

## Anti-Influenza Drug Discovery and Development: Targeting the Virus and Its Host by All Possible Means

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#### Chapter X:

# Anti-influenza drug discovery and development: *targeting the virus and its host by all possible means*

Olivier Terrier<sup>1</sup>, Anny Slama-Schwok<sup>2</sup>

#### Abstract

Influenza infections remain a major and recurrent source of public health concern. Together with vaccines, antiviral drugs play a key role in the prevention and treatment of influenza virus infection and disease. Today, the number of antiviral molecules approved for the treatment of influenza is relatively limited and their use is threatened by the emergence of viral strains with resistance mutations. There is therefore a real need to expand the prophylactic and therapeutic arsenal. This chapter summarizes the state of the art in drug discovery and development for the treatment of influenza virus infections, with a focus on both virus-targeting and host-cell-targeting strategies. Novel antiviral strategies targeting other viral proteins or targeting the host cell, some of which are based on drug repurposing, may be used in combination to strengthen our therapeutic arsenal against this major pathogen.

Keywords: antiviral, drug repurposing, replication, entry, immune modulator

#### Abbreviations:

CoV: Coronavirus COX: cyclo-oxygenase HA: hemagglutinin, IAV: Influenza A virus, IFN: Interferon M2: Matrix 2 NA: neuraminidase, NOX: NADPH oxydase NP: nucleoprotein,

p09: H1N1 2009-pandemic strain

PA: polymerase acidic subunit,

PB1: polymerase basic subunit 1,

PB2: polymerase basic subunit 2,

PPI: protein-protein interaction

RdRP: RNA-dependent ribonucleoprotein complex

RIG-I: retinoic acid inducible gene-I

TNF-  $\alpha$ : Tumor necrosis factor-  $\alpha$ 

vRNP: viral ribonucleoproteins

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#### 1 **1. Introduction**

Influenza infections remain a major and recurrent source of public health concern. Influenza viruses are the causative agents of annual flu epidemics, marked by up to 1 billion infections and 300,000-650,000 deaths worldwide, with a huge economic burden in terms of hospitalization costs and work/school absenteeism (WHO, 2018; [56]). In addition, Influenza A viruses (IAV) have been the cause of several pandemics in recent human history, from the Spanish Flu H1N1 in 1918 to the more recent H1N1 2009 pandemic [71].

8 Together with vaccines, antiviral drugs play a vital part in the prevention and treatment of influenza 9 virus infection and disease. During a normal influenza season, antiviral drugs are mainly used to treat 10 critically ill patients, such as those hospitalized in intensive care. In a pandemic context, pending the 11 availability of a vaccine, antiviral drugs are essential both to treat patients who have been infected and 12 to prevent infection in those exposed, including healthcare workers. Today, the number of antiviral 13 molecules approved for the treatment of influenza, based on the targeting of viral proteins, is relatively 14 reduced and threatened by the emergence of strains with resistance mutations. There is therefore a real 15 need to expand the prophylactic and reinforce the current therapeutic arsenal. This chapter summarizes 16 the state of the art in drug discovery and development for the treatment of influenza virus infections, 17 with a focus on both virus-targeting and host-cell-targeting strategies (Figure 1). Novel antiviral 18 strategies targeting other viral proteins or targeting the host cell, some of which are based on drug 19 repurposing, may be used in combination to strengthen our therapeutic arsenal against this major 20 pathogen.

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#### 22 2- From existing classic antiviral drugs to new pre-clinical candidates

#### 24 2.1 M2 ion channel blockers (amantadine/rimantadine)

Influenza A M2 is a multifunctional viral homo-tetramer protein [57]. Its transmembrane (TM) domain forms a proton channel. This channel is required for acidification of the viral endosome formed after fusion and endocytosis of the virus within the host cell. This process allows viral ribonucleoproteins (vRNPs) to dissociate from the matrix 1 (M1) protein. The proton conductance mechanism relies on the conserved H37XXXW41 sequence which is responsible for selectively gating H<sup>+</sup> ions [89, 132], [52, 30 121]. Channel blockers interfere with the proton conductance mechanism by binding to the 31 transmembrane pore [137] (Figure 2). When proton conductance through M2 is blocked by the 32 adamantane drug, this dissociation is prevented and the virus is no longer able to replicate. In recent 33 years, adamantane drug-resistant mutants have become prevalent in circulating viruses. The two most 34 prevalent drug-resistant mutants are S31N, L26F and V27A, all of which are located in the 35 transmembrane region of M2 [138]. Figure 2A shows the strong interaction of amantadine with V27 in 36 the upper part of the pore. Upon drug-resistance V27A mutation, this interaction is lost. Recently-37 developed spiro-amantadyl amine effectively binds to A27 of the pore (Figure 2B) [136]. Recently, 38 new amantadine derivatives effective against double mutants M2-S31N/L26I and M2-S31N/V27A viral 39 strains have been developed by Musharrafieh et al [91]. The antiviral efficacy of such compounds is 40 summarized In Table 1. M2 resistance mutations in H1N1/H3N2 circulating strains prompted the WHO 41 to remove both amantadine and rimantadine from the list of recommended anti-influenza agents for 42 clinical use in 2009 [34].

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#### 44 2.2 Neuraminidase (NA) and hemagglutinin (HA) inhibitors

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#### 46 **2.2.1** *NA inhibitors*

47 NA inhibitors competitively inhibit and prevent cleavage of the terminal sialic acid residues from 48 glycoproteins and carbohydrates displayed on the surface of mammalian cells and influenza virus 49 particles. Binding of virions to uncleaved sialic acid then impairs virion release and dissemination. 50 Among these NA inhibitors, peramivir, zanamivir, oseltamivir carboxylate are the most frequently 51 prescribed drugs and considered standard-of-care for influenza management (Table 1 and Figure 3). 52 Resistance to oseltamivir can develop rapidly in both experimental settings and the clinic, and typically 53 originates from substitutions at signature resistance sites in the viral NA protein such as H274Y and 54 I223R (predominant in H1N1 and H5N1 viruses), and E119V, R292K, or N294S (predominant in H3N2 55 viruses). These three NA inhibitors are currently licensed worldwide for the treatment of influenza A 56 and B infections, oseltamivir being the most widely used. There is still a lot of debate about the 57 effectiveness and real impact of inhibitors on the prevention and treatment of influenza. New oseltamivir derivatives, targeting either multiple sites or different NA cavities (as the "430" or the "150" cavity)
have been recently developed. Some of these derivatives are very potent against multiple IAV and IBV
strains, including oseltamivir-resistant ones (Table 1).

