A potential therapeutic for treatment of HIV/AIDS

Attacking the Achilles Heel of HIV

The Invention

The invention is a potential HIV therapy that specifically targets the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1).

The need of effective and cheaper treatments for HIV is critical due to increasing infection rates across the developed and developing worlds.

Small interfering RNA (siRNA) or short hairpin RNA (shRNA) are able to mediate transcriptional gene silencing by having sequence complementarity to a specific gene.

As an alternate to antiretroviral drugs it works by targeting a specific promoter region on HIV-1 using a range of siRNAs which suppress all viral gene expression.

Preliminary studies have indicated successful long-term suppression of viral replication using this method.

Key Benefits

- Potentially long-term suppression of HIV gene expression
- Less susceptible to gene mutations and thus resistance compared to post-transcriptional targets
- Does not require long-term daily dosage regimes with adverse side effects

The Opportunity

UNSW is seeking a commercial partner to licence and/or to work collaboratively with the inventors at the highly respected UNSW Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society:

http://kirby.unsw.edu.au/

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