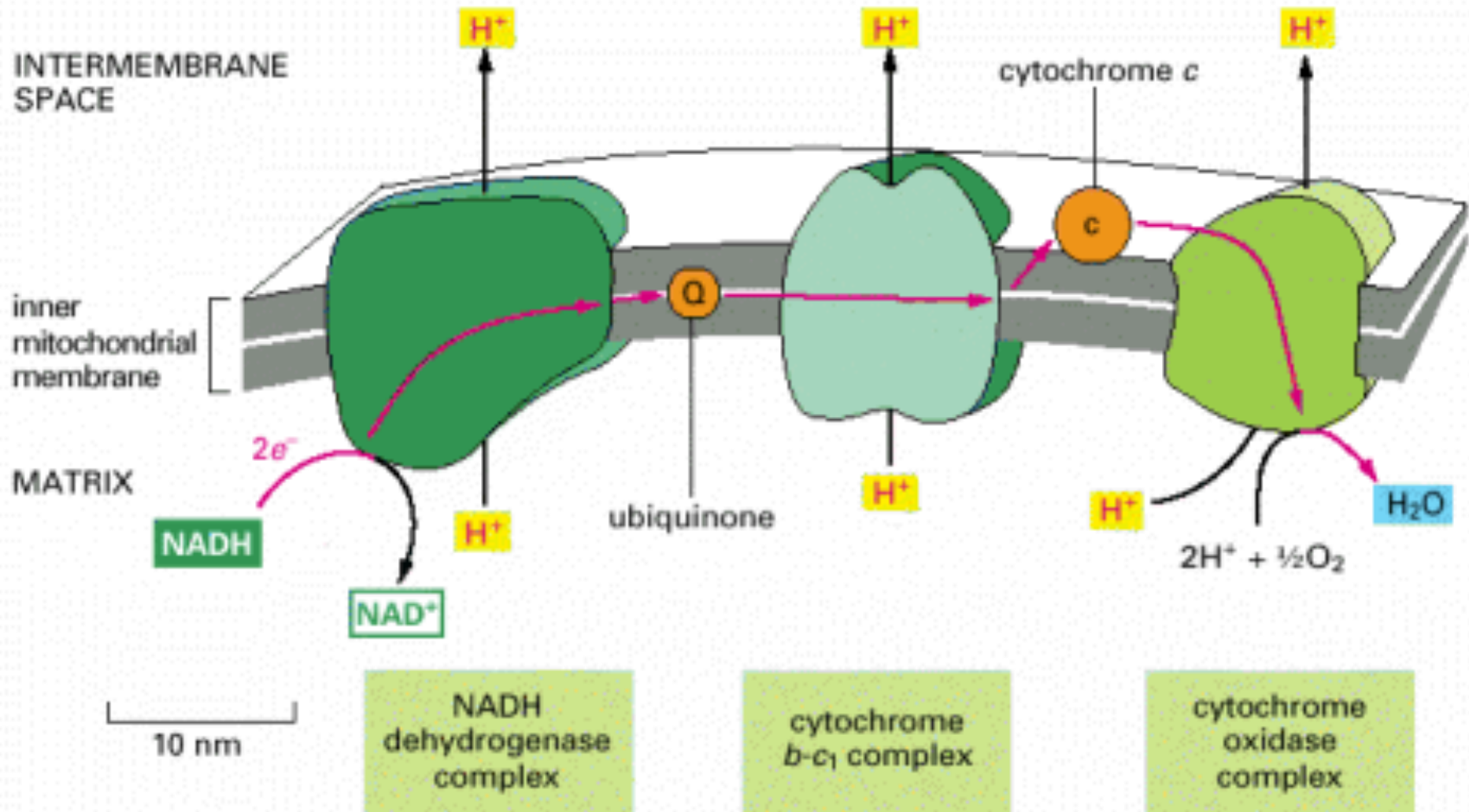
- [Membrane Proteins course web page](#)

---

## References

- Nicholls DJ, Ferguson, SJ. Bioenergetics3. Academic Press/Elsevier Science 2002
- [Molecular Biology of the Cell](#). Bruce Alberts, Alexander Johnson, Julian Lewis, Martin Raff, Keith Roberts, and Peter Walter. 5th edition. 2007. Garland Science. [4th Edition](#) online at NCBI...

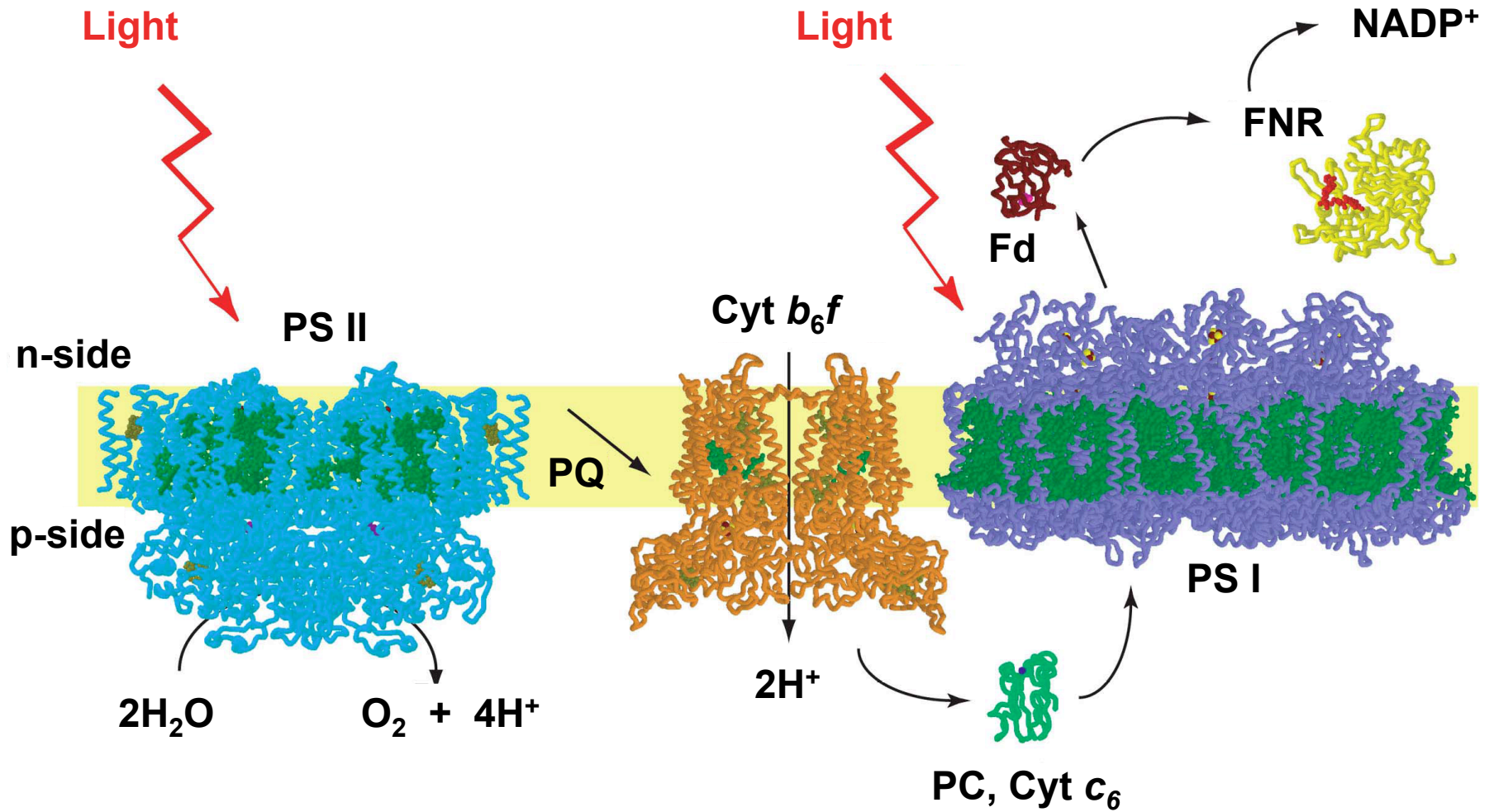




The Respiratory Chain Includes Three Large Enzyme Complexes Embedded in the Inner Membrane

