Use Of Iminosugars as Prophylactic and Therapy Against COVID-19 / SARS-CoV-2 ID# 2020-5096





Technology Summary

Many viruses utilize host cell protein-folding machinery to correctly fold one or more of their glycoproteins. Iminosugars compete with the natural substrate of glucosidases, which are key for entry into the glycoprotein folding cycle. Viral glycoproteins are thus prevented from interacting with the protein-folding machinery, leading to misfolding and an antiviral effect.

Penn State inventors have demonstrated that iminosugars, including acarbose, miglitol, and castanospermine, in combination with the antiviral remdesivir, significantly inhibit viral entry as well as replication of SARS-CoV-2 in vitro. In cells infected with SARS-CoV-2, iminosugar treatment effectively increases cell viability and reduces viral load. When iminosugars are administered to cells in combination with remdesivir, the anti-viral effect of remdesivir is increased. Early in vitro results suggest that a combination therapy of iminosugars and remdesivir may be an effective treatment for COVID-19.

Application & Market Utility

Due to the persistence of SARS-CoV-2 spread in the population, there is an urgent need for novel therapy options. Current events demonstrate that SARS-CoV-2 is evolving rapidly and may gain resistance to viral-directed therapeutics. Repurposed drugs may present potentially valuable therapeutic candidates, as they may be able to bypass part of the early cost and time needed for authorization. Acarbose and remdesivir are FDA-approved for use in adults. Acarbose is not currently approved for the treatment of COVID-19.

Next Steps

Seeking industry partners and/or licensees to drive clinical validation and commercialization.

TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL

Seeking

Investment | Licensing | Research

Keywords

- Iminosugar
- Acarbose
- RemdesivirAnti-Viral
- SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19

Researchers

Suresh Kuchipudi, PhD

Dorothy Foehr Huck and J. Lloyd Huck Chair in Emerging Infectious Diseases, Clinical Professor and Associate Director, Animal Diagnostic Lab Website

Other Researchers

Originating College

College of Agricultural Sciences

Office of Technology Management Contact

Long, Melissa mkl137@psu.edu 814-865-5730



Invent Penn State is a Commonwealth-wide initiative to spur economic development, job creation, and student career success. Invent Penn State blends entrepreneurship-focused academic programs, business startup training and incubation, funding for commercialization, and university-community collaborations to facilitate the challenging process of turning research discoveries into valuable products and services that can benefit Pennsylvanians and humankind. Learn more at invent.psu.edu.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.