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The SARS-CoV-2 main protease as a target for antivirals: Crystal structures, new inhibitors, and mutants

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Structure-based design of new inhibitors of the SARS-CoV-2 main protease (Mpro) is discussed and corresponding crystal structures are described. Pharmacokinetics of frontrunner inhibitors are presented. The evolution of the Mpro from the original Wuhan strain via the Alpha, Beta, Delta, and Omicron variants of concern is followed in terms of three-dimensional (crystal) structures, enzymatic activities, and inhibitor potencies.

Primary authors: Dr EL KILANI, Haifa (University of Lübeck); Mrs RÖSKE, Judith (University of Lübeck); Mrs ZHANG, Kaixuan (University of Lübeck); Dr ROX, Katharina (Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research); Dr ZHANG, Linlin (University of Lübeck); Prof. BRÖNSTRUP, Mark (Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research); Dr GÖHL, Matthias (Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research); Dr AKULA, Ravikumar (University of Lübeck); HILGEN-FELD, Rolf; Mrs SUN, Xinyuanyuan (University of Lübeck); Dr KUSOV, Yuri (University of Lübeck)

Presenter: HILGENFELD, Rolf

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