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FIICked ACE2 mimics inhibit SARS-CoV-2 spike protein-ACE2 interaction

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Coronavirus Disease 2019 COVID-19



Global Cases 151.397.857

Cases by NORTH Country/Region/Sovereignty 32.345.329 US 19.164.969 India 14.659.011 Brazil 5.677.835 France 4.820.591 Turkey 4.750.755 Russia 4.432.246 United Kingdom 4.022.653 Italy 3.524.077 Spain 3.405.365 Germany 2.977.363 Argentina 2.859.724 Colombia 2.792.142 Poland 2.499.077 Iran **Cumulative Cases** 4 \triangleright Admin0 92 Last Updated at (M/D/YYYY)



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Causative agent of COVID-19 SARS-COV-2 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2

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On the surface...

PBDID 6VXX

Spike protein homotrimer

Allow penetration and subsequent entry

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In the S1 (Spike) protein...

PBDID 6M0J

Receptor Binding Domain (RBD)

Residue number (resn) 319-541

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PBDID 6VXX



In the S1 (Spike) protein... Substrate bound X-ray structure

PDBID 6M0J





In the S1 (Spike) protein... Substrate bound X-ray structure PDBID 6M0J

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(Peptide Introduction): Challenges associated with mass vaccination

- Production and distribution of vaccines
- Variable vaccine acceptance
- Imperfect vaccine efficacy
- Development of vaccination-resistant strains





(Peptide Introduction): Peptides as drugs

- Better at targeting protein-protein interactions
- Effective for extracellular targets
- Less prone to resistance
- Stapling increases protease resistance



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(Peptide Introduction): SARS-CoV-1 inhibitory peptides



Ho, T. Y.; Wu, S. L.; Chen, J. C.; Wei, Y. C.; Cheng, S. E.; Chang, Y. H.; Liu, H. J.; Hsiang, C. Y. *Antiviral Res.* **2006**, *69* (2), 70–76. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.antiviral.2005.10.005.

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(Peptide Introduction): Peptide Stapling

Natural Peptide Crosslinks



Synthetic Peptide Crosslinks



(FIICk): Isoindole Formation



- Isoindole Formation is a classic analytical reaction
- Condensation of ortho-phthalaldehyde with an amine and a thiol results in a fluorescent heterocycle
- Used to quantify amino acids and peptides and as an active site titrant

Todorovic, M.; Schwab, K. D.; Zeisler, J.; Zhang, C.; Bénard, F.; Perrin, D. M. Angew. Chemie -Int. Ed. **2019**, 58 (40), 14120–14124. https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201906514.

(FIICk): Monocycles and Bicycles





Todorovic, M.; Schwab, K. D.; Zeisler, J.; Zhang, C.; Bénard, F.; Perrin, D. M. Angew. Chemie - Int. Ed. **2019**, *58* (40), 14120–14124. https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201906514.

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(FIICk): Proof of Concept Peptides



Todorovic, M.; Schwab, K. D.; Zeisler, J.; Zhang, C.; Bénard, F.; Perrin, D. M. Angew. Chemie - Int. Ed. **2019**, 58 (40), 14120–14124. https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201906514. 16

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(FIICk): ACE2 Mimicking Peptide Literature Precedence

- Direct cut-outs of Nterminal fragment of hACE2 were made by Pentelute¹ and Altseens²
- Binding to Spike protein tested by Biolayer Interferometry (BLI) or Atomic Force Microscopy
- Little binding in the high micromolar range was reported and no inhibition of the ACE2-Spike protein interaction was observed in our hands
- Doubled stapled (olefin metathesis) versions of ACE2 helix made by Debnath³
- Although binding measured by BLI, activity in in-vitro antiviral show



I) Zhang, G.; Pomplun, S.; Loftis, A. R.; Loas, A.; Pentelute, B. L. bioRxiv 2020, 2020.03.19.999318. https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.19.999318.