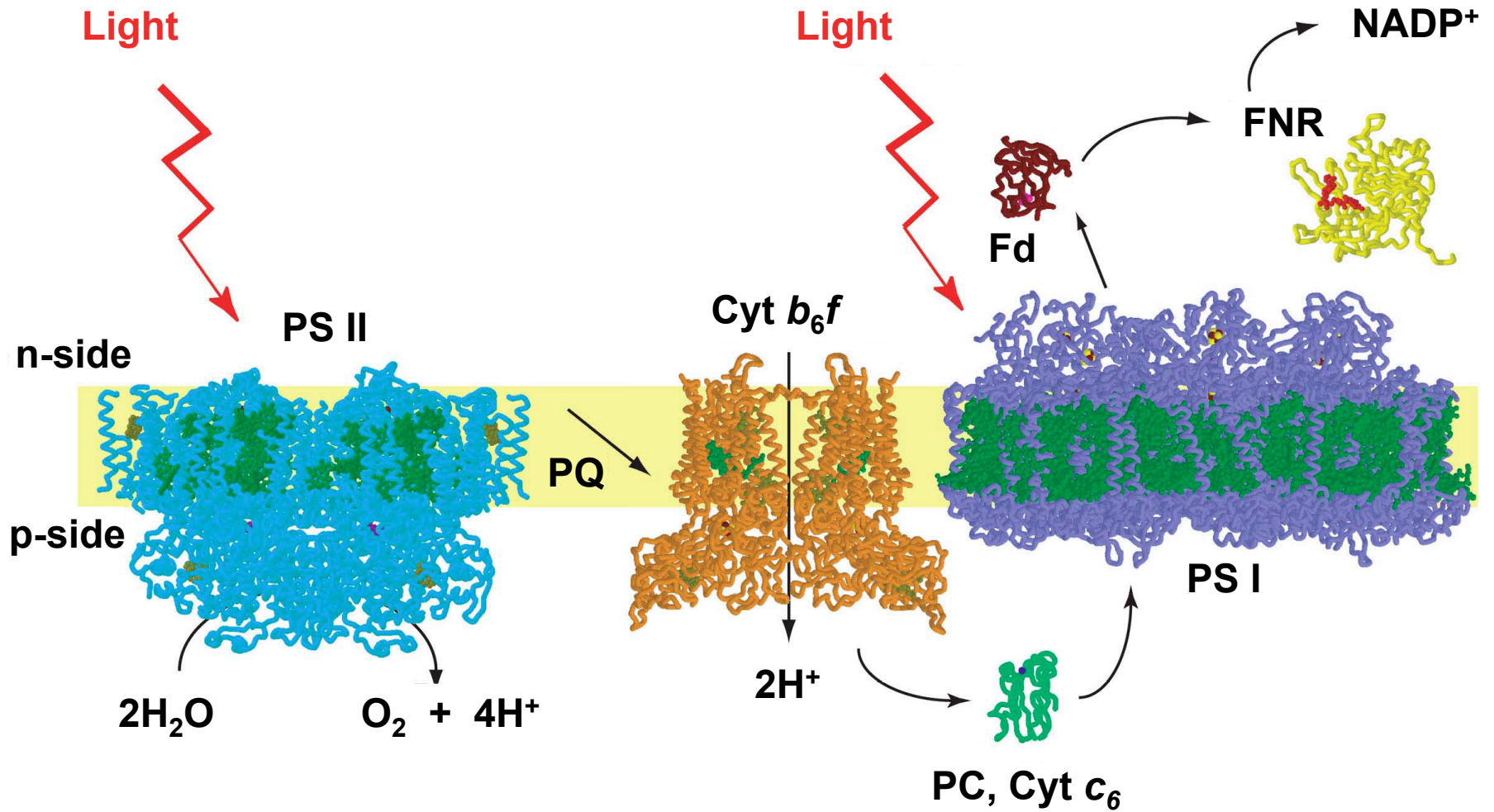
The chloroplast homologue of  
respiratory complex III:

The cytochrome  $b_6f$  complex

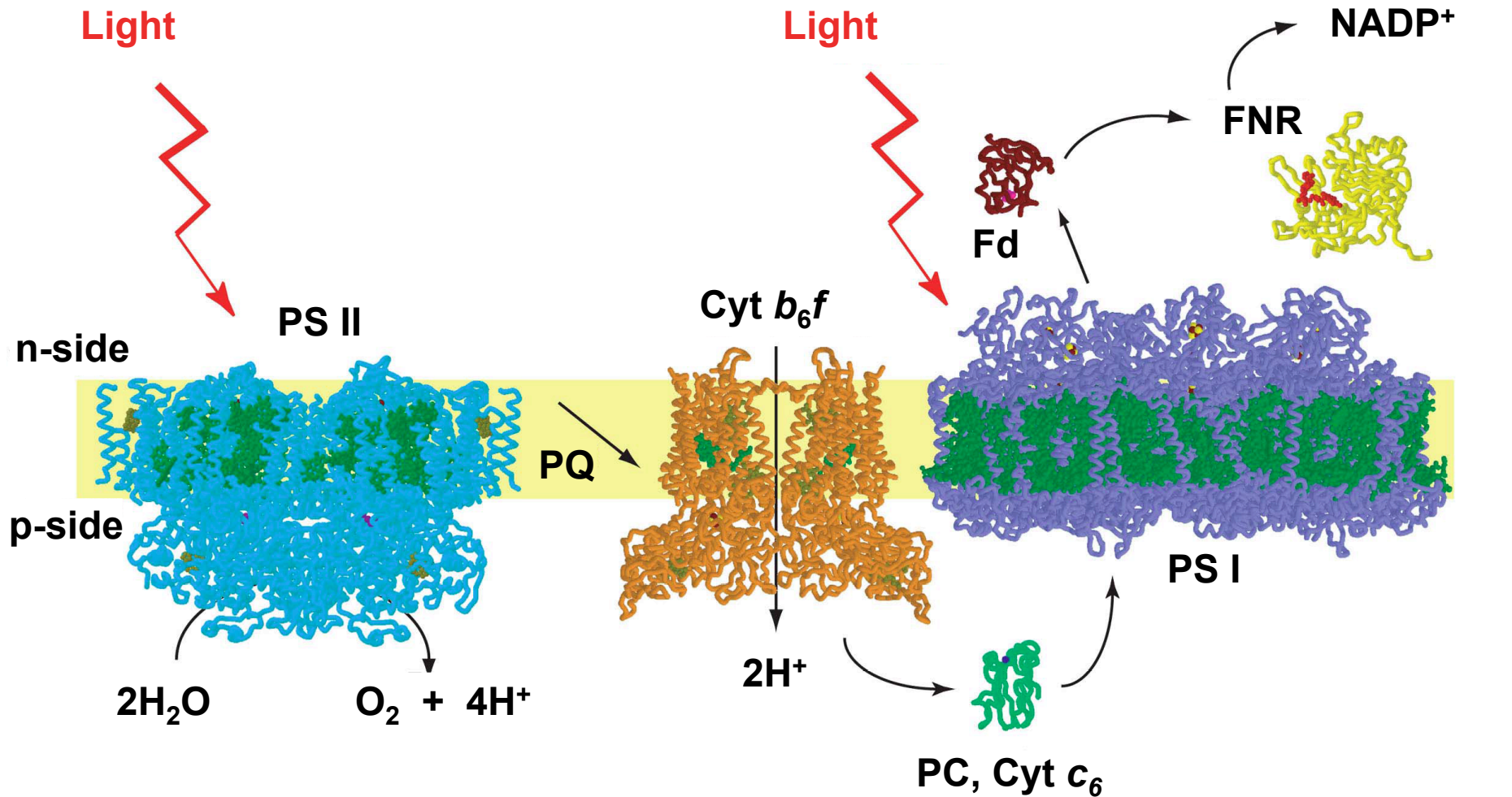




# Chloroplast stroma



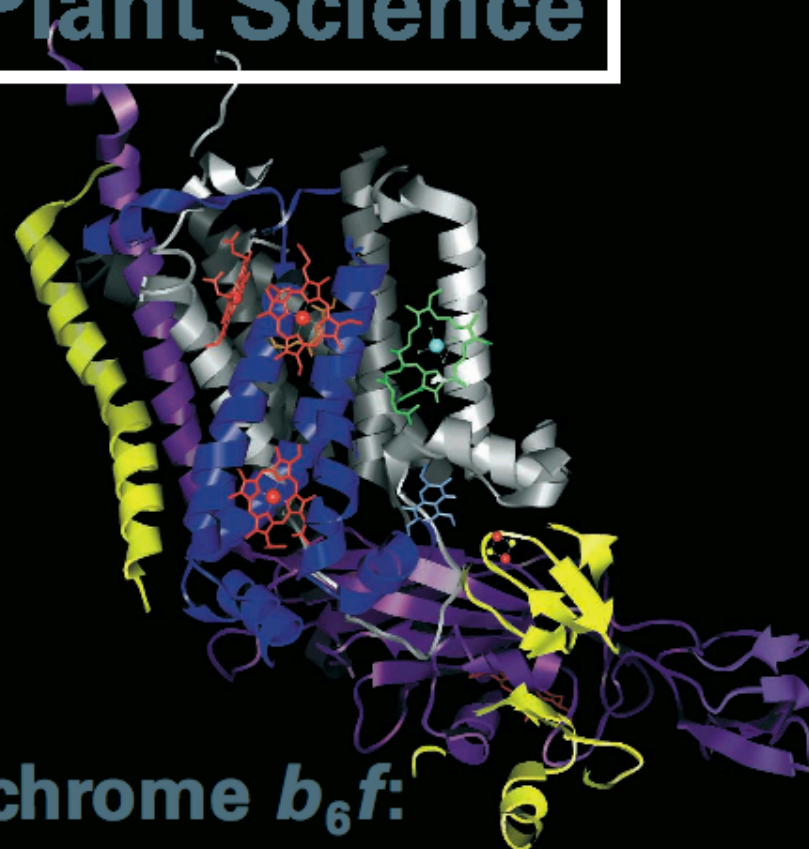
Chloroplast stroma



Chloroplast lumen



# TRENDS<sup>in</sup> Plant Science



## Cytochrome $b_6f$ : bridging the divide

**Pollen aperture evolution**

**GABA in plants: just a metabolite?**

**Mitochondrial carriers in *Arabidopsis***

*Trends Plant Sci.* March 2004 Vol. 9 No. 3, pp. xxx-xxx ISSN 1360-1385

For unique research, comment and context across the agricultural and biological sciences  
visit Elsevier's AgBio Gateway at [www.ElsevierLifeSciences.com/Ag-Bio](http://www.ElsevierLifeSciences.com/Ag-Bio) hosted on BioMedNet



## Chemiosmosis and the Q-cycle

At about the same time as the Z-scheme, a common mechanism for photosynthetic and oxidative phosphorylation was proposed. Peter Mitchell's chemiosmotic theory [6] made several radical assumptions. One was that electron and hydrogen transfers are arranged vectorially across bioenergetic membranes, thus moving protons (hydrogen ions) across the membrane to establish an electrochemical gradient. Another cornerstone was the idea that this gradient, or 'proton motive force', supplies energy for ATP synthesis, because this, too, is coupled to vectorial movement of protons between aqueous phases on each side of the membrane [7,8].