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#### 62 2.2.2 Hemagglutinin inhibitors

63 The surface glycoprotein HA enables viral entry into host cells by binding to cell-surface, sialic-acid-64 containing glycans and mediating fusion between the viral and host membranes in endosomal 65 compartments. HA is composed of head (HA1) and stem (HA2/HA1) domains. As the regions on HA 66 involved in binding and fusion are highly conserved, they are attractive sites for the design of new 67 antivirals (Table 2). The broad-spectrum antiviral drug arbidol shows efficacy against influenza viruses 68 by targeting the hemagglutinin (HA) stem region [63]. This molecule is currently licensed in Russia and 69 China for the treatment of influenza and other infections [8]. A challenging strategy aiming at 70 mimicking antibodies binding sites was successfully developed by Wilson et al, targeting the conserved 71 stem region and more recently at the interface of the trimeric head region [4, 141, 155] (Figure 4A). 72 The binding sites of the binding sites for CBS1117 and JNJ4796 were both found in the stem region 73 close to the fusion peptide, highlighting the possibility of further structure-based designed compounds 74 [2]. De novo design of high-affinity trimeric proteins called "HA mini-binders" that bind influenza A 75 hemagglutinin trimer at a conserved region binding site (Figure 4B) [129]. These molecules were 76 developed as alternative to antibodies. These and other compounds are summarized in Table 2.

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#### 78 2.3 Polymerase – nucleoprotein- RNA inhibitors

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#### 80 2.3.1 Polymerase/endonuclease inhibitor (favipiravir, Baloxavir marboxil)

Influenza virus transcribe and replicate their genome in the nucleus of infected cells by the means of a hetero-trimeric polymerase, PA, PB1 and PB2. The polymerase complex function requires the nucleoprotein NP, a protein associated with- and protecting the segmented genomic RNA. Therefore, all four proteins are essential for replication. Whereas replication requires the generation of complementary positive polarity RNA intermediates (cRNA) that are then copied into progeny negative 87 polarity segments (vRNPs), viral message is directly synthesized from vRNPs. Since the influenza virus 88 RdRP lacks enzymatic activity to form 5' mRNA cap structures, endonuclease activity of the PA subunit 89 is necessary for the generation of viral mRNAs through transfer of 5'-capped RNA primers derived from 90 host mRNAs in a cap-snatching mechanism. The endonuclease active site of PA-N terminal comprises 91 a histidine and a cluster of three strictly conserved acidic residues (Glu80, Asp108, Glu119), which 92 coordinate (together with Ile120) one or two manganese or magnesium ions [32] (Figure 5A). PB2 is 93 involved in binding of the capped primers, whereas the PB1 subunit harbors enzymatic activity for 94 phosphodiester bond formation.

95 Several classes of inhibitors are in the clinics (Figure 6): baloxavir (PA), favipiravir (PB1)
96 and pimodivir (PB2, Figure 5B).

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## 2.3.2 Pre-clinical compounds targeting the polymerase PA-PB1 and PA subunits; escape mutations and resistance.

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101 Pre-clinical candidates, some of them being listed in Tables 3 and 4, are in development, benefiting from 102 the insight provided the of PA-PB1, PB1-PB2 recent by structures and 103 whole polymerase complex with or without RNA by X-ray crystallography [26, 48, 95, 102, 110, 130, 104 146] and cryo-electron microscopy [23, 42, 44, 111, 144]. The error-prone nature of influenza viral 105 replication can rapidly generate point mutants for the selection of resistance that have seriously 106 compromised the efficacy of influenza therapeutics. Escape mutations were identified under the pressure 107 selection of PA inhibitors: the signature hotspot for escape from baloxavir marboxil is PA residue 38, 108 for which several substitutions (PA I38T/M/F) have been described [96]. Similarly, escape mutations 109 from L-742.001[127] and RO-7 [70] treatments were also characterized although in laboratory 110 resistance-assays, escape mutants were not detected after multiple passages for L-742.001. While very 111 tight affinities have been achieved by designing metal binding inhibitors to block the active site of the 112 endonuclease activity in PA N-terminal (Table 2), the appearance of escape mutants often rapidly 113 decrease their efficacy. Several recent reviews focus on the development of PA and polymerase 114 inhibitors [61, 62, 87, 170].

115

116 Different strategies have been undertaken to attempt overcoming induced resistance. Interfering with its 117 proper assembly of the RdRP polymerase to inhibit function is pursued using protein-protein interaction 118 (PPI) inhibitors. The advantage of such an approach is the relatively large interacting surface between 119 the two proteins as compared to the binding site of an active-site ligand. Indeed, inducing simultaneous 120 mutation of at least one residue on both proteins while maintaining their interaction is less likely to 121 develop resistance and suggests that PPI inhibitors could be less prone to drug resistance than inhibitors 122 of enzyme active sites. The recent identification of a single- domain antibody (nanobody) allowing to 123 disrupt dimerization of FluA polymerase is among these lines [42]. PPI inhibitors have been developed 124 based on the structural insight given by PA-PB1 crystal structures in 2012 [81]. The inhibition of the 125 polymerase PA-PB1 subunit interface has become an active field of research with the goal of remaining 126 active against resistant strains to amantadine and to oseltamivir (Table 3). Recently, compound 12 was 127 identified by structure-based screening of compounds targeting the PA-PB1 structure. No resistant virus 128 was selected in vitro under drug selection pressure of compound 12a [164]. Moreover, derivatives of 129 cyclothiophene and R151785 were found active against multiple strains of Influenza A and B [31, 94, 130 165].

Based on the ability of PA-PB1 to bind viral RNA, it is likely that novel types of inhibitors could be developed by structure-based design [131]. Additionally, inhibitors targeting PA C-terminal [78] and its interactions with vRNA or with PolII could be effective targets, based on the accumulating wealth of structural data [42, 102, 110, 144] and deeper insight in the multi-protein assembly required for during replication / transcription.

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#### 137 2.3.4 Broad-spectrum inhibitors

Favipavir is a drug with broad-spectrum antiviral activity in cell culture, inhibiting RNA viruses of the arenavirus, bunyavirus, flavivirus, alphavirus, norovirus, picornavirus, paramyxovirus, and rhabdovirus families, in addition to influenza viruses [160]. This drug is incorporated into newly synthesized RNA by the viral polymerase in place of purines but not pyrimidines, resulting in increased frequencies of Cto-U and G-to-A transition mutations. Although the barrier for resistance is relatively high, this drug seems to present toxicity issues. N 4-hydroxycytidine (NHC) is also a broad-spectrum antiviral 144 candidate, which showed oral efficacy against RSV and both highly-pathogenic avian and seasonal
145 influenza viruses as well as SARS-CoV-2 virus [140].

