Selective Targeting of Virus Replication by Proton Pump Inhibitors

Susan M. Watanabe1, Lorna S. Ehrlich1, Madeleine Strickland2, Xiaofan Li3, Veronica Soloveva4, Arthur J. Goff5, Charles B. Stauf1, Sumita Bhaduri-McIntosh3, Nico Tjandra2* & Carol Carter1*

Two proton pump inhibitors, tenatoprazole and esomeprazole, were previously shown to inhibit HIV-1 egress by blocking the interaction between Tsg101, a member of the ESCRT-I complex, and ubiquitin. Here, we deepen our understanding of prazole budding inhibition by studying a range of viruses in the presence of tenatoprazole. Furthermore, we investigate the relationship between the chemistry of prodrug activation and HIV-1 inhibition for diverse prazoles currently on the market. We report that tenatoprazole is capable of inhibiting the replication of members of the enveloped filo, alpha, and herpes virus families but not the flavivirus group and not the non-enveloped poliovirus. Another key finding is that prazole prodrugs must be activated inside the cell, while their rate of activation in vitro correlated to their efficacy in cells. Our study lays the groundwork for future efforts to repurpose prazole-based compounds as antivirals that are both broad-spectrum and selective in nature.

Many enveloped viruses recruit the endosomal sorting complex required for transport (ESCRT) machinery for egress from the infected cell. A P(T/S)AP motif within an encoded structural protein engages the Tsg101 protein in ESCRT-I; this event ultimately delivers ESCRT-III to sites of viral budding where membrane scission releases the viral particle (reviewed in1,2). In addition to a P(T/S)AP-binding pocket, Tsg101 also possesses Ubiquitin (Ub)-binding capability that functions in HIV-1 budding, a feature detected through the use of agents identified by random screening of a small molecule library3. These agents, tenatoprazole and esomeprazole, are prodrugs used medically as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) for treatment of acid reflux. Through structural analysis, we showed that they targeted cysteine 73 (C73) in the N-terminal domain of Tsg101, disrupted Ub binding, and prevented Tsg101 localization to the plasma membrane budding site3. Tsg101-P(T/S)AP recognition was not disrupted. The inhibition of virus production was suppressed when the pool of endogenous Tsg101 was depleted and replaced with Tsg101 in which Ala was substituted for C73 (C73A) or following addition of N-acetyl Cys as a competitor.

Many enveloped viruses that bud from the plasma membrane, including the retrovirus HIV-1 and the filovirus Ebola (EBOV), exploit the cellular ESCRT machinery to facilitate viral egress, whereupon either Tsg101 or an ESCRT adaptor such as Alix or Nedd4 brings the scission machinery housed in ESCRT-III to the budding site (reviewed in30). Other enveloped viruses, e.g., the flaviviruses Dengue (DENV) and Zika (ZIKV), that replicate on the ER membrane, bud into the lumen and exit cells by exocytosis in cellular vesicles. Herpes virus egress includes a combination of transit through the inner nuclear membrane followed by exit via exocytosis. It has been suggested that Alphaviruses [including Sindbis virus (SINV), Semliki Forest virus (SFV) and Mayaro virus (MAYV)] form viral RNA replication/transcription complexes and initiate minus-strand RNA synthesis at the plasma membrane before moving inward to the cytoplasm, possibly via endocytosis, and ultimately bud from the plasma membrane6. Interestingly, DENV which like HIV-1 and EBOV requires the PTAP-binding function of Tsg101 for recruitment, does not require the Tsg101-Ub-binding function7. In contrast, HIV-1 requires both3. Despite suggested use of endocytic machinery, Alphaviruses are reported to be ESCRT-independent8. The following observations suggested that Tsg101-Ub binding might regulate Tsg101 recruitment to membrane locations:

1Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, 11794-5222, USA. 2Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, 20892, USA. 3Department of Pediatrics, Division of Infectious Diseases and Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32610, USA. 4U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Frederick, MD, 21702-5011, USA. *email: tjandran@nhlbi.nih.gov; carol.carter@stonybrook.edu
(i) We observed that prazole treatment prevented Tsg101 from accumulating with Gag on the plasma membrane; (ii) Prazole treatment differentially inhibited constitutive EGFR recycling to the plasma membrane but not ligand-induced trafficking, which sorts the receptor to an internal degradative compartment, indicating that prazoles disrupt trafficking routes differentially; (iii) The nuclear egress complex, conserved among herpesviruses, is comprised of EBV proteins BFRF1/BFLF2. They are co-dependent for their localization to the nuclear rim where they promote budding of immature capsids into the cytoplasm. The Ub E3 ligase Itch, Ub and Alix viruses, is comprised of EBV proteins BFRF1/BFLF2. They are co-dependent for their localization to the nuclear rim where they promote budding of immature capsids into the cytoplasm. The Ub E3 ligase Itch, Ub and Alix (iii) The nuclear egress complex, conserved among herpesviruses, is comprised of EBV proteins BFRF1/BFLF2. They are co-dependent for their localization to the nuclear rim where they promote budding of immature capsids into the cytoplasm.

Collectively, these findings support the conclusion that prazole compounds could be effective as broadly acting ESCRT inhibitors. We observed that prazole treatment prevented Tsg101 from accumulating with Gag on the plasma membrane; (ii) Prazole treatment differentially inhibited constitutive EGFR recycling to the plasma membrane but not ligand-induced trafficking, which sorts the receptor to an internal degradative compartment, indicating that prazoles disrupt trafficking routes differentially.

Here, we demonstrate that, in contrast to the gastric proton-pump target that is accessible to the activated drug at the cell surface, the anti-viral target requires prodrug activation inside the cell. We show that enveloped viruses that exit cells by exocytosis from the ER were resistant to prazole inhibition while those that bud from the plasma membrane were sensitive. Like esomeprazole and tenatoprazole, other currently marketed prazoles also target C73 in Tsg101 and inhibition of HIV-1 budding correlated to the rate of prodrug conversion to the active state. Collectively, these findings support the conclusion that prazole compounds could be effective as broadly acting antiviral agents and suggest that the function they block, Tsg101 Ub binding, may be critical for recruitment of membrane scission apparatus.