The Q-cycle was a later addition [9,10] designed initially to explain higher observed proton-to-electron ratios than the original chemiosmotic theory seemed to predict [11]. Simple inspection of quinone redox chemistry suggested two electrons move only two protons (Equation 1).



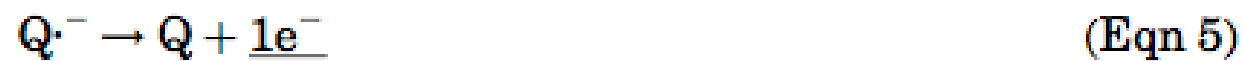
At the  $Q_i$  site:



At the  $Q_i$  site:



At the  $Q_o$  site:





At the  $Q_i$  site:



At the  $Q_o$  site:



Sum, for one electron transferred (Equation 6):



At the  $Q_i$  site:



At the  $Q_o$  site:



Sum, for one electron transferred (Equation 6):



The effect is to re-cycle one of the electrons from plastoquinol ( $PQH_2$ , also called ‘plastohydroquinone’). This electron (underlined in Equations 2 and 5) is supplied by the plastosemiquinone anion intermediate ( $PQ\cdot^-$ ) at the  $Q_o$  site, to a short chain of two *b*-haems, and given back to plastosemiquinone at the  $Q_i$  site. The whole process gives two protons translocated for each single electron transferred through the quinone pool, that is, a total of four protons, not two, for each pair of electrons passing through the quinone pool and the cytochrome complex (Equation 7).

At the  $Q_i$  site:



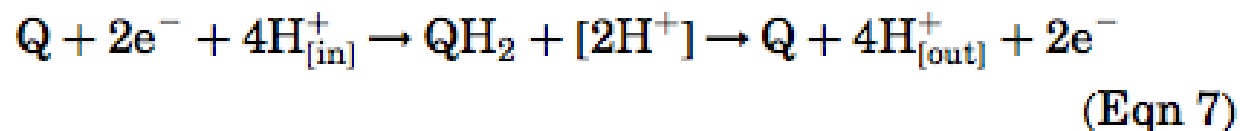
At the  $Q_o$  site:



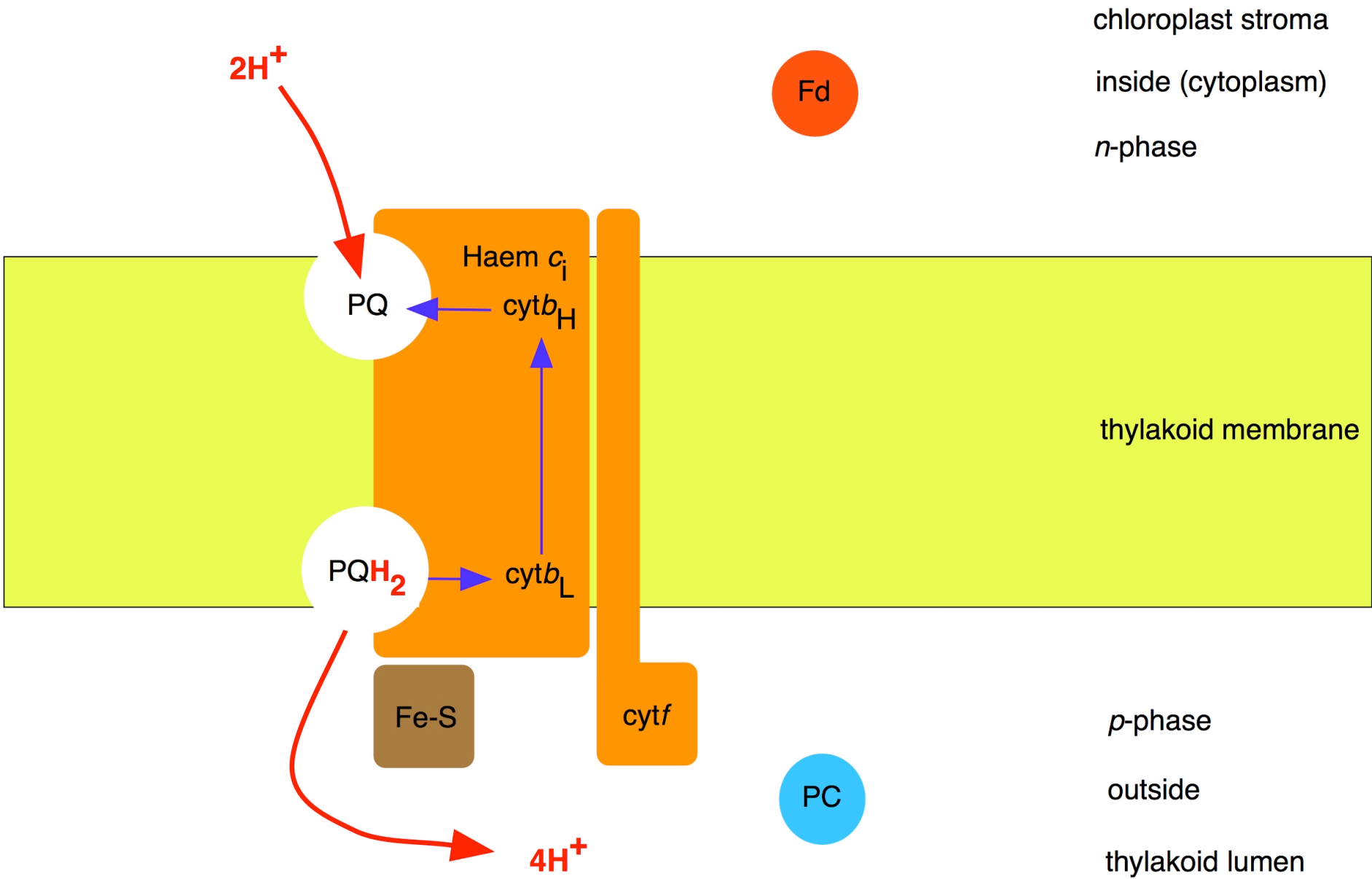
Sum, for one electron transferred (Equation 6):



The effect is to re-cycle one of the electrons from plastoquinol ( $PQH_2$ , also called ‘plastohydroquinone’). This electron (underlined in Equations 2 and 5) is supplied by the plastosemiquinone anion intermediate ( $PQ^{\cdot-}$ ) at the  $Q_o$  site, to a short chain of two *b*-haems, and given back to plastosemiquinone at the  $Q_i$  site. The whole process gives two protons translocated for each single electron transferred through the quinone pool, that is, a total of four protons, not two, for each pair of electrons passing through the quinone pool and the cytochrome complex (Equation 7).





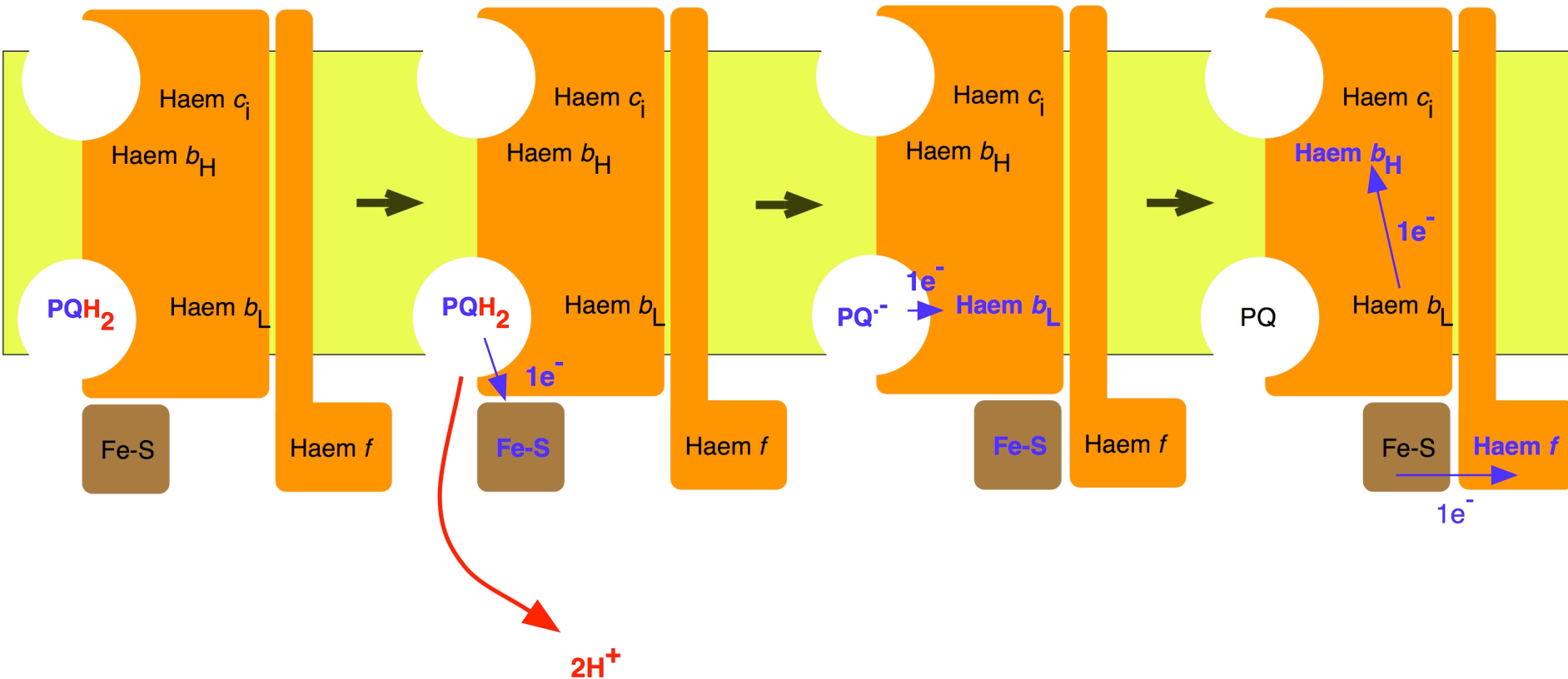


## At the $Q_o$ site

Each plastoquinol ( $PQH_2$ ) oxidation releases two protons ( $H^+$ ) into the lumen.