#### 146 2.3.5 Pre-clinical compounds targeting the polymerase PB2 subunit

147 Crystal structure of the PB2 cap-binding domain have been exploited to develop different 7-148 methylguanine derivatives [100]. Pimodivir (VX-787) is an inhibitor targeting the polymerase PB2 subunit at the m<sup>7</sup> GTP-binding site, forming extensive stacking interactions with several aromatic 149 150 residues His (Figures 5B and 6). It inhibits influenza virus replication and reduced viral load in animal 151 infection models of H3N2 and H1N1 viruses, although potency was highest against H1N1 strains [9, 152 20]. Phase-2 clinical studies indicated that this drug is well-tolerated, reduced viral load, and resulted in 153 slightly faster resolve of clinical signs. Further derivatives of pimodivir have been designed [84]. 154 Targeting the PB1-PB2 interface by PPI inhibitors has been challenging: although PP7 exhibited 155 antiviral activities against influenza virus subtypes A pandemic H1N1, H7N9 and H9N2, resistances 156 have been unexpectedly detected in laboratory assays [162].

#### 157 2.3.6 Pre-clinical compounds targeting the nucleoprotein or the nucleoprotein-RNA interactions

158 The nucleoprotein associated with viral RNA and the polymerase complex is essential for transcription 159 and replication [22, 145, 146]. The assembly of NP-RNA oligomers into RNP has been determined by 160 cryo-electron microscopy studies [3, 22, 23, 146]. In the X-rays structures of the NP [156], the protein 161 adopts a trimeric structure. NP self-association to achieve trimer formation is mediated by a flexible 162 tail-loop that protrudes into a pocket of the adjacent subunit, via the formation of a critical interaction 163 between R416 of one subunit and E339 of the adjacent subunit. The R416A mutant lacking this 164 interaction adopts a monomeric structure [16]. The native protein can also be purified in a monomeric 165 form at low salt and concentration conditions [15, 16, 133]. The ability to modify the oligomeric state 166 of NP is the structural basis of most NP inhibitors presently developed. Nucleozin was the first NP 167 inhibitor developed as a molecule impeding nuclear accumulation. Nucleozin enhanced higher order 168 structures [64] [46]. Figure 5C shows the interactions of one of the nucleozin ligands found in the X-

169 ray structure (PDB ID 5B7B) stabilizing the interface between two NP subunits [98]. Escape mutants to 170 nucleozin have been identified in laboratory assays. The opposite approach to impede nucleoprotein 171 self-association has also been pursued by disrupting the important salt bridge R416-E339 mediating NP 172 oligomerization [123]. Recently, new compounds with high affinity for NP were designed stabilizing 173 monomeric NP [150]. Impeding NP binding to viral RNA has been achieved by naproxen drug 174 repurposing, naproxen being a known inhibitor of cyclo-oxygenase (COX)[73]. As NP oligomerization 175 is enhanced by the presence of RNA, naproxen binding to NP reduced NP oligomers and favored 176 monomeric NP. Docking and single mutations studies identified Tyr148, the only aromatic residue 177 within the RNA binding groove and residues of the C-terminal part of NP R355, R361, Phe489 being 178 involved in the interaction of naproxen with NP. Laboratory assays showed no resistance after 8 cell 179 passages infected with Influenza A. Naproxen exhibited antiviral effects in mice models of Influenza A 180 infection [33, 73] as well as Influenza B virus [168]. Further structure-based design yielded new 181 naproxen derivatives with improved antiviral effects and selectivity for NP without COX inhibition 182 (Figures 5D and 6) [33, 134] (Table 4). Some of these derivatives were found inhibiting NP-PA 183 interactions [33, 143]. Naproxen derivatives also present antiviral properties against oseltamivir-184 resistant strains [33]. Additional compounds with some similarity of their hydroxyquinoline scaffold to 185 the methoxy naphthalene scaffold of naproxen called NUD were designed and were also found to be 186 resistant in escape mutation laboratory assays [79].

#### 187 2.4 Drugs targeting the non-structural protein-1 (NS1)

NS1 has a plethora of strategies to inhibit the host immune response due to its ability to establish multiple protein–protein and protein–RNA interactions. NS1 hampers different pathways both in the cytoplasm and in the nucleus of infected cells. NS1 antagonizes interferon-mediated antiviral host response by binding to double-stranded (ds) viral RNA, thus protecting it from cellular factors, by blocking retinoic acid inducible gene–I (RIG-I) and NF-kB activation. One pathway by which NS1 increases virulence is through the activation of phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) by binding to its p85β subunit [17]. NS1 has two structural domains—RNA-binding domain (RBD) and the effector domain (ED)—connected by a short linker (LR), and a disordered C-terminal tail. New drugs binding to NS1
effector domain have been designed with low micromolar antiviral efficacy [68] (Table 4).

#### 197 **3. Host-targeting & drug repurposing approaches for the treatment of influenza**

198 Considerable progress has been made in understanding the interactions between influenza viruses and 199 the host cell in recent years. In this context, and in light of the emerging problem of resistance to 200 available classical antivirals, many studies have focused on targeting host factors to limit virus 201 replication, but also to modulate host immune response. The targeting of host-factors and/or signaling 202 pathways makes sense in the context of virally-induced hypercytokinemia (also known as "cytokine 203 storm"), which is directly correlated with tissue injury and an unfavorable prognosis of severe influenza 204 [76]. Indeed, approaches to control or attenuate this disproportionate immune response are of particular 205 interest and are the subject of numerous pre-clinical and clinical studies. As with all viruses, influenza 206 viruses depend on cellular machinery for their replication and propagation. Many cellular factors 207 essential for the replication of influenza viruses have been uncovered through genome-wide RNA 208 interference approaches [65, 69, 86, 128] but also more broadly through different integrated cell biology 209 approaches using interactome and transcriptome data, for example [109, 148]. In order to list the 210 different host-targeting strategies developed, a distinction can be made between molecules with a mode 211 of action associated with a relatively well-defined stage of the viral cycle, and molecules associated with 212 the modulation of signaling pathways. It is these two main classes that will be described in the following 213 sections.

