

# PURINE 5'-RIBONUCLEOTIDE-GLUTAMATE HYBRIDS AS POTENTIAL TOOLS TO INVESTIGATE THE MECHANISM OF *UMAMI* TASTE RECEPTION



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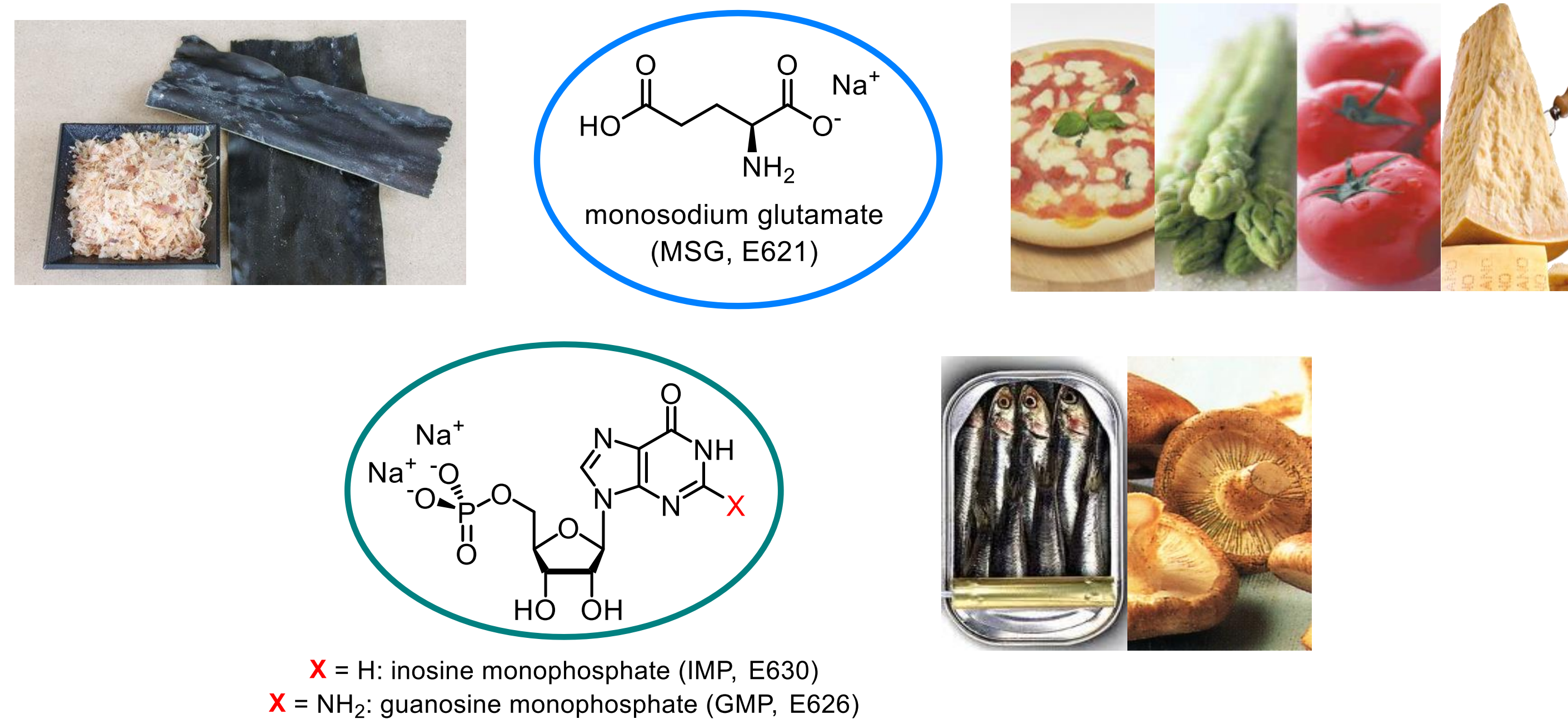
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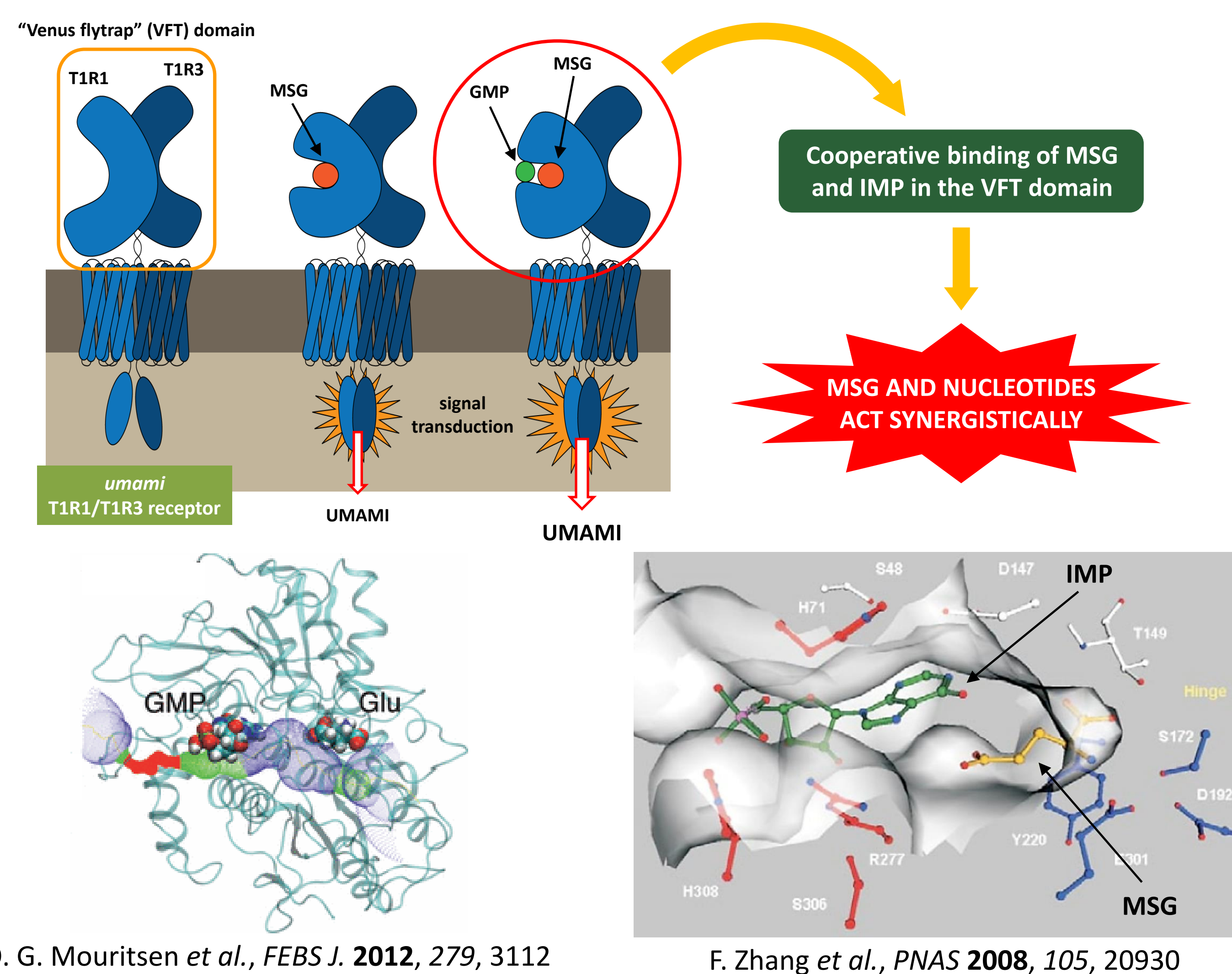
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## THE *UMAMI* FIFTH TASTE