Results

Antiviral activity requires intracellular prodrug activation. The active form of the prazole that binds covalently to Cys residues in the H^+/K^+ -ATPase for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) treatment is C73 or to C73 in Tsg101 for inhibition of HIV-1 is the sulfenamide derivative of the prodrug. Prazole activation chemistry leading to formation of its sulfenamide derivative is shown in Fig. 1A. The sulfenamide is generated from a multi-step rearrangement of the prodrug. The prodrug prazole is nonpolar and as such is able to cross the lipid bilayer which allows for passage through the plasma membrane and cellular membrane compartments; the positively charged sulfenamide derivative is cell-impermeable. Most likely, the pre-activated form is a mixture of several different compounds. For its role as a cell-impermeable inhibitor, the target Cys residues of the prazole sulfenamide derivative is in an ectodomain of the pump. Hence, effective ex-cellulo activation is actually an attribute of PPI potency against GERD. We speculated that for its role as virus assembly inhibitor, the prazole must first enter the cell, then convert to its sulfenamide derivative and, most importantly, accumulate an effective sulfenamide concentration at the right time in the right place within the cell. Two considerations underlie this speculation: (i) HIV-1 Gag synthesis/initial assembly initiates in the cytoplasm; (reviewed in Maldonado et al.); (ii) Tsg101 distributes between cytoplasm and tubulo-vesicular endosomes. Thus, Tsg101 molecules targeted by sulfenamide are intracellular. To test this notion directly, we compared the effect of treatment with tenatoprazole in prodrug and pre-activated forms on hemagglutinin (HA)-tagged Gag (Gag-HA) virus-like particle (VLP) assembly in 293 T cells. For ex-cellulo activation, a volume of a 40 mM stock solution of tenatoprazole was mixed with pH 5.8 sodium phosphate buffer for 17 hr, resulting in formation of a rose-colored precipitate which was subsequently pelleted and re-dissolved in the equivalent volume of DMSO. The 40 mM prodrug and pre-activated tenatoprazole stock solutions were used in parallel inhibition assays. Cell extracts and VLPs were prepared as described in Materials & Methods and samples were examined by Western analysis. The Western blot results are shown in Fig. 1B. In Fig. 1C, the amount of Gag detected in isolated VLPs or in the cytoplasm and the release efficiency is shown. Addition to the media of tenatoprazole in prodrug form (lanes 2–4) resulted in dose-dependent inhibition of VLP production compared to the DMSO control (lane 1). In contrast, samples treated with the pre-activated mixture (lanes 6–8) produced amounts of VLPs comparable to the DMSO control (lane 5). This finding indicated that prodrug entry into cells is requisite for anti-viral efficacy. The cell lysate also showed a drug concentration-dependent decline in Gag accumulation in samples treated with the prodrug (lanes 2–4) but not in the samples treated with the pre-activated mixture (lanes 6–8). The diminished intracellular Gag accumulation in cells exposed to the prodrug was reported previously and found to reflect Gag mis-sorting to degradative compartments. Quantitation of VLP release efficiency indicated no change, suggesting that the mis-sorted Gag population derived from the pool that normally produced released VLPs. Thus, prodrug activation inside cells diverts Gag from the productive trafficking pathway that leads to plasma membrane assembly and release of viral particles.

Tenatoprazole susceptibility of viruses unrelated to HIV-1. As tenatoprazole blocks Tsg101 Ub binding rather than Tsg101 interaction with PTAP-containing sequences, we reasoned that susceptibility to the drug might not be limited to viruses that employ the motif to recruit the protein and therefore examined unrelated viruses for prazole sensitivity. We focused in particular on viruses that cause widespread morbidity, are emerging or re-appearing, and for which few or no drugs currently exist. This list includes the Mayaro (MAYV), Dengue (DENV) and Zika (ZIKV) viruses, which are emerging or are recently appearing mosquito-borne pathogens; Ebola virus (EBOV), the re-appearing causative agent of a severe, often fatal hemorrhagic illness, and Epstein Barr virus (EBV), the etiological agent of a common latent infection whose reactivation following organ transplant is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality. Poliovirus (PV) was tested as a control. It replicates on intracellular host membranes but its capsid possesses no envelope. Each virus was assayed using cell lines and conditions considered standard for the entity (typically 293 T or HeLa cells). Tenatoprazole cytotoxicity in these
cells (CC50) was estimated to be 129 μM [95% confidence interval (CI) = 156–205 μM] for HeLa and 123 μM (95% CI = 99.8–139.4 μM) for 293 T, based on the WST-1 assay for metabolic function (Supplemental Fig. 1).

Tsg101 and/or ESCRT has been reported to play a role in replication of DENV7, EBOV20,21, and EBV9,22. Of most significance to the current investigation, the exocytic egress of flaviviruses like DENV, Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) and by extension ZIKV, which bud into the lumen of the ER and exit cells in vesicles formed in the secretory pathway, does not require the Tsg101 Ub-binding function7. As we recently demonstrated that this function is required for HIV-1 budding as revealed by the proton pump inhibitors that concomitantly disrupted it and arrested budding, we hypothesized that the Tsg101 Ub-binding function was superfluous for ER budding but necessary for egress at the plasma membrane location. This hypothesis predicted that DENV and ZIKV, which assemble on the ER, should be resistant to the prazole while EBOV, which buds from the PM, should be susceptible.

To investigate, DENV and ZIKV production in the presence and absence of the drug was tested on 293 T cells, with infectious virus output measured by focus forming (DENV) or plaque