214

#### 215 3.1 Drugs targeting host cell component at different stages of influenza replication cycle

The replication cycle of influenza viruses can be divided into several distinct phases, 1) entry 2) nuclear import of viral genome (viral ribonucleoprotein; vRNPs) 2) genome replication and protein synthesis, 3) Nucleo-cytoplasmic export of vRNPs, and 4) plasma membrane transport and budding of neo-virions (**Figure 1**). A number of molecules targeting host factors in these different steps, at different preclinical/clinical development stages, are known today. 221 Viral entry is a target of great interest, as it is likely to allow prophylactic approaches, by blocking the 222 infection in its early stages. One of the most advanced strategy consists to target the viral receptor. 223 DAS181 (Table 5) (Fludase, Ansun BioPharma) is a sialidase fusion protein that cleaves both the 224 Neu5Ac  $\alpha(2,3)$ - and Neu5Ac  $\alpha(2,6)$ -Gal linkages of sialic acid on host cells. DAS181 is administered 225 as an inhalable dry powder to deliver sialidase to the pulmonary epithelium for cleavage of sialic acids, 226 which renders the cells inaccessible to infection by virus [80]. DAS181 was demonstrated to have broad-227 spectrum activity, given the conserved nature of influenza and parainfluenza viruses binding to 228 respiratory epithelium. Preclinical in vitro and in vivo studies demonstrated that DAS181 has activity 229 against a number of seasonal influenza strains including those containing the H274Y mutation 230 (conferring resistance to oseltamivir), highly pathogenic avian influenza strains (H5N1), and pandemic 231 2009 influenza A (H1N1). This compound was assessed in different Phase I and Phase II clinical trials 232 (NCT 00527865, NCT 01651494, NCT01037205) with results indicating a significant reduction of viral 233 load in treated influenza patients [88] but with identification of respiratory adverse events and rapid 234 clearance of the drug being consistent with the induction of antibodies against DAS-181 - this could be 235 a limitation in the duration and dosages of such treatment [163]. Other approaches targeting viral entry 236 have also been described (Table 5), e.g. targeting the endosome acidification step by inhibition of V-237 ATPase (ex: bafilomycin A1, concanamycin), or inhibition of the internalization (ex: Dynasore) or 238 cleavage steps of haemagglutinin (ex: camostat). Most of these strategies were primarily evaluated at 239 the preclinical stage and have not been further evaluated as their efficacy was either limited or 240 accompanied by cytotoxicity. One exception is the protease inhibitor aprotinin, which was approved as 241 anti-influenza drug in Russia [169].

The step of **nuclear import of vRNPs** is a crucial one, for which there are today very few molecules with antiviral potential described in literature. Interestingly, it has been shown in vitro that ivermectin (**Table 5**), a well-known anti-parasite drug, was able to inhibit viral replication via inhibition of importins (IMP $\alpha/\beta$ ), and therefore the nuclear import of vRNPs [47].

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Targeting the replication stage of the virus is one of the earliest host-targeting strategies, with pioneer
works on the antiviral efficacy of ribavirin in the 1970s [38]. However, this nucleoside analogue or its

249 prodrug, less toxic, do not appear to be options being considered for the treatment of influenza virus 250 infections. of influenza viruses, despite interesting preliminary in vitro and in vivo results [125]. (Table 251 5). Other, more recent strategies propose to target **mRNA splicing**. Influenza viruses are known to 252 hijack cellular splicing machinery to their benefit, making them extremely dependent on it [36, 37]. 253 Several studies show that the inhibition of Cdc2-like kinase 1 (CLK1), involved in the alternative 254 splicing of M2 gene of influenza, appears to be an interesting antiviral option, with several molecules 255 available (TG003, Clypearin, Corilagin, Table 5). Of all its molecules, Clypearin has relatively low 256 EC50s and very low toxicity, making it an attractive potential antiviral candidate. [65, 171].

257 While strategies to prevent the nuclear import of vRNPs are relatively uncommon, paradoxically there 258 are many more therapeutic approaches to block the nuclear-cytoplasmic transport of vRNPs. Indeed, 259 in contrast to the inhibition of importins, the inhibition of exportin 1 (XPO1) by Verdinexor (XPO1 260 antagonist KPT-335) allows to significantly reduce viral production in vitro and in vivo [101]. Another 261 compound, DP2392-E10, inhibits nuclear export of both viral NP and nuclear export protein (NEP). 262 More specifically, in vitro pull-down assays revealed that DP2392-E10 directly binds cellular CRM1, 263 which mediates nuclear export of NP and NEP - highlighting CRM1 as a target of interest [19]. With 264 the same objective, other strategies consist to target the Raf/MEK/ERK signaling pathway, known to be 265 involved in the export of vRNPs [120]. Several MEK inhibitor molecules have been studied for their 266 ability to inhibit the replication of influenza viruses, such as CI-1040 or U0126 [24, 108]. Interestingly, 267 Schräder and colleagues have demonstrated that Trametinib (GSK-1120212), a licensed MEK inhibitor 268 used for the treatment of malignant melanoma, efficiently blocks influenza viral replication of different 269 subtypes in vitro and in vivo [119] (Table 5).

Apical transport and budding, the last part of the last major step of the replication cycle is also the object of several antiviral strategies, notably by blocking the transport of viral proteins to the plasma membrane (ex: Clonidine; [82]), or the cholesterol pathway, which would reduce virion egress. (U18666A; [92]). One of the most advanced strategies is Nitazoxanide, initially licensed for the treatment of parasitic infections, for which anti- influenza properties were first documented by Rossignol et al. [113]. Interestingly, the proposed mode of action of nitazoxanide toward influenza is clearly distinct to that for which it was designed in its initial indication, acting at the post-translational 277 level by selectively blocking the maturation of the viral glycoprotein HA, with a consecutive impact on 278 its intracellular trafficking and insertion into the host plasma membrane [112]. This drug presents potent 279 antiviral activity against a large panel of circulating strains [139]. The effectiveness of nitazoxanide in 280 treating patients with non-complicated influenza was successful in a Phase IIb/III trial [50] and is 281 currently being assessed in a Phase III clinical trial (NCT01610245).

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## 3.2 Drugs targeting host cell signaling pathways and host-response that are crucial for influenza replication cycle.