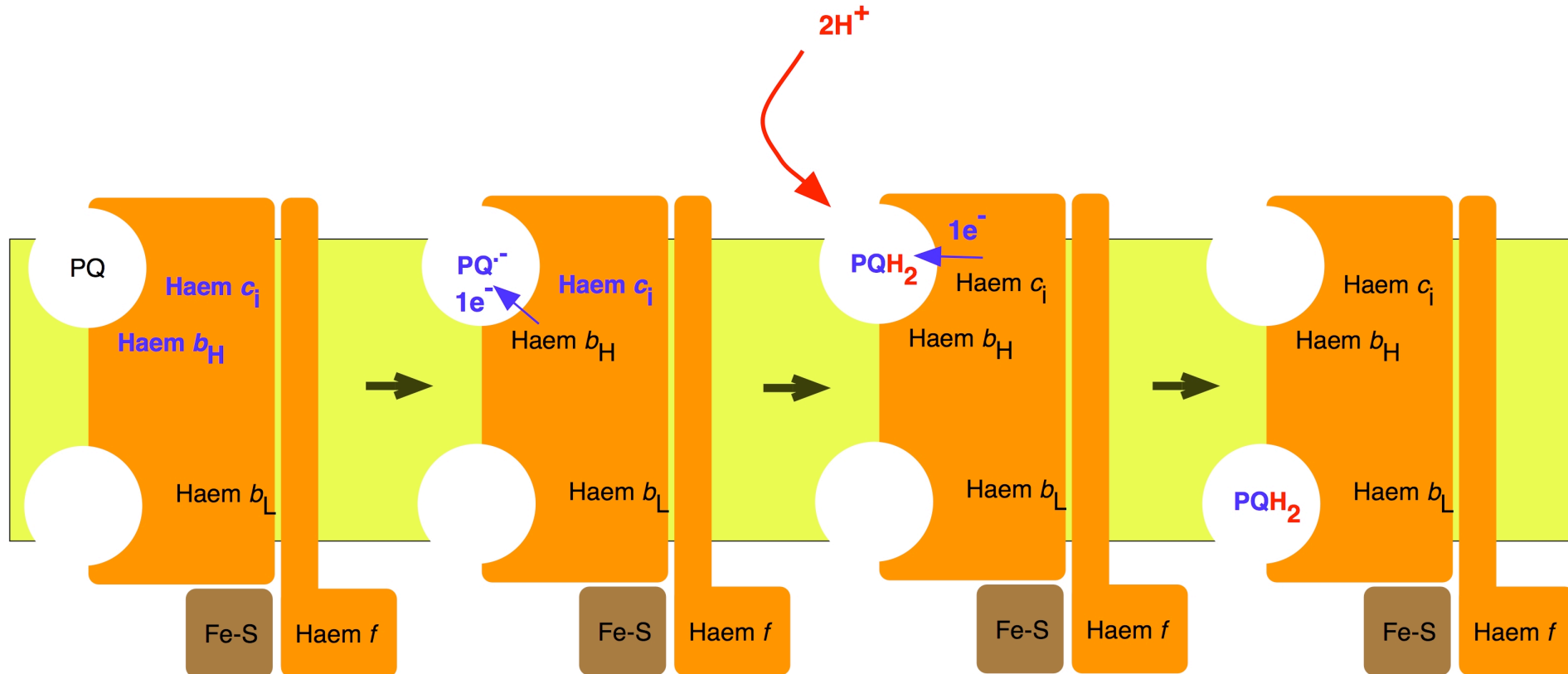
One electron ( $e^-$ ) passes to cytochrome  $f$ . The other electron passes towards the  $Q_i$  site, via the cytochrome  $b$  haems.

One  $PQH_2$  arrives from the  $Q_i$  site; another  $PQH_2$  arrives from photosystem II.



### At the $Q_i$ site

Each plastoquinone (PQ) reduction gives one plastoquinol ( $PQH_2$ ), and two protons ( $H^+$ ) are taken up from the stroma.

