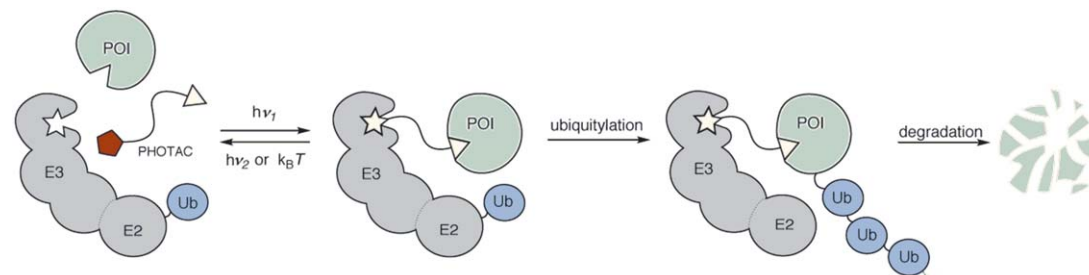
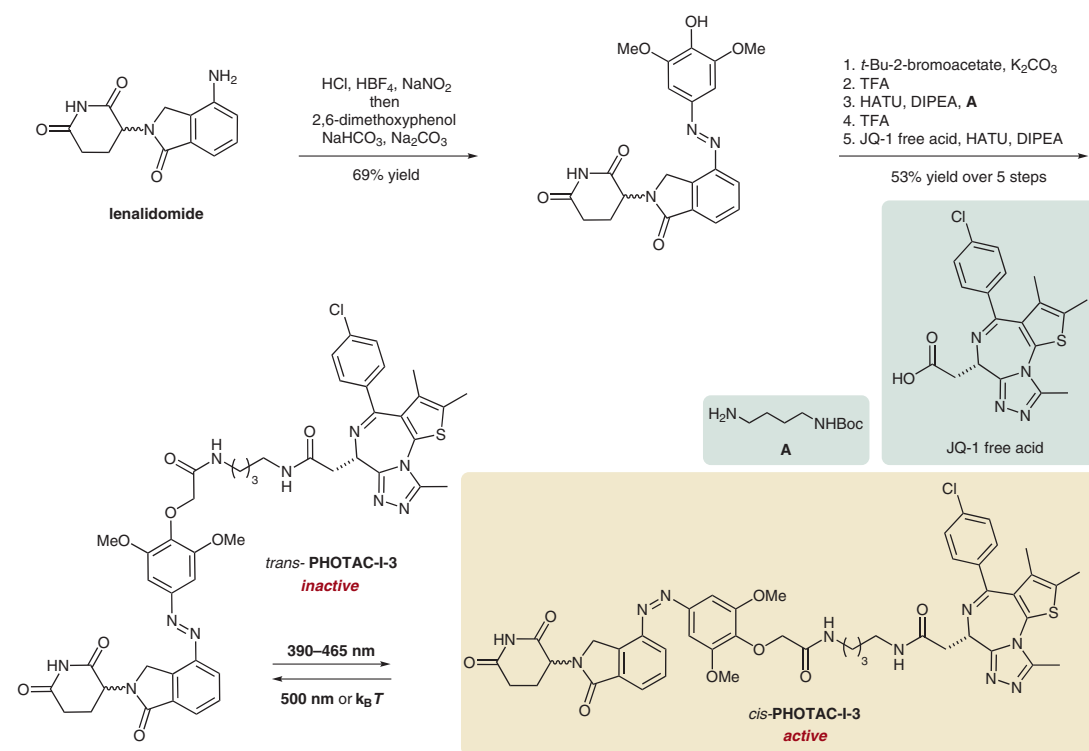


# PHOTACs Enable Optical Control of Protein Degradation



**Significance:** PROTACs (PROteolysis TARgeting Chimeras) have emerged as a new modality in pharmacology (Sakamoto et al. *PNAS* 2001, 98, 8554), but their catalytic mechanism of action poses risks. PHOTACs (PHOTOchemically TARgeting Chimeras) can be spatiotemporally controlled for precise and reversible switching between active and inactive states using light.

**Comment:** Based on a photoswitchable analog of the cereblon ligand thalidomide, this approach provides a general method to turn PROTACs into PHOTACs, which are active only upon irradiation. The authors use this strategy for the targeted degradation of BRD2/3/4 and FKBP12.