47-2020-10906 | Repurposed Drugs for COVID-19 Treatment

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Prof. Barenholz is focusing his lab activities on three projects, all aimed at re-purposing drugs with known active ingredients for treatments of viral infection.

Project 1: Aims to stop and/or reduce viral penetration and the severe inflammation caused by the viral infection by repurposing a well-established and clinically used active pharmaceutical ingredient targeting infected lungs. A trial formulation is ready for lab models.

Project 2: Aims to inhibit intracellular processing of the virus that has reached cells in the lung, using a different formulation and active ingredient with completely different modes of action than Project 1. A well-established and clinically used active pharmaceutical ingredient targeting infected lungs is being repurposed and a trial formulation is ready for lab models.

Project 3: Aims to treat Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), the last stage of a viral infection that can lead to severe morbidity and death. This is a collaboration with Prof. Yoram Weis of Hadassah-University Hospital and the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) who have shown the feasibility of this approach in treatment of ARDS. This is currently in the formulation stage, and ready with all the reagents and assay required for development. This Project is a completely different approach from Projects 1 and 2 and is based on a totally different active ingredient.

Projects 1-3 have promising potential based on in vitro or lab model studies

Patent Status

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