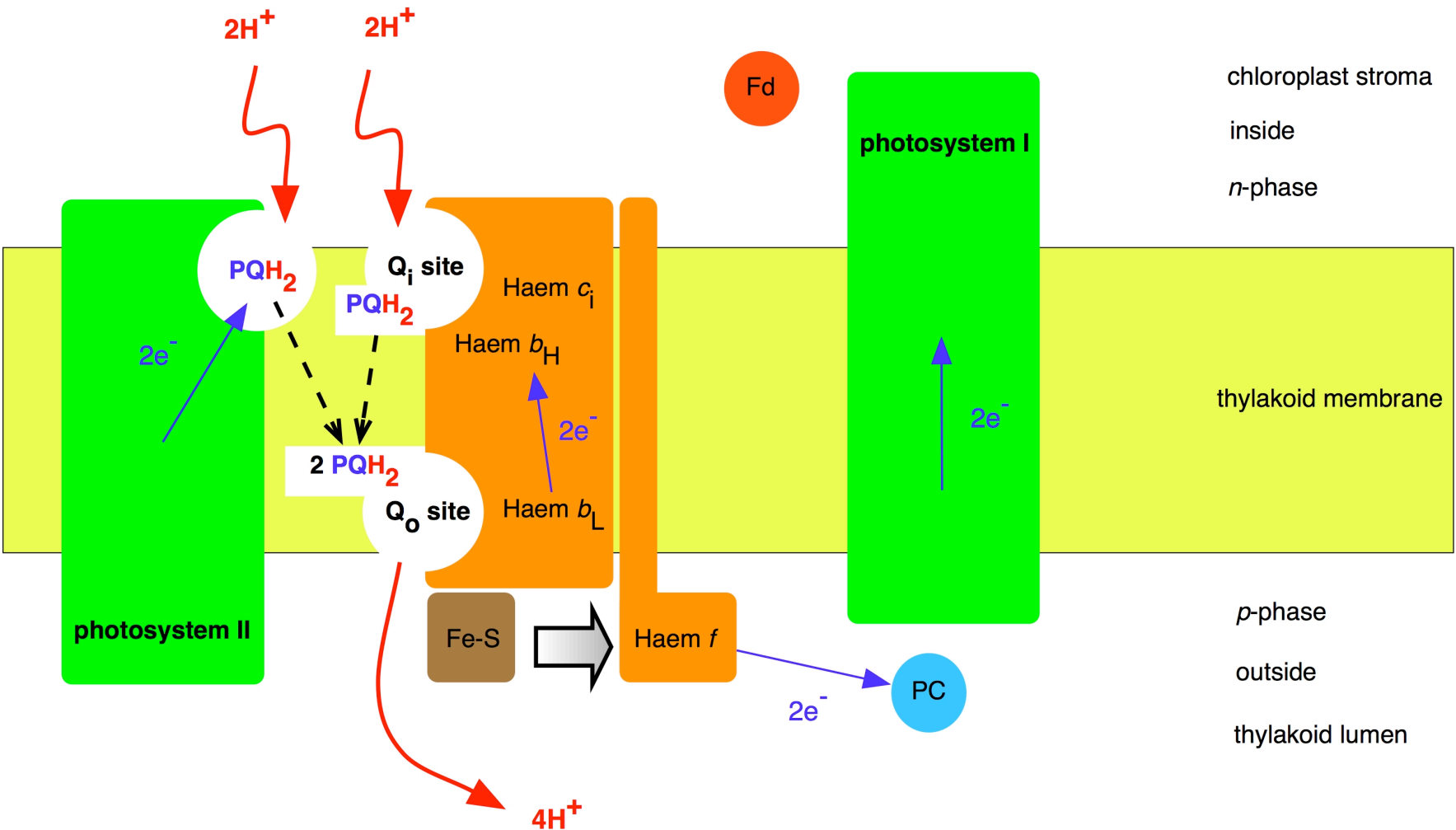


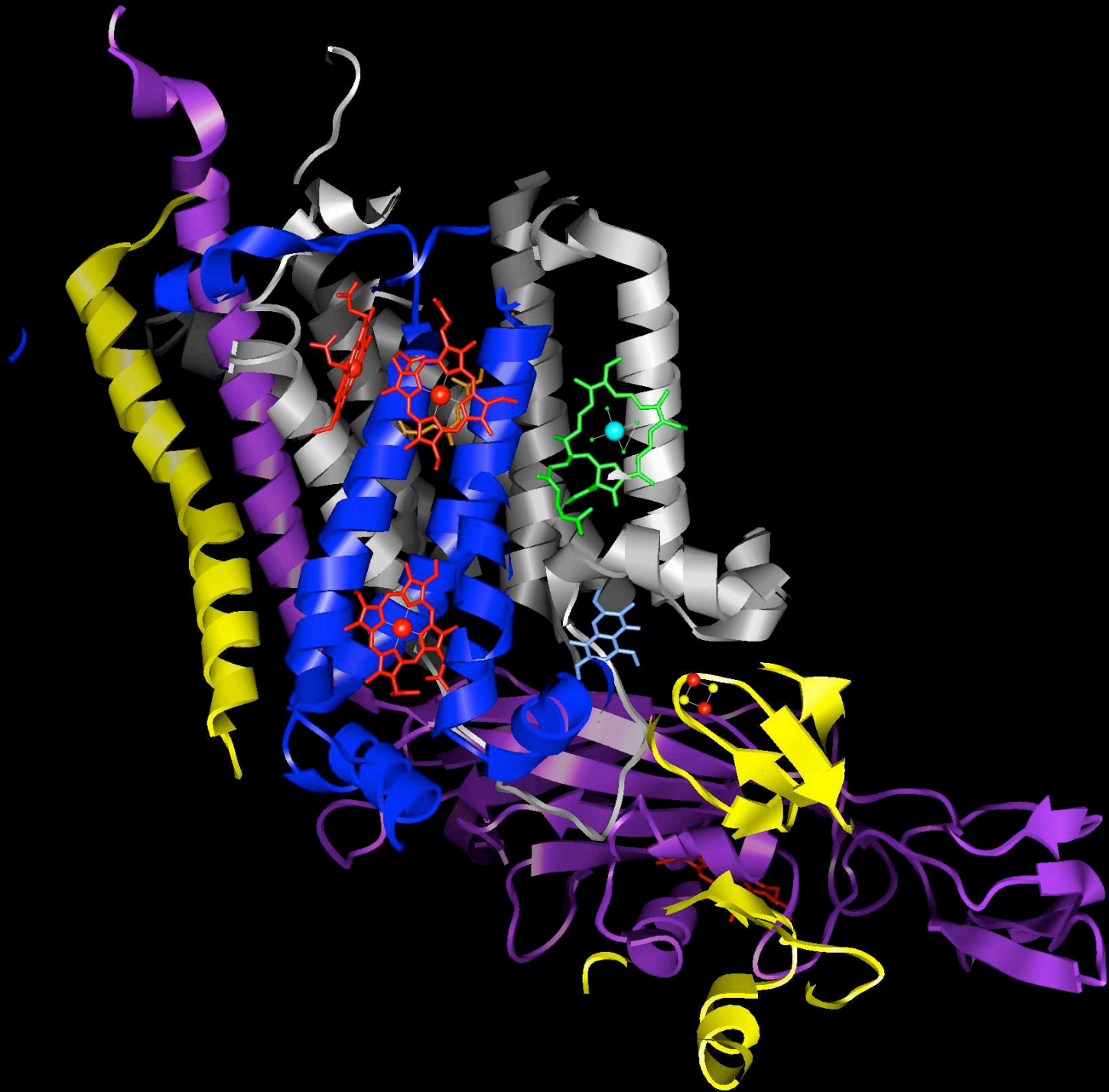
**Cytochrome  $b_6f$  connects photosystems I with photosystem II and carries out the Q-cycle**

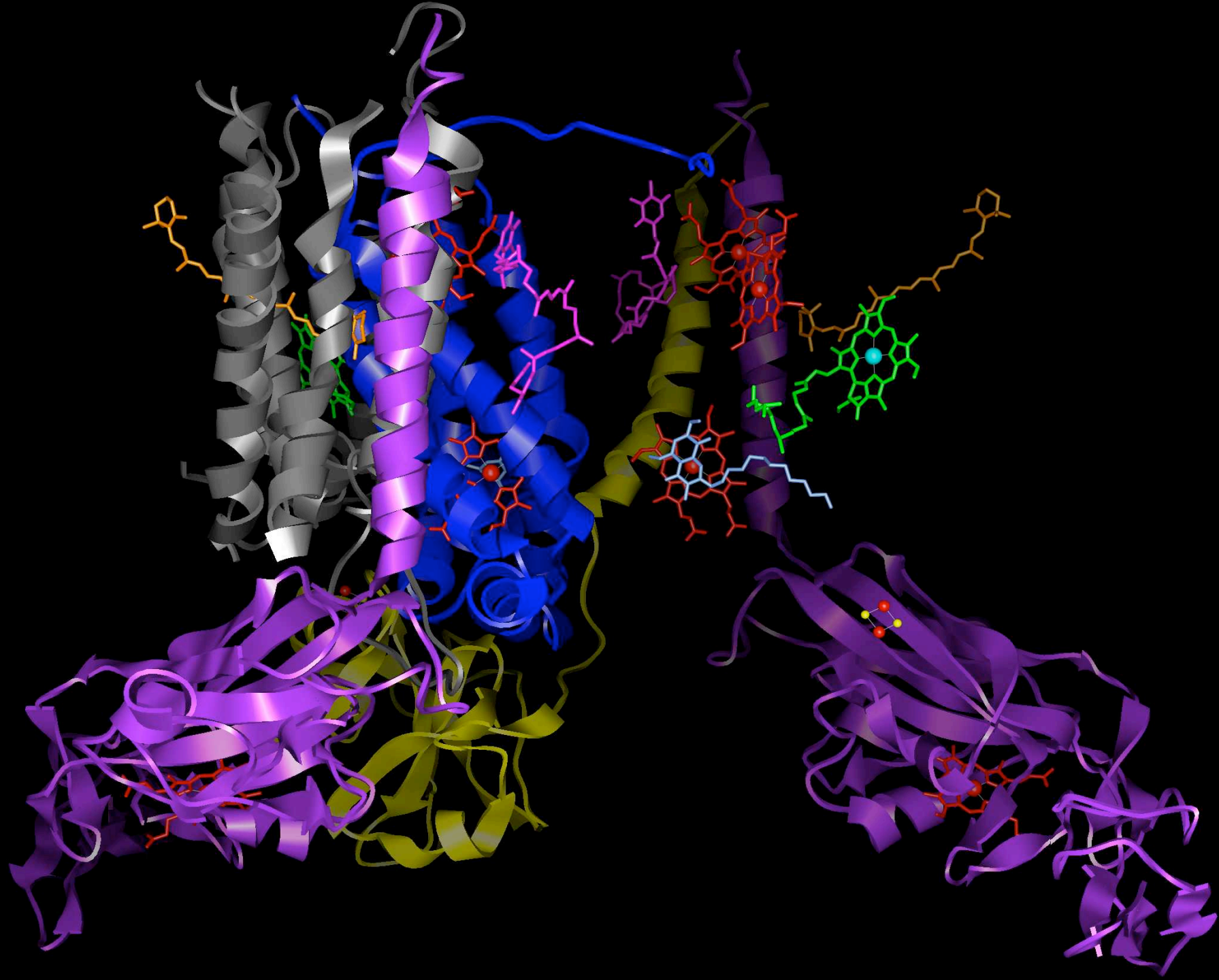
Plastoquinone (PQ) reduction by two electrons ( $e^-$ ) from photosystem II gives one molecule of plastoquinol ( $PQH_2$ ).

There are two  $\text{PQH}_2$  oxidations at the  $\text{Q}_0$  site for each PQ reduction at the  $\text{Q}_i$  site, and for each PQ reduction in photosystem II.

Four protons ( $H^+$ ) are therefore translocated from the stroma to the lumen for each pair of electrons passing through cytochrome  $b_6f$ .









# An Electronic Bus Bar Lies in the Core of Cytochrome bc<sub>1</sub>

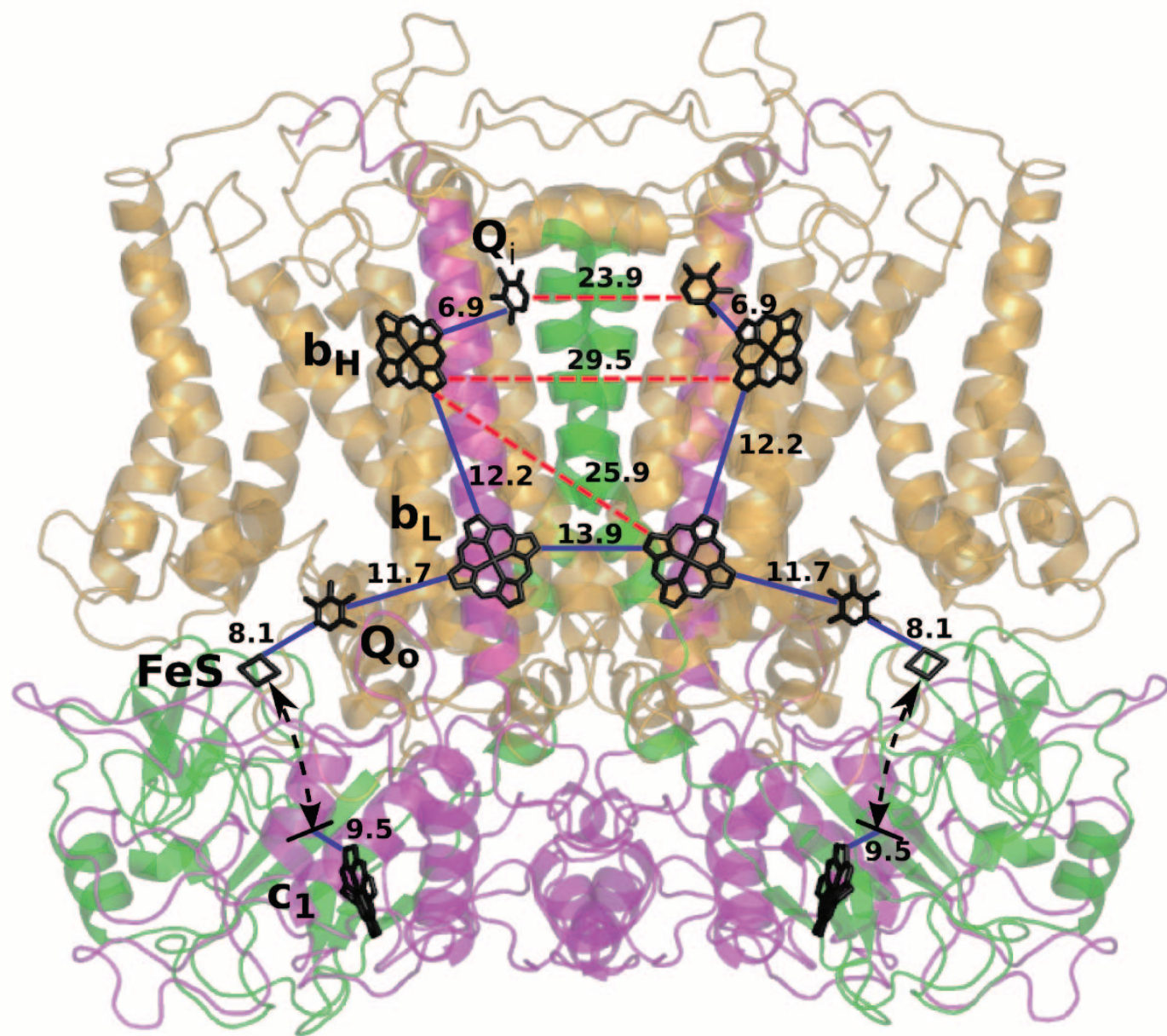
Monika Świerczek,<sup>1</sup> Ewelina Cieluch,<sup>1</sup> Marcin Sarewicz,<sup>1</sup> Arkadiusz Borek,<sup>1</sup>  
Christopher C. Moser,<sup>2</sup> P. Leslie Dutton,<sup>2</sup> Artur Osyczka<sup>1\*</sup>