285 Our increased knowledge of signaling pathways that are crucial in the response to infection and/or those 286 hijacked by the virus has allowed many research teams to explore complementary antiviral strategies 287 that can be described here (Table 6). The targeting of the ref/MEK/ERK channel, mentioned above, 288 could of course also have been listed here. At the crossroads of the regulatory pathways of the immune 289 response and the stress response, the NF-kB pathway was one of the first to be studied (Table 6). In 290 the context of cell biology approaches, it was initially shown that the anti-inflammatory drug 291 acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) had interesting antiviral effect against influenza viruses in vitro and in vivo, 292 via inhibition of the NF-kB activating IkkB kinase [83, 153, 159]. Several drugs targeting the NF-kB 293 pathway have been evaluated since then, such as pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate or SC7574; with 294 encouraging in vivo results [39, 49, 149]. BAY81-8781/LASAG (D, L-Lysine acetylsalicylate-glycine) 295 (Table 6), a modified version of ASA demonstrates antiviral activity against several human and avian 296 influenza viruses in vitro. In a mouse infection model, inhalation of LASAG resulted in reduced lung 297 viral titers and protection of mice from lethal infection [35]. More recently, a Phase II proof-of-concept 298 study comparing LASAG versus placebo in patients with severe influenza demonstrated that aerosolized 299 LASAG improved the time to symptom alleviation compared to placebo, despite the absence of a 300 statistically significant reduction of viral load in LASAG-treated group [116].

Based on clinical observations, hydroxyl methylglutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase inhibitors
 such as statins (Table 6), approved for their use as cholesterol metabolism regulators, have demonstrated
 pleiotropic anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory properties, which could be of benefit to improve
 survival of patients with severe influenza [43, 85]. However, most in vivo studies reported so far failed

305 to clearly demonstrate such a beneficial effect in the specific context of influenza infection [6, 72, 115]. 306 On the other hand, a few observational studies highlighted an association between statin treatment with 307 a reduction of mortality in patients hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed seasonal influenza [40, 142]. 308 A randomized placebo-controlled Phase II clinical trial (NCT02056340) aimed at evaluating the 309 potential effect of atorvastatin to reduce the severity of illness in influenza-infected patients is currently 310 undergoing. The combination of naproxen with clarithromycin and oseltamivir twice daily reduced the 311 both 30- and 90-day mortality and length of hospital stay of patients hospitalized for A(H3N2) influenza 312 [54]. Other approaches, at the preclinical validation stages, propose to target the TNF-alpha 313 (Etanercept);) or NOX2 (Apocynin/Ebselen) or lipoxygenase/COX pathway (Celecoxib/Mesalazine) 314 pathways [12, 28, 74, 97, 124, 157, 167]. A phase III clinical trial is currently investigating the benefit 315 of celecoxib for the treatment of severe influenza (NCT02108366). These molecules could be of interest 316 to better control the inflammatory response, which is a very important aspect of the pathology.

317 Modulation of immune and inflammatory responses is a therapeutic avenue that has been much 318 explored, but which may present risks given the ambivalent aspect of these pathways in relation to viral 319 replication and the evolution of the pathology. Indeed, such treatment should stimulate induction of 320 antiviral genes to control IAV spread, without driving immunopathology. In this context, IFN-lambda 321 (Table 6) appears as a potent anti-influenza therapeutic, without the inflammatory side effects of IFN-322 alpha treatment [29]. Intranasal administration of IFN- $\lambda 2/3$  was shown to significantly suppress 323 infection of various influenza strains, including WS/33 (H1N1), PR (H1N1), and H5N1 in the mouse 324 lung, and was accompanied by greater up-regulation of ISGs [67]. More recently, using a transcriptome-325 based screening approaches, we identified and validated diltiazem, a calcium channel blocker used as 326 an anti-hypertensive drug, as a very promising host-targeted inhibitor of influenza infection. 327 Interestingly, the study of the mode of action revealed that diltiazem was a strong induced or type III 328 IFN [107]. An ongoing French multicenter randomized clinical trial is investigating the effect of 329 diltiazem- oseltamivir bi-therapy compared with standard oseltamivir monotherapy for the treatment of 330 severe influenza infections in intensive care units (FLUNEXT trial NCT03212716).

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#### **333 4.** Perspectives and concluding remarks

334 Among all the molecules listed in this chapter, some are already available on the market for other 335 therapeutic indications and fall within the scope of drug repurposing. This is the case for naproxen, 336 diltiazem, LASAG or Nitazoxanide, for example. The basis of drug repurposing relies on bypassing the 337 long, risky and expensive preclinical an early clinical evaluation stage conventionally used for de novo 338 drug development and exploiting available extensive human clinical, pharmacokinetics and safety data 339 as the starting point for the development [106] All these aspects make the repositioning of drugs a very 340 interesting approach, in particular to enable a rapid response to the need for new antiviral strategies in 341 the context of the emergence of a virus with pandemic potential.

Another very interesting perspective is the interest in combining different antiviral approaches with each other, including classical approaches targeting the virus with those targeting the host cell. The concept of combining therapies has already been used successfully, notably in the design of antiretroviral treatments [13]. Combination therapy can have several objectives, such as reducing the risk of the emergence of resistance by simultaneously targeting several viral proteins and/or key host factors, but also increasing the effectiveness of the treatments by obtaining additive or synergistic effects.

348 While there is relatively little convincing evidence to support the use of conventional virus-targeting 349 antivirals in combination [41, 103], there are interestingly a growing number of examples of 350 combinations of combination host-targeted approaches with oseltamivir. For example, we have shown 351 that the combination of diltiazem and oseltamivir provides a much greater reduction in viral titers in a 352 reconstructed human epithelium model compared to single treatments [107]. More recently Schloer and 353 colleagues have shown that a combination treatment of an antifungal molecule, itraconazole, with 354 oseltamivir, achieves much greater antiviral activity compared to monotherapy, making it possible to 355 consider reducing the concentrations of drugs used, and thus possibly reducing the problems of adverse 356 effects and emergence of resistance mutations [117]. These results open up interesting prospects for the 357 development of future therapeutic strategies, particularly for the treatment of severe forms of influenza. 358 The potential arsenal for fighting influenza virus infections is potentially very extensive, in particular 359 thanks to the combination of new molecules targeting the virus, resulting from docking and structure-360 based design strategies, with approaches targeting cellular factors and signaling pathways. In this

361 context, the quality and relevance of the preclinical models, as well as the quality of the tools for362 evaluating combinations of molecules, are important critical elements.

363 Beyond influenza viruses, many of the antiviral molecules described in this chapter have the potential 364 for broader-spectrum use. Indeed, some virus-targeted strategies can target viral determinants with very 365 strong similarities between different viruses. This is particularly the case with Naproxen for which we 366 have previously demonstrated antiviral activity against both influenza viruses and SARS-CoV-2 [73, 367 135]. This property is explained by the fact that the nucleoproteins N of enveloped, positive-sense, 368 single-stranded viruses Coronavirus (CoV) share with negative-sense single-stranded viruses such as 369 Influenza A virus the ability to bind to- and protect genomic viral RNA without sequence specificity 370 and to form self-associated oligomers. Despite their differences, viruses induce and divert many 371 common cellular pathways. As a result, host-targeted approaches can identify molecules with a broad 372 spectrum of antiviral activity. An example is diltiazem, for which we have shown antiviral activity 373 against influenza viruses [107], but which has been shown to be effective against other respiratory 374 viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2 [104, 105], due to its mode of action involving the type III interferon 375 response. Efforts to identify anti-influenza molecules therefore open up very interesting prospects for 376 the broader development of antivirals. In many ways, antiviral research on influenza viruses is 377 pioneering in this area and provides a starting point for the study of other emerging viruses.