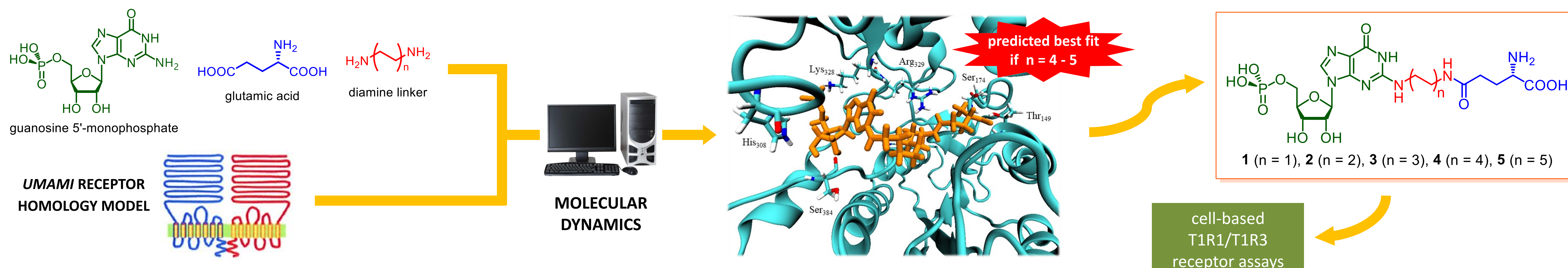
*Umami* (a Japanese term for "delicious" or "savory") is now accepted as the fifth basic taste quality along with sweet, sour, salty and bitter. The prototypical *umami* substance is monosodium glutamate (MSG), first identified in 1908 by prof. Kikunae Ikeda<sup>[1]</sup> in the typical Japanese soup *dashi*, made from *kombu seaweed* and *katsuo-bushi* (dried *bonito* flakes). The *umami* taste is also elicited by the presence of purine 5'-ribonucleotides, in particular guanosine and inosine 5'-monophosphate (GMP and IMP, respectively). *Umami* substances are naturally found in a wide variety of foods such as meat, cheese, seafood and vegetables.