The ubiquinol–cytochrome c oxidoreductases, central to cellular respiration and photosynthesis, are homodimers. High symmetry has frustrated resolution of whether cross-dimer interactions are functionally important. This has resulted in a proliferation of contradictory models. Here, we duplicated and fused cytochrome b subunits, and then broke symmetry by introducing independent mutations into each monomer. Electrons moved freely within and between monomers, crossing an electron-transfer bridge between two hemes in the core of the dimer. This revealed an H-shaped electron-transfer system that distributes electrons between four quinone oxidation-reduction terminals at the corners of the dimer within the millisecond time scale of enzymatic turnover. Free and unregulated distribution of electrons acts like a molecular-scale bus bar, a design often exploited in electronics.

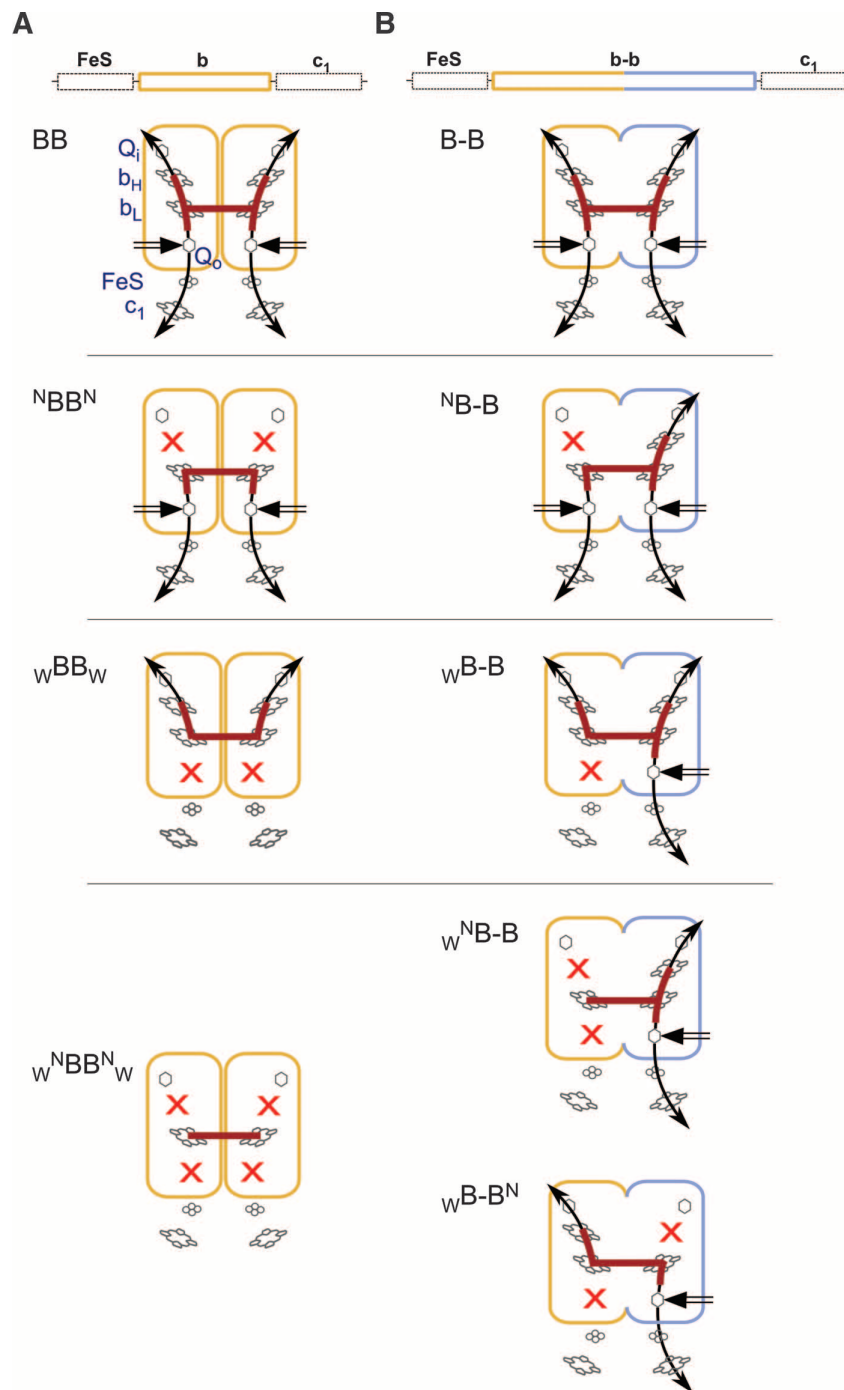
<sup>1</sup>Department of Biophysics, Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.

<sup>2</sup>The Johnson Research Foundation, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Pennsylvania, PA 19104, USA.

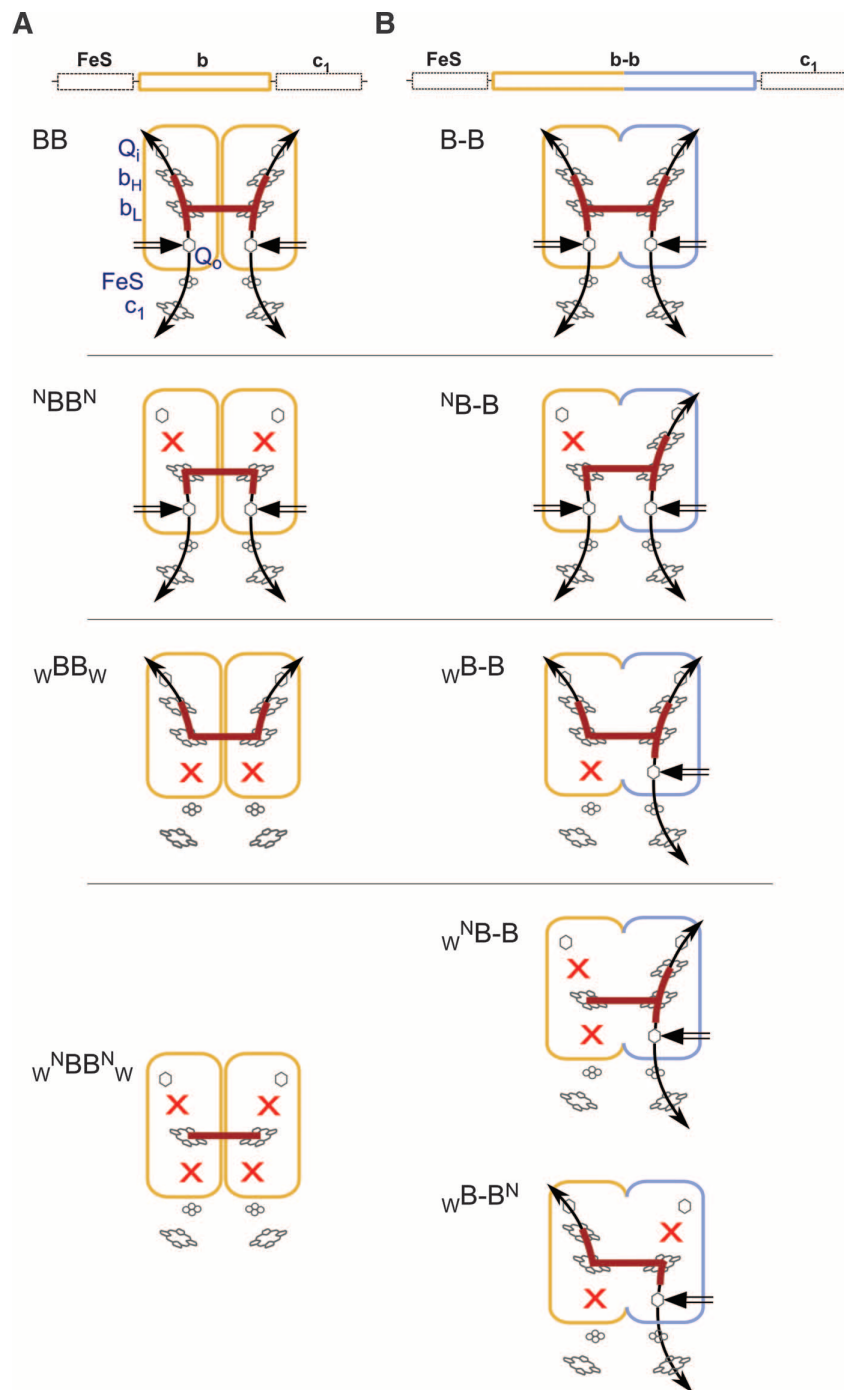
**Fig. 1.** Cofactors and distances in homodimer of cytochrome  $bc_1$  [Protein Data Bank ID: 1ZRT (1)]. Each monomer comprises cytochrome  $b$  (yellow), cytochrome  $c_1$  (magenta), and FeS subunit (green). Functional distances (blue lines) and nonfunctional distances (red dashed lines) between cofactors (black) are in angstroms.  $Q_o$  site quinone is approximated from the crystallographic position of stigmatellin (1), and  $Q_i$  site quinone position is adopted from (28). FeS head domain movement (29) is indicated by the dashed arrow.