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#### 827 Figure legends

828 Figure 1. Influenza viral particle and viral cycle; current state of anti-influenza drug discovery 829 and development. (A) Influenza A virus (IAV) particle. The IAV genome is composed of eight 830 ribonucleoprotein complexes (vRNPs). Each one consists of single-stranded negative-sense viral RNA 831 (vRNA) encapsidated by viral nucleoprotein (NP) and a viral polymerase complex (PA, PB1, and PB2) 832 positioned at the extremity of the vRNA segment. Three viral proteins are embedded within the viral 833 membrane, hemagglutinin (HA), neuraminidase (NA), and ion channel protein (M2). Matrix protein 1 834 (M1) underlies the viral envelope and holds the vRNPs inside the virion. (B) The viral particle binds to 835 sialic acid receptors and enters the cell via receptor-mediated endocytosis. Acidification of the endocytic 836 vesicles leads to virus uncoating mediated by the M2 ion channel. vRNPs are then released into the 837 cvtoplasm and transported into the nucleus. There, the viral RNA-dependent RNA polymerase complex 838 snatches the host mRNA caps to initiate the negative vRNA transcription. Transcribed vRNAs then need 839 to undergo an mRNA maturation phase, including the pre-mRNA splicing, before export to the 840 cytoplasm to be translated. vRNAs are also replicated in the nucleus to generate new vRNPs in 841 association with neosynthesized viral proteins. Progeny vRNPs are transported toward the cytoplasmic 842 membrane with viral components to be packaged into new infectious particles which are formed by 843 cellular envelope budding. Classic virus-targeting strategies are highlighted in red, and virus-host-844 targeted strategies in blue. Figure created by BioRender.com

845

Figure 2: Looking down the M2 channel in the presence of inhibitors: Structure of M2 WT and VA27
mutant in complex with amantadine and spiroamantadine. View down the pore channel in A- WTamantadine (V27 is colored in yellow, PDB ID 6BKK[137]) and B- V27A-spiroamantadine complexes
(A27 is colored in yellow, PDB ID 6NV1[136])

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#### 851 Figure 3: Structures of the approved NA inhibitors

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Figure 4: Structure of some of the pre-clinical candidates targeting HA: A: Structure of HA in
complex with JNJ4796 shown in orange (PDB ID 6CF7)[141] B: Structure of trimeric HA in complex
with mini-binder highlighted in yellow (PDB ID 6KUY)[129].

Figure 5: Structure of some of the pre-clinical candidates targeting the polymerase A: Active-site
PA N-terminal inhibitor compound 22[25]; B: PB2 inhibitor Pimodivir [20] (the numbering are
associated with this structure corresponding to the full-length PB2, C: nucleozin-NP oligomeric
complex PDB ID 5B7B, monomers A and B are in cyan and yellow, respectively; D: Naproxen F1-NP
monomeric complex from docking studies[33].

#### 861 Figure 6: Structures of the approved polymerase inhibitors and some pre-clinical candidates

#### Tables

| Table 1. Summary of the activity and structures of the main antiviral compounds bound to their |
|--|
| target, the proton channel M2 of Influenza A or the neuraminidase NA of Influenza A and B.     |

| Target | Compound  | IC <sub>50</sub>   | PDB ID                       | Stage<br>(year approval) | references      |
|--------|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| M2     | Amantadine  | 100 μM (H1N1 WT)<br>> 500μM (S31N)<br>15.7 μM (WT channel <sup>a,</sup> ) [155]  | 6BKK                         | Approved<br>(1976)       | [137], [10]     |
|        | Rimantadine   | 0.1 μM (H1N1 WT)<br>> 200μM (S31N)   | 2RLF                         | Approved (1994)          | [118]           |
|        | Spiro-adamantyl amine   | 18.7 μM (WT channel <sup>a</sup> )<br>0.2 μM (V27A <sup>a</sup> )  | 6BMZ<br>6NV1<br>6OUG         | Pre-clinical             | [136, 137]      |
| NA     | Oseltamivir (Tamiflu)   | 0.8 nM (N5 NA)   | 2HT7                         | Approved<br>(1999)       | [114]           |
|        | Peramivir   | 3.4 nM   | 2HTU                         | Approved (2014)          | [114]           |
|        | Zanamivir   | 0.6 nM (N5 NA)   | 3CKZ                         | Approved (1999)          | [21]            |
|        | Chebulinic acid<br>Chebulagic Acid  | $1.36 \pm 0.36 \ \mu M \ (H1N1 \ PR8)$<br>(Oseltamivir resistant and H1N1<br>pdm09 viruses)<br>$CC_{50} > 100 \ \mu M$ |                              | Pre-clinical             | [75]            |
|        | Oseltamivir derivatives   | 0.66 μM (H5N1)   | Docking<br>150/430<br>cavity | Pre-clinical             | [1, 58,<br>166] |
|        | Triazol oseltamivir derivatives<br>C1-modified oseltamivir<br>derivatives | 0.05-0.15 μM (H5N1, H5N2<br>and H5N6)<br>0.1 μM (H5N1, H5N6)<br>0.7 μM (Oseltamivir resistant<br>virus)                | Docking<br>430 cavity        | Pre-clinical             | [60]            |

a: Patch clamp assays [136]