 Yang, J.; Petitjean, S. J. L.; Koehler, M.; Zhang, Q.; Dumitru, A. C.; Chen, W.; Derclaye, S.; Vincent, S. P.; Soumillion, P.; Alsteens, D. *Nat. Commun.* 2020, *11* https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-18319-6.
Curreli, F.; Victor, S. M. B.; Ahmed, S.; Drelich, A.; Tong, X.; Tseng, C.-T. K.; Hillyer, C. D.; Debnath, A. K. *MBio* 2020, *11* (6), e02451-20.

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(FIICk): Double FIICked ACE2 Peptides





Peptide	Sequence
I	CKCK
2	СККС
3	KCCK
4	KCKC







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(FIICk): Double Flicked Peptide Fluorescence





ELISA: Enzyme ImmunoSorbent Assay

Negative results/ poor binder

Positive results/ good binder



















(FIICk): Double Flicked Peptide IC50s



Entry	1234	Topology	R.T. (min)	IC50(μM)
I	CKCK	I-4,2-3	4.71	Not active (>900)
2	СКСК	I-2,3-4	5.21	Not active (>900)
3	CKKC	1-3,2-4	3.57	77
4	СККС	1-2,3-4	5.22	260
5	KCCK	1-3,2-4	3.75	Not active (>500)
6	KCCK	I-2,3-4	5.39	Not active (>900)
7	KCKC	I-4,2-3	5.00	Not active (>900)
8	KCKC	1-2,3-4	5.36	620

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5	КССК	1-3,2-4	3.75	Not active (>500)
6	KCCK	1-2,3-4	5.39	Not active (>900)
7	КСКС	1-4,2-3	5.00	Not active (>900)
8	КСКС	I-2,3-4	5.36	620



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(FIICk): Alpha Conotoxin Topology



(FIICk): Alpha Conotoxin Topology



Armishaw, C.; Jensen, A. A.; Balle, T.; Clark, R. J.; Harpsøe, K.; Skonberg, C.; Liljefors, T.; Strømgaard, K. J. Biol. Chem. 2009, 284 (14), 9498–9512. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M806136200.

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(FIICk): Effect of chaotropes and salts on Peptide 3 crosslinking selectivity

Chaotrope/salt (concentration)	1-2,3-4 : 1-3,2-4 ratio	HPLC chromatogram
none	2.5	
Guanidinium chloride (2% w/w)	2.5	<u></u>
Urea (2% w/w)	2.4	
Polysorbate 20 (2% w/w)	3.2	
Polysorbate 80 (2% w/w)	2.7	
Triton X-100 (2% w/w)	3.5	k
Mr. Clean® dish detergent (2% w/w)	2.9	
Magnesium chloride (450 mM)	2.3	



(FIICk): Effect of temperature and solvent on Peptide 3 crosslinking selectivity

Solvent	Temperature (°C)	1-2,3-4 : 1-3,2-4 ratio	HPLC chromatogram
Sodium borate buffer, pH 9	4	1.90	
Sodium borate buffer, pH 9	20	2.52	
Sodium borate buffer, pH 9	37	2.34	
Sodium borate buffer, pH 9/EtOH (1:1)	-20	7.78	
Sodium borate buffer, pH 9/EtOH (1:1)	20	7.46	



(FIICk): Effect of solvent on Peptide 3 crosslinking selectivity

Peptide	Solvent	1-2,3-4 : 1-3,2-4 ratio	HPLC chromatogram
3	Sodium borate buffer, pH 9	2.52	
3	Sodium borate buffer, pH 9/EtOH (1:1)	7.46	
4	Sodium borate buffer, pH 9	2.26	
4	Sodium borate buffer, pH 9/DMF (1:1)	3.95	
4	Sodium borate buffer, pH 9/DMA (1:1)	3.39	
4	Sodium borate buffer, pH 9/MeCN (1:1)	2.46	
4	Sodium borate buffer, pH 9/THF (1:1)	6.98	

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Future direction

Psuedovirus Neutralization Assay (PNA)

Lentivirus 45 **CPPC** 2021





Future direction *Psuedovirus Neutralization Assay (PNA)*

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Future direction

Psuedovirus Neutralization Assay (PNA)

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Questions?