**Fig. 2.** Symmetric and asymmetric knockout patterns. Distribution of the knockouts (red crosses) constructed with unfused native operon coding (**A**) and fused gene coding (**B**). BB, native dimer:  $^N\text{BB}^N$ , both upper branches removed;  $^W\text{BB}^W$ , both lower branches removed;  $^W\text{BB}^N$ , all four branches removed. B-B, fused protein:  $^N\text{B-B}$ , one upper branch removed;  $^W\text{B-B}$ , one lower branch removed;  $^W\text{B-B}^N$ , two branches on the same side removed;  $^W\text{B-B}^N$ , two branches across removed. N and W refer to H212N and G158W point mutations in cytochrome b (G, Gly; H, His; N, Asn; W, Trp). Black arrows, functional branches. Black double arrow, electron entry point at the  $\text{Q}_0$  site. Brown overlay: intraprotein electronic bus bar.

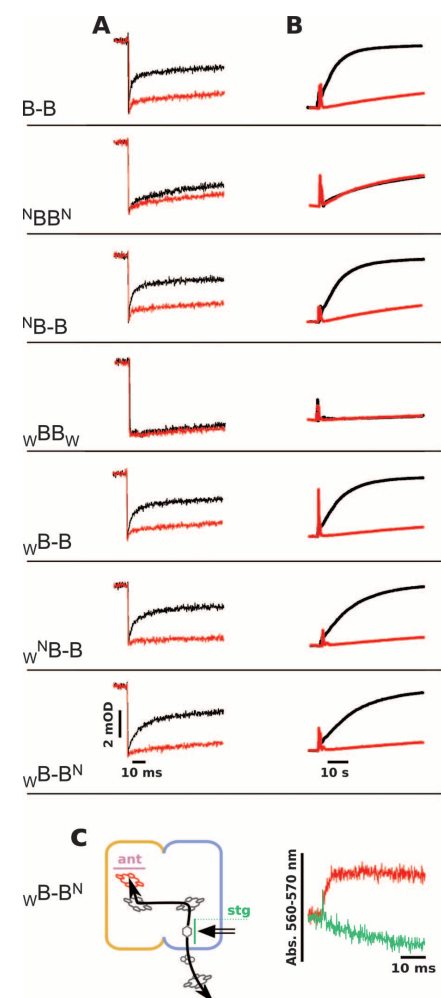
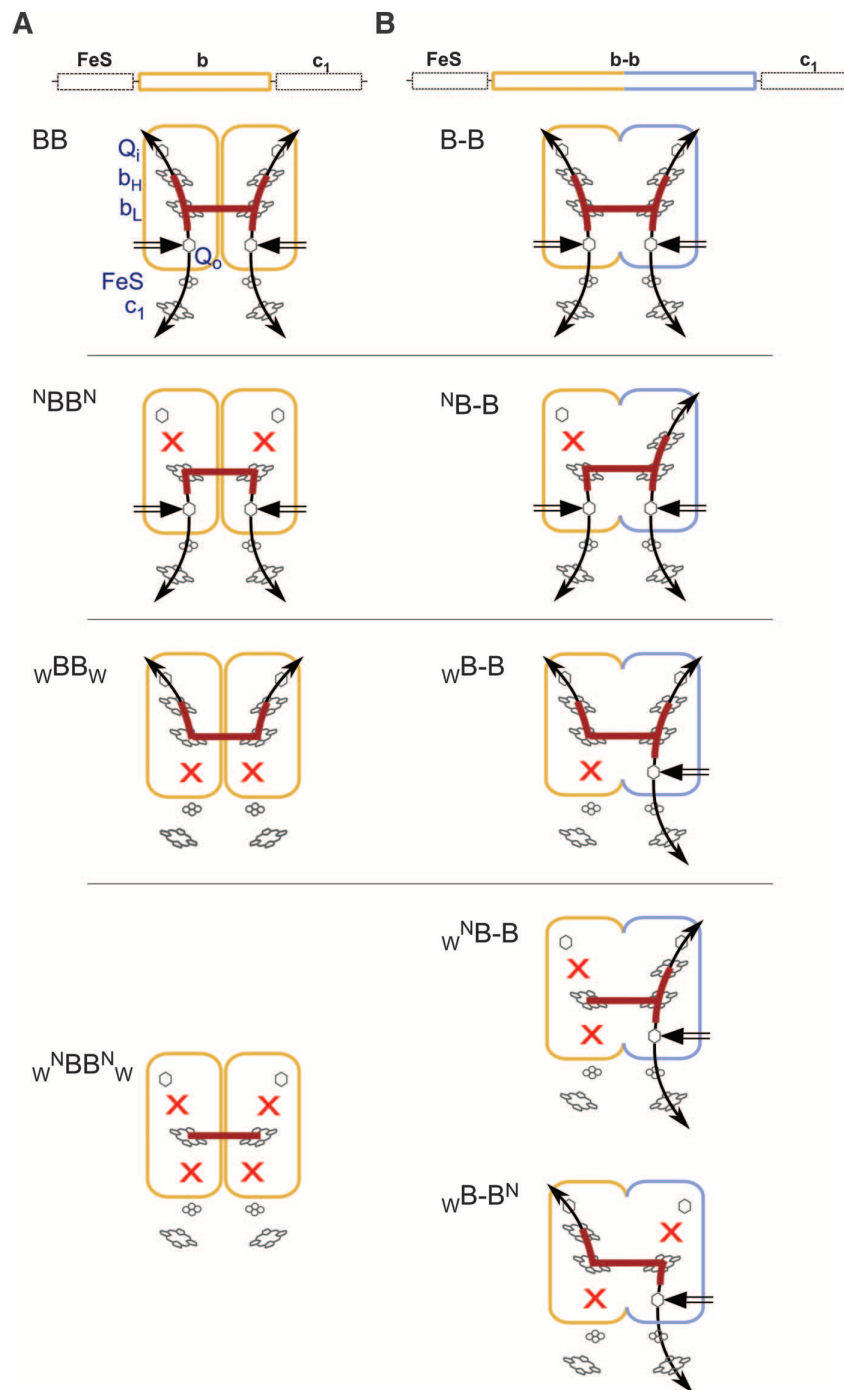


**Fig. 2.** Symmetric and asymmetric knockout patterns. Distribution of the knockouts (red crosses) constructed with unfused native operon coding (**A**) and fused gene coding (**B**). BB, native dimer:  $^N\text{BB}^N$ , both upper branches removed;  $^W\text{BB}^W$ , both lower branches removed;  $^W\text{BB}^N$ , all four branches removed. B-B, fused protein:  $^N\text{B-B}$ , one upper branch removed;  $^W\text{B-B}$ , one lower branch removed;  $^W\text{B-B}^N$ , two branches on the same side removed;  $^W\text{B-B}^N$ , two branches across removed. N and W refer to H212N and G158W point mutations in cytochrome b (G, Gly; H, His; N, Asn; W, Trp). Black arrows, functional branches. Black double arrow, electron entry point at the  $\text{Q}_0$  site. Brown overlay: intraprotein electronic bus bar.





**Fig. 2.** Symmetric and asymmetric knockout patterns. Distribution of the knockouts (red crosses) constructed with unfused native operon coding (**A**) and fused gene coding (**B**). BB, native dimer:  $^NBB^N$ , both upper branches removed;  $^wBB^w$ , both lower branches removed;  $^w^NBB^w$ , all four branches removed. B-B, fused protein:  $^NB-B$ , one upper branch removed;  $^wB-B$ , one lower branch removed;  $^w^NB-B$ , two branches on the same side removed;  $^wB-B^N$ , two branches across removed. N and W refer to H212N and G158W point mutations in cytochrome b (G, Gly; H, His; N, Asn; W, Trp). Black arrows, functional branches. Black double arrow, electron entry point at the  $Q_o$  site. Brown overlay: intraprotein electronic bus bar.



**Fig. 4.** Testing functional branch connection in the H-shaped electron transfer system. (**A**) Light-induced oxidation and re-reduction of cytochrome c at 550 minus 540 nm in membranes containing complete knockout variations described in Fig. 2. Black, uninhibited; red, inhibited with antimycin. B-B<sub>w</sub> and B-B<sub>w</sub><sup>N</sup> displayed kinetics similar to that of wB-B and w<sup>N</sup>B-B, respectively (not shown). (**B**) Corresponding steady-state enzymatic reduction of cytochrome c at 550 nm. Rates are listed in Table 1. (**C**) Light-induced heme  $b_H$  kinetics in  $wB-B^N$  in the presence of antimycin abolishing  $Q_i$  action (red) or stigmatellin abolishing  $Q_o$  action (green). In  $wB-B^N$  blocked with antimycin (ant), the only route to reduce heme  $b_H$  (red) must involve the heme  $b_L$  to  $b_L$  electron transfer. stg, stigmatellin.