 Table 2: Recent antiviral candidates targeting HA, their activity and structures of their complexes

 with HA

| Target | Compound / binding site                      | IC <sub>50</sub> / CC <sub>50</sub>             | PDB ID             | Stage                                       | references        |
|--------|--|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| НА     | Arbidol / Stem region                        | 4-12 μM<br>CC <sub>50</sub> = 59μM              | 5T6S, 5T6N         | Pre-clinical and<br>clinical<br>NCT03787459 | [63, 147,<br>151] |
|        | F0045(S) / Stem region                       | 0.5-2 μM<br>(H1 HA)                             | 6WCR               | Pre-clinical                                | [155]             |
|        | JNJ4795 / Stem region                        | 0.01-0.07 μM<br>(H1 HA)                         | 6CF7               | Pre-clinical                                | [141]             |
|        | IY7640 / Stem region                         | 0.5-7 μM<br>(H1 HA)<br>CC <sub>50</sub> > 800μM | Docking<br>studies | Pre-clinical                                | [66]              |
|        | CBS1117 / Stem region                        | 3μM<br>For H5 HA                                | 6VMZ               | Pre-clinical                                | [2, 45, 55]       |
|        | MB2746 / Stem region                         | 0.3µM<br>(H1 HA)<br>CC <sub>50</sub> >100µM     | Docking<br>studies | Pre-clinical                                | [5]               |
|        | De novo design of "Mini-<br>binder" proteins | 0.15-0.19 nM<br>(H3 and H1 HA)                  | 6KUY               |   | [129]             |
|        | Peninddone                                   |   | HA1 and HA2        | Pre-clinical                                | [152]             |

| Target | Compound   | IC <sub>50</sub> / CC <sub>50</sub>  | PDB ID             | Stage  | References      |
|--------|--|--|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| РА     | Baloxavir marboxil                                       | 0.3-1 μM<br>(H1N1/H3N2)  | 6FS6<br>6FS9       | Approved (2019)<br>NCT02954354<br>NCT0294901 | [96]            |
|        | L-742,001  | 3 μM (WT H1N1)<br>24μM (WT H1N1<br>pdm09)<br>236μM (H1N1 pdm09<br>PA F105S)    | 5CGV<br>5D9J       | Clinical trial<br>NCT01526785                | [127]           |
|        | RO7  | 16 nM (WT H1N1)<br>3 nM (H1N1 pdm09)   | 5VPX               | Pre-Clinical                                 | [59, 70]        |
|        | Ana-0  | 0.8µM  | Docking            | Pre-clinical                                 | [161]           |
|        | Compound 22  | 110 pM   | 6E6W               | Pre-clinical                                 | [25]            |
|        | N-acylhydrazone derivatives                              | 11 μM  | 5EGA               | Pre-clinical                                 | [11]            |
|        | "312"  | 37 μM<br>(H1N1, H2N2 and<br>H3N2)  | PA –C-<br>terminal | Pre-Clinical                                 | [78]            |
|        | Compound 12a   | 0.9-2.7 μM<br>(FluA amantadine-&<br>oseltamivir resistant,<br>FluB)            | Docking            | Pre-clinical                                 | [164]           |
|        | Amino-acids adducts of diphenyl-<br>pyridine derivatives | 39 ± 2 μM<br>(H1N1)  | Docking            | Pre-clinical                                 | [27]            |
| PA-PB1 | Cycloheptathiophene-3-<br>carboxamide                    | 0.2µM-0.7µM H1N1<br>pdm09, H1N1<br>oseltamivir-resistant,<br>H3N2, Influenza B | Docking            | Pre-clinical                                 | [31],[94]       |
|        | R151785  | 2.5, 5.0 μMp09,H1N1oseltamivir-&amantadineresistantInfluenza B                 | Docking            | Pre-clinical                                 | [165]           |
|        | Favipiravir  | Broad-spectrum   |                    | Approved (2014)                              | [160]           |
| PB1    | β-d-N4-Hydroxycytidine/ EIDD-<br>2801                    | Broad-spectrum<br>Influenza, SARS-<br>CoV2                                     |                    | Clinical trial<br>NCT04405739                | [140],<br>[122] |

#### Table 3: Inhibitors of PA, PA-PB1 interactions and PB1

| Target      | Compound / binding site  | IC <sub>50/</sub> CC <sub>50</sub>  | PDB ID  | Stage           | References       |
|-------------|--|---|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| PB2         | Pimodividir (VX787)  | 2.6 nM  | 4P1U    | Approved (2017) | [9, 20]          |
|             | 5,7-difluoroindole derivative of pimodivir   | 11 nM   | 685V    | Pre-clinical    | [84]             |
|             | D 715-2441   | 3.6-4.4 μM<br>(H1N1, H3N2, H5N1,<br>H7N9)   | Docking | Pre-clinical    | [77]             |
|             | Cap analogs  | 7.5 μM<br>H3N2  | 4CB5    | Pre-clinical    | [100]            |
| PB1-<br>PB2 | PP7  | 1.4-9.5 μM<br>(Strain-specific)   | Docking | Pre-clinical    | [162]            |
| NP          | Nucleozin  | 0.07 μM (H1N1)<br>0.16 μM (H3N2)<br>0.33μM (H5N1Y287H)  | 5B7B    | Pre-clinical    | [64, 98]         |
|             | Compound 3   | 0.1 μM<br>(H1N1 and H5N1)   | 3RO5    | Pre-clinical    | [46]             |
|             | 2-(4-chloro-3,5-<br>difluorophenylamino)thiazole-<br>4-carboxamide derivatives               | 0.11µM  | Docking | Pre-clinical    | [123], [150]     |
|             | Naproxen<br>Naproxen C0 (Naproxen<br>derivative 2)<br>Naproxen F1 (Naproxen<br>derivative 4) | Broad-spectrum FluA &<br>Sars-CoV2<br>16±5 μM (H1N)<br>2.9±0.3μM (H1N1)<br>1.8μM (H1N1 pdm09)<br>1.3±0.2μM (H1N1)<br>0.7μM (H1N1 pdm09,<br>H3N2, resistant to<br>oseltamivir) | Docking | Pre-clinical    | [33, 73,<br>134] |
|             | Hydroquinolinone derivatives<br>(NUD)  | 1.8-7.0 µМ<br>(H1N1)  | Docking | Pre-clinical    | [79]             |
| NS1         | A22  | ≅ 1 μM (H1N1 PR8)   | Docking | Pre-clinical    | [68]             |
|             | ML303  | 0.7-17 μM<br>(H1N1 pdm09, H3N2)   | HTS     | Pre-clinical    | [99]             |