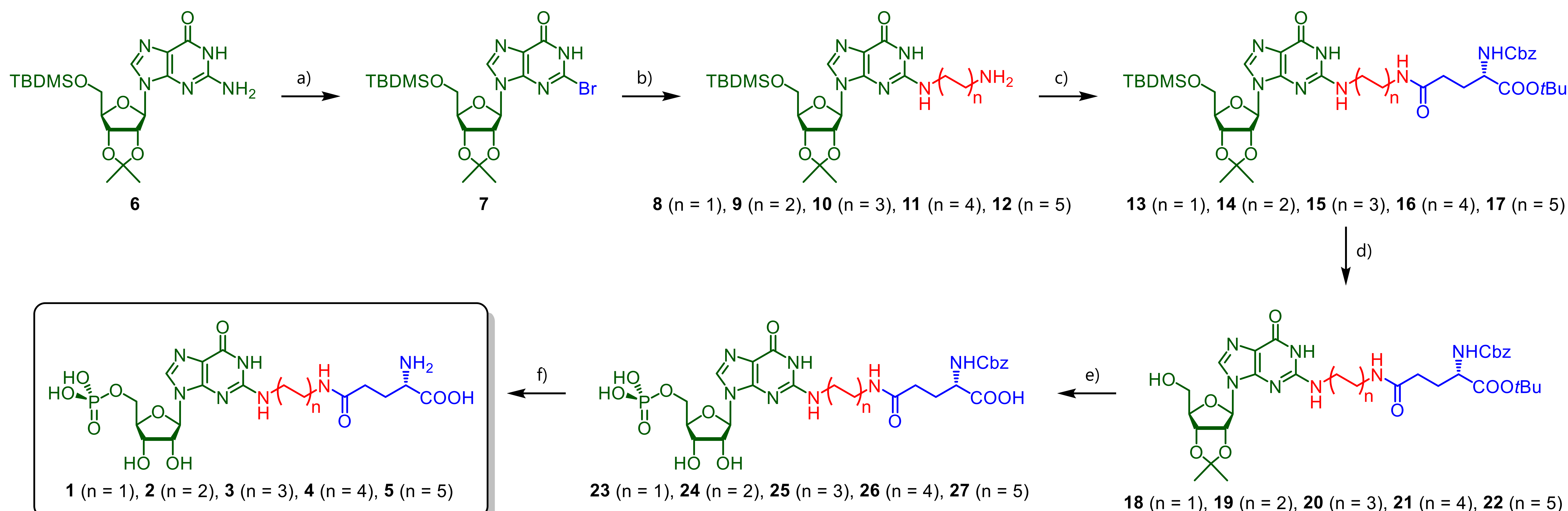
## SYNERGISM IN THE *UMAMI* RECEPTOR<sup>[2,3]</sup>



## MOLECULAR DYNAMICS ON THE HOMOLGY MODEL OF THE *UMAMI* RECEPTOR VFT DOMAIN



## SYNTHESIS OF PURINE 5'-RIBONUCLEOTIDE-GLUTAMATE HYBRIDS



**Reagents and conditions (yield):** a) TMSBr, *t*-BuONO, CH<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>, -10 °C to 5-10 °C (70%); b) H<sub>2</sub>N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, 2-methoxyethanol, 85 °C (not isolated); c) Z-Glu(α-*O*tBu)-OH, DCC, EtOAc or 2-methoxyethanol (42-64%); d) TBAF·3H<sub>2</sub>O, THF (55-85%); e) i) triethylphosphate; ii) POCl<sub>3</sub>, 0 °C (3-4 h); iii) H<sub>2</sub>O, 6 M NaOH to pH 2; iv) 70 °C (2-4 h); v) TFA, 0 °C (38-74%); f) HCOONH<sub>4</sub>, Pd/C, H<sub>2</sub>O-MeOH (1:1), 95 °C (62-95%).

## References

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[2] <https://scienceandfooducla.wordpress.com/2013/07/09/understanding-umami/>  
[3] a) W. Wang, X. Zhou, Y. Liu, *Trends Anal. Chem.* **2020**, 127, 115876; b) F. Zhang, B. Klebansky, R. M. Fine, H. Xu, A. Pronin, H. Liu, C. Tachdjian, X. Li, *PNAS* **2008**, 105, 20930-20934; c) O. G. Mouritsen, H. Khandelia, *FEBS J.* **2012**, 279, 3112-3120; d) J. Zhang, D. Sun-Waterhouse, G. Su, M. Zhao, *Trends Food Sci. Technol.* **2019**, 88, 429-438



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