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Biochimica et Biophysica Acta

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/bbabio](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/bbabio)



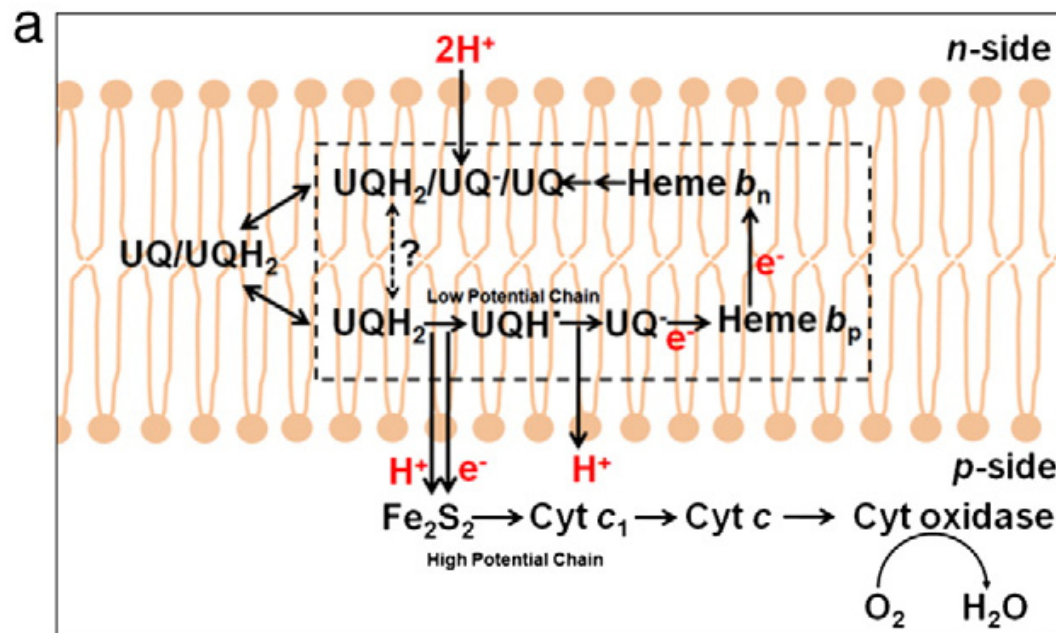
### Review

## The Q cycle of cytochrome *bc* complexes: A structure perspective

William A. Cramer <sup>a,\*</sup>, S. Saif Hasan <sup>a</sup>, Eiki Yamashita <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Hockmeyer Hall of Structural Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA

<sup>b</sup> Institute for Protein Research, Osaka University, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan



**Fig. 3.** Q cycle models for electron transfer and proton translocation through (A) the  $bc_1$  complex in the respiratory chain [176] and the purple photosynthetic bacteria [48], reaction sequence (Table 3A1–3) and (B) the  $b_6f$  complex that functions in oxygenic photosynthesis (Table 3B). The original “Q cycle” model [172,174] for proton translocation, formulated in the aftermath of the experiment of the discovery of oxidant-induced reduction of heme  $b$  [171], focused on the mitochondrial  $bc_1$  complex. Fundamental features of the classical Q cycle are: (i) the  $[2Fe-2S]$  complex on the p-side of the complex that functions as the one electron oxidant of the lipophilic quinol electron and proton donor, resulting in a bifurcated pathway into high and low potential chains; (ii) the high potential segment of the bifurcated pathway, initiated by electron transfer to cytochrome  $c_1$  or  $f$ , which transfers one electron to the high potential electron terminal acceptor, (a) cytochrome oxidase or (b) photosystem I, while generating the semiquinone; (iii) the semiquinone donates the second electron to the two trans-membrane hemes  $b$ ,  $b_p$  and  $b_n$ , in the low potential segment of the bifurcated chain that reduces a quinone or semiquinone [53] bound at the  $Q_n$  site.



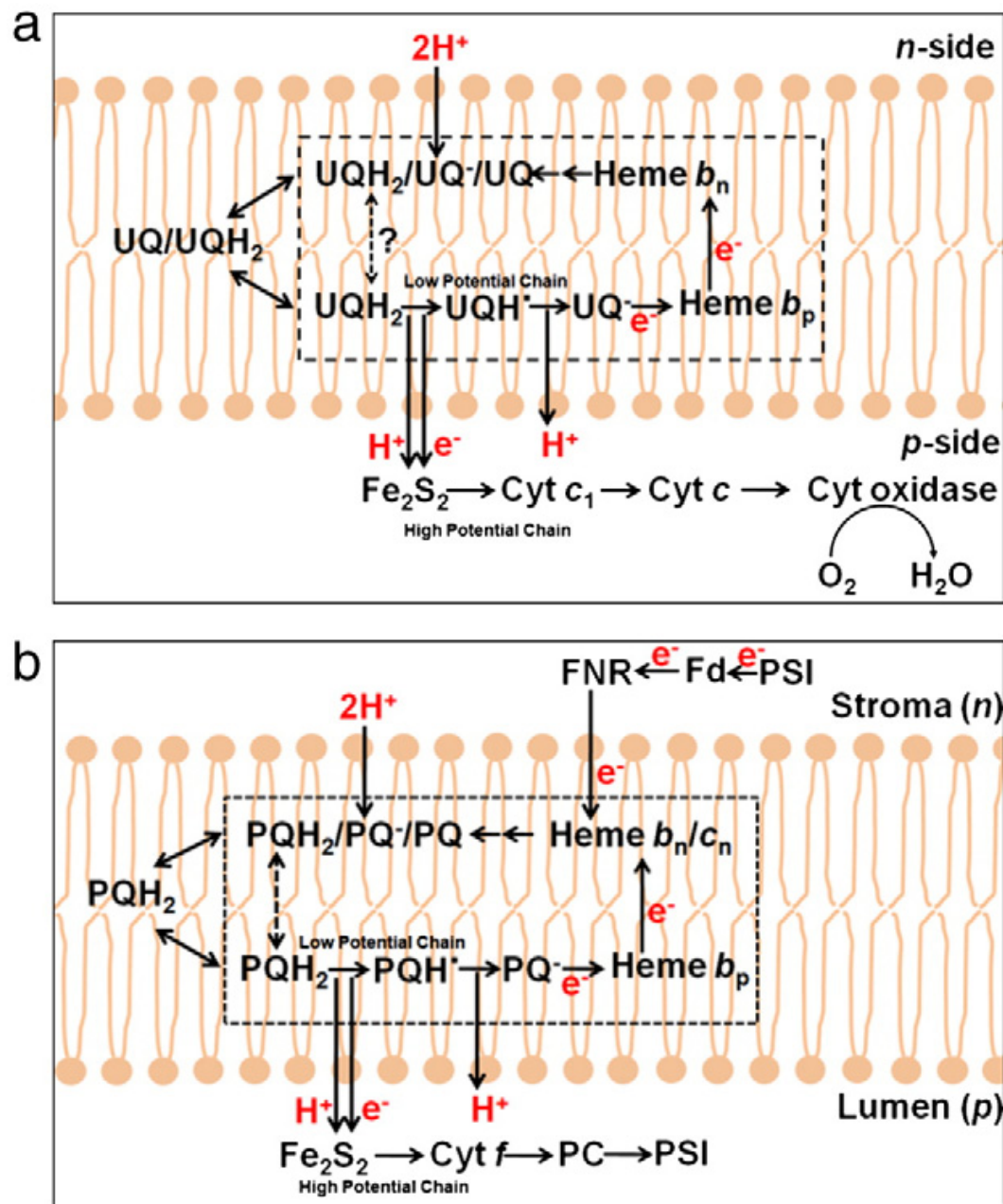


Fig. 3. Q cycle models for electron transfer and proton translocation through (A) the  $bc_1$  complex in the respiratory chain [176] and the purple photosynthetic bacteria [48], reaction sequence (Table 3A1–3) and (B) the  $b_6f$  complex that functions in oxygenic photosynthesis (Table 3B). The original “Q cycle” model [172,174] for proton translocation, formulated in the aftermath of the experiment of the discovery of oxidant-induced reduction of heme  $b$  [171], focused on the mitochondrial  $bc_1$  complex. Fundamental features of the classical Q cycle are: (i) the  $[2Fe-2S]$  complex on the p-side of the complex that functions as the one electron oxidant of the lipophilic quinol electron and proton donor, resulting in a bifurcated pathway into high and low potential chains; (ii) the high potential segment of the bifurcated pathway, initiated by electron transfer to cytochrome  $c_1$  or  $f$ , which transfers one electron to the high potential electron terminal acceptor, (a) cytochrome oxidase or (b) photosystem I, while generating the semiquinone; (iii) the semiquinone donates the second electron to the two trans-membrane hemes  $b$ ,  $b_p$  and  $b_n$ , in the low potential segment of the bifurcated chain that reduces a quinone or semiquinone [53] bound at the  $Q_n$  site.

Next lecture...

*ATP synthase. Structure and  
Function*

[jfallen.org/lectures/](http://jfallen.org/lectures/)





The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized, wavy, organic shapes in a vibrant orange color. These shapes are outlined with a thick, metallic gold border. The overall effect is reminiscent of marbled paper or a decorative textile. The text "Thank you for listening" is centered over this pattern in a blue, sans-serif font.

Thank you for listening





2004





SBCS-922 Membrane Proteins

# Mitochondria and respiratory chains

John F. Allen

School of Biological and Chemical Sciences,  
Queen Mary, University of London