### Table 4. Inhibitors of PB2 cap-binding, PB1-PB2, NP and NS1

| Viral cycle stage               | Drug name                         | Mode of action   | Research phase              | References  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
|                                 | DAS181                            | Sialidase – removes sialic<br>acid receptors   | Phase I/II                  | Moss <i>et al.</i> 2012[88]<br>Zenilman et al.<br>2015[163]         |
|                                 | Bafilomycin A1<br>Concanamycin    | V-ATPase inhibitors –<br>inhibits endosomal  | preclinical                 | Yeganeh <i>et al.</i><br>2015[158]<br>Müller <i>et al.</i> 2011[90] |
|                                 | Diphyllin                         | acidification  |                             | Chen <i>et al.</i> 2013[14]   |
| Viral entry                     | Saliphenylhalamide                |  |                             | Bimbo et al. 2013[7]  |
|                                 | Aprotinin                         | Protease inhibitors – inhibit  | Approved (2011)             | 2011[169]   |
|                                 | Camostat                          | HAU cleavage   |                             | 2015[154]   |
|                                 | Dynasore                          | Inhibition of internalization  | Preclinical                 | de Vries <i>et al.</i>  |
|                                 | Fattiviracin                      | minibilition of internalization  |                             | Harada <i>et al.</i> 2007[51]                                       |
| Nuclear import of<br>vRNP       | Ivermectin                        | Inhibits importin-α/β  | Inhibits importin-α/β       |   |
|                                 | TG003                             | CLK1 inhibitors -Regulation  |                             | Karlas et al. 2010[65]  |
|                                 | Clypearin                         | of splicing – decrease in M2   |                             | Zu et al. 2015[171]   |
|                                 | Corilagin                         | mRNA expression  |                             |   |
| Genomic                         | Pateamine                         | viral protein synthesis  |                             | Slaine et al. 2017[126]   |
| replication &                   | Ribavirin                         | vitu protoni synthesis   | Approved (1986)             | Durr et al. 1975[38]  |
| protein synthesis               | Viramidine (ribavirin<br>prodrug) | Nucleoside analogue  | Phase III (HCV)             | Sidwell <i>et al.</i><br>2005[125]                                  |
|                                 |                                   | Inhibits host RNA  |                             |   |
|                                 | Cvclosporin A                     | polymerase II  |                             | Liu <i>et al.</i> 2012[77]  |
|                                 | - 5 F -                           | Inhibits nuclear export of vRNPs   | preclinical                 |   |
|                                 | Verdinexor                        | Exportin 1 inhibitors  |                             | Perwitasari <i>et al.</i> [101]<br>2014                             |
|                                 | DP2392-E10                        |  |                             | Chutiwitoonchai <i>et al.</i><br>2017[19]                           |
|                                 | CI-1040                           | MEK inhibitor – nuclear  |                             | Haasbach <i>et al.</i><br>2017[49]                                  |
| vRNP nuclear<br>export          | UO126                             | retention of VRNP complex  |                             | Pleschka <i>et al.</i><br>2001[108]                                 |
| cport                           | PBP10/BOC2                        | Formyl peptide receptor 2<br>antagonists – Raf/MEK/ERK<br>inhibition                                   |                             | Courtin <i>et al.</i> 2017[24]                                      |
|                                 | Trametinib                        | MEK1/2 inhibitor – inhibition<br>of vRNP export  | Approved (cancer)           | Schräder <i>et al.</i><br>2018[119]                                 |
|                                 | Dapivirine                        | Reverse transcriptase<br>inhibitor - inhibition of vRNP<br>export                                      | Phase III (HIV)             | Hu et al. 2017[53]  |
|                                 | Nitazoxanide                      | Anti-parasitic – Inhibition of<br>HA maturation & transport  | Phase III                   | Rossignol <i>et al.</i><br>2009[113]                                |
|                                 | Ruxolitinib                       | Virion formation & vRNA<br>incorporation inhibition  | Approved<br>(myelofibrosis) | Watanabe <i>et al.</i> 2015 [148]                                   |
| Apical transport<br>and budding | U18666A                           | Hydrophobic polyamine -<br>Reduces plasma membrane<br>cholesterol level and<br>decreases virion egress | preclinical                 | Musiol <i>et al.</i> 2013[92]                                       |
|                                 | Clonidine                         | alpha2-adrenergic receptors<br>inhibitor - Inhibits transport<br>of HA transport to plasma<br>membrane |                             | Matsui <i>et al.</i> 2018[82]                                       |

### Table 5. Drugs targeting host-cell component at different level of viral cycle stages.

# Table 6. Drugs targeting host-cell signaling pathway and host-responses that are crucial for influenza replication cycle.

| Host signalling<br>pathway/response | Drug name                      | Mode of action   | Research phase | References  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------|---|
|                                     | Acetylsalicylic acid           |  | Approved       | Mazur <i>et al.</i><br>2007[83]   |
| NF-kB pathway                       | pyrrolidine<br>dithiocarbamate |  | preclinical    | Wiesener <i>et al.</i><br>2011[149]   |
|                                     | SC75741                        | Immune dysregulation<br>Inhibition of caspase/vRNP<br>export inhibition    | preclinical    | Ehrhardt <i>et al.</i><br>2013[39]<br>Haasbach et al.<br>2013[49]   |
|                                     | LASAG                          |  | Phase II       | Droebner <i>et al.</i><br>2017[35]<br>Scheuch <i>et al.</i><br>2018[116]                                  |
| C-Jun-N-terminal-<br>kinase         | SP600125                       | C-Jun N-Terminal kinase<br>inhibitor – Immune<br>dysregulation             | preclinical    | Nacken <i>et al.</i><br>2012[93]  |
| p38 MAPK                            | NJK14047                       | Immune dysregulation   | preclinical    | Choi et al. 2016[18]  |
| HMG-CoA                             | Statins                        | Immunomodulation   | Phase II       | Fedson <i>et al.</i><br>2013[43]<br>Mehrbod <i>et al.</i><br>2014[85]<br>Fedson <i>et al.</i><br>2018[43] |
| TNF-alpha                           | Etanercept                     | Anti-inflammatory drug -<br>Prevents TNF-mediated lung<br>injury and edema | preclinical    | Shi et al. 2013[124]  |
|                                     | Apocynin                       | ROS scavenger, inhibits<br>Nox2 activity                                   | preclinical    | Ye et al. 2015[157]   |
| Nox2                                | Ebselen                        | ROS scavenger and<br>glutathione peroxidase<br>mimetic, inhibits Nox2      | preclinical    | Oostwoud <i>et al.</i><br>2016  |
|                                     | Celecoxib                      | Immune dysregulation   | Phase III      | Davidson et al.   |
| Lipoxygenase &<br>COX pathways      | Mesalazine                     | Immune dysregulation preclinical   |                | 2018[28]<br>Carey <i>et al.</i><br>2010[12]<br>Zheng <i>et al.</i><br>2008[167]                           |
| Type III IFN                        | Type III IFN                   | Induction of type III IFN  | preclinical    | Davidson <i>et al.</i><br>2016[29]<br>Kim <i>et al.</i> 2017[67]  |
| response                            | Diltiazem                      | response   | Phase II       | Pizzorno <i>et al.</i><br>2019[106, 107]  |



В







Oseltamivir



Zanamivir





Peramivir







В



Α







В



