

COV/SCL/20/01 - Accelerated introduction of a novel class of resistance-proof antiviral drugs: Strathclyde Minor Groove Binders

Strathclyde Minor Groove Binders (S-MGBs) are a completely new class of anti-infective drug, developed in Scotland. One S-MGB, MGB-BP-3, is successfully completing a phase 2a clinical trial for the treatment of Clostridium difficile associated disease, and has reportedly cured patients. S-MGBs are effective against hepatitis C virus, a related virus to coronavirus. Significantly, S-MGBs are highly resilient to the development of resistance in the infecting organism, making S-MGBs more valuable in antiviral applications than a vaccine or other established anti-viral drug. This project will identify a clinical candidate S-MGB, by repurposing MGB-BP-3 or otherwise, that can treat COVID-19.