

# From the crystal to the structure using « Molecular Glues »

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X-ray crystallography is the most common method used to solve protein structures leading to many discoveries with benefits ranging from drug design to bio-inspired nanomaterials. Crystallography is crucially dependent on protein crystallization which remains one of the major bottlenecks of the technique with the phase problem. « Molecular glues » such lanthanide complexes,<sup>1</sup> calixarenes<sup>2,3</sup> and cucurbiturils<sup>4</sup> can target residues on protein surfaces *via* supramolecular interactions, promote protein self-assembly<sup>2</sup> and crystallization.<sup>1-4</sup> The first part of my presentation will be focus on the development and the application of « molecular glues » in order to facilitate protein crystallization<sup>1</sup> and to achieve protein crystal engineering.<sup>3,4</sup> In a second part, I'll present how the phase problem in bio crystallography can be addressed *de novo* using either the anomalous signal of a lanthanide complex<sup>5,6,7</sup> or more simply the anomalous signal of sulfur atoms intrinsically present in biological macromolecules.<sup>8</sup>

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