

LifeLines

For the California Life Science Community

9 A Policy World Turned Upside Down by COVID-19

10 Twist Bioscience: Synthetic Biology Supports the Worldwide COVID-19 Response

12 Heeding the Call to Save the World



*A Race Against
the COVID-19 Clock*

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Long-Lasting Strategies for the Treatment and Prevention of COVID-19

The novel coronavirus has brought out the best in research and the biotech industry as we collectively seek to identify a preventative or treatment to stop or slow the pandemic. At Cidara, we have decades of experience in the infectious disease space, so pivoting our efforts toward the coronavirus represented a natural extension of our capabilities. We have initiated programs to identify and develop a potential protective agent against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus causing COVID-19) and its complications. Our fundamental programs in development include a novel, long-lasting antifungal candidate called rezafungin and our Cloudbreak® antiviral platform, yielding a new class of drug candidates called Antiviral Conjugates (AVCs). Our philosophy has always centered around the development of long-acting drugs, a necessary concept for protection of patient populations at risk for serious infections.

Our most advanced AVC program is CD377, a development candidate for universal treatment and prevention of the flu with potent long-lasting virucidal activity that concentrates in the lung. Its key attributes, combined with the modular nature of the Cloudbreak antiviral platform, demonstrate our rationale for developing AVCs to protect from other respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus, and how efficiently we have been able to create this program.

AVCs represent a new class of drugs that combines two approaches: potent antiviral

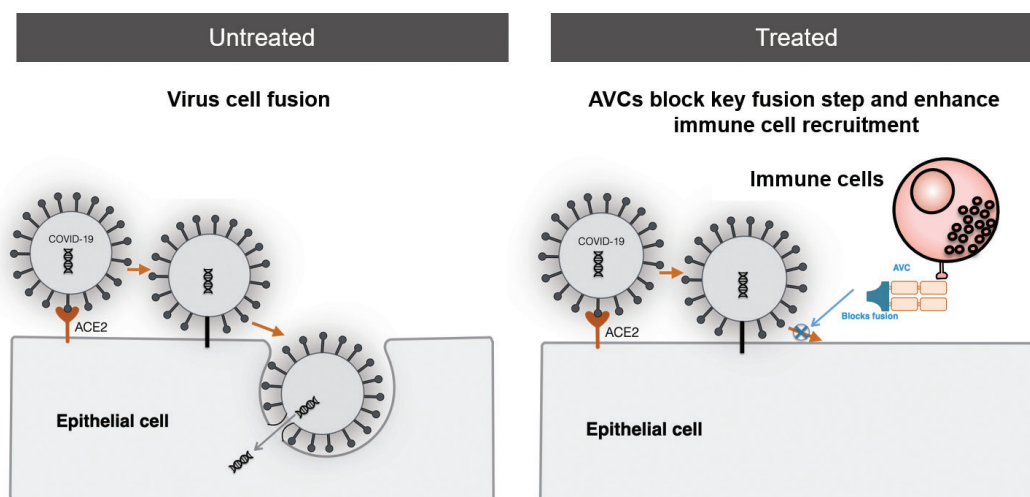
activity to directly kill the virus, and engagement of the immune system to maximize viral clearance. AVCs are designed to target the virus instead of the cells that are under attack by the virus, providing immediate protection for patients and slowing the spread of infection. The small size of AVCs allows for rapid concentration

in the lungs to attack the virus and fight off infection. In COVID-19 where severe lung damage is common, protection at this site first invaded by respiratory viruses is crucial.

Upon the release of the genetic sequence of SARS-CoV-2, we began synthesizing AVCs with the potential to both prevent and treat COVID-19. We have initiated

in vitro testing against a panel of coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, that block the key step of viral fusion to lung

“UPON THE RELEASE OF THE GENETIC SEQUENCE OF SARS-COV-2, WE BEGAN SYNTHESIZING AVCs WITH THE POTENTIAL TO BOTH PREVENT AND TREAT COVID-19.”



- ▶ AVCs represent a new class of drugs with potent antiviral activity to directly kill the virus and engagement of the immune system to maximize viral clearance. Cidara's AVCs have the potential to both prevent and treat COVID-19 by blocking the key step of viral fusion to lung epithelial cells while simultaneously recruiting immune cells to fight the infection.

epithelial cells while simultaneously recruiting immune cells to fight the infection (Figure 1). We will advance the most potent candidates for evaluation in animal models. Our goal is to identify AVCs that offer long-lasting, universal protection from all coronaviruses.

In addition to the direct effects of COVID-19 in the body, many patients with severe COVID-19 infection under intensive care may also be at risk for invasive fungal infections. In fact, aspergillosis, a serious invasive fungal infection, has been observed in up to 30% of severe COVID-19 patients and could be contributing to their poor outcomes. Complicating this issue is the use of immunosuppressants in severe COVID-19 patients to alleviate the dangerous cytokine storm that exacerbates the illness, making patients even more susceptible to invasive fungal species. Rezafungin could play a role in the future as a prophylactic against invasive fungal species in high risk COVID-19 patients. Rezafungin, already in two Phase 3 trials, is designed to be dosed on a once-weekly basis, potentially limiting the number of interactions with healthcare providers and enabling earlier discharge compared to daily dosing with other antifungals in the same class.

Overall, our goal is to advance long-acting therapeutics to improve the standard of care for patients who are facing serious fungal or viral infections. With our fundamental programs and deep expertise in infectious disease, we are expanding our efforts to provide both preventative and treatment options for coronaviruses, including COVID-19, and related complications.



Dr. Stein has been President, CEO and Director of Cidara since January 2014. Previously he was CEO of Trius Therapeutics, Inc. from 2007 until its acquisition by Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in September 2013.



Thank you for 25 years of partnership, innovations in treatments, patient support & clinical trials



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