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Novel host-directed molecules blunt SARS-CoV-2, influenza virus

PREMIUM

Virus can develop resistance against antivirals, while drugs that target the host cells to prevent virus infection can remain effective even when the virus evolves

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R. PRASAD

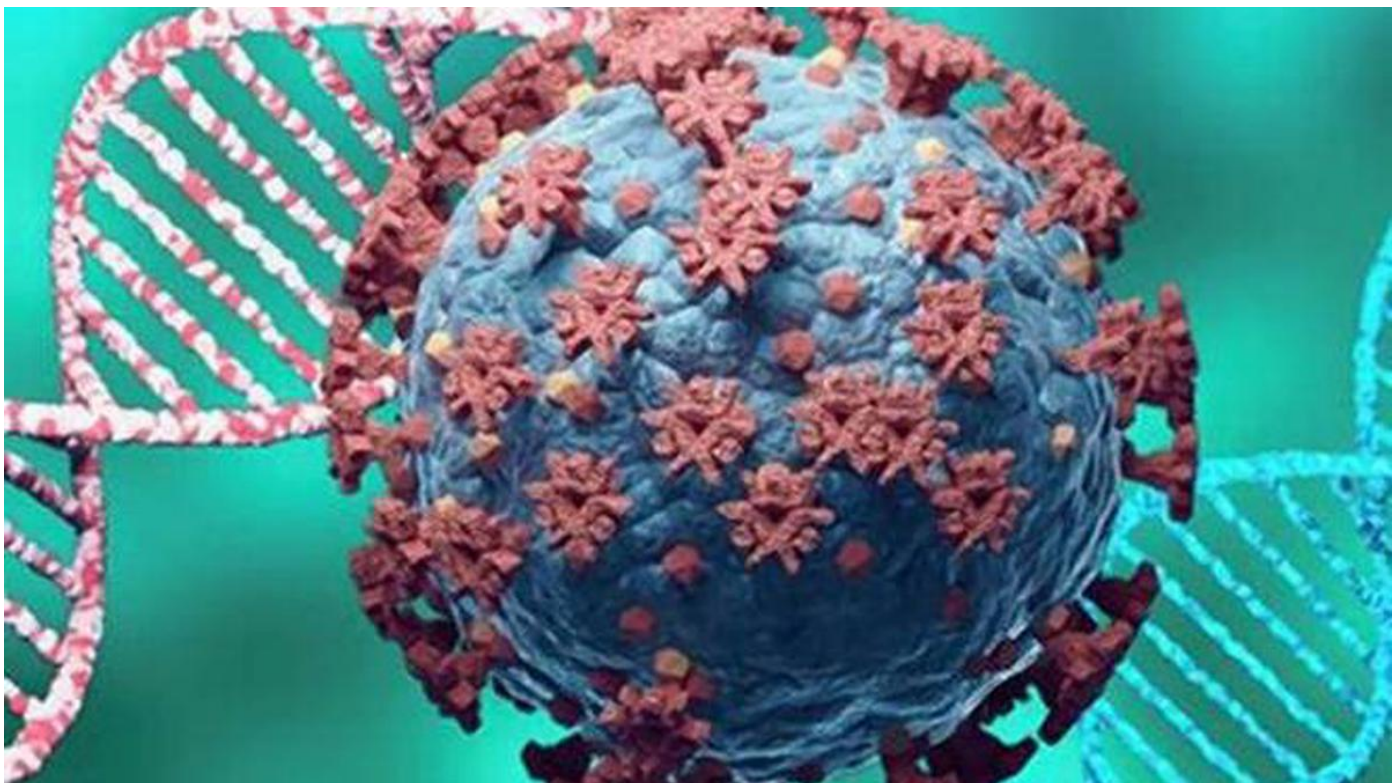
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Indian researchers have, for the first time, been able to synthesise small molecules that can effectively halt the infection of cells by SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses by



the virus in question, the team, co-led by researchers at IISER Mohan and IIT Ropar, attempted the host-directed therapy. Till date, no approved host-directed drugs are available for either SARS-CoV-2 or influenza virus.

In both cultured cells and animal studies, the small molecules that were synthesised by Dr. Prabal Banerjee's team at the Department of Chemistry, IIT Ropar showed over 95% efficacy in halting the infection of cells by SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses. The results were published in *PLOS Pathogens*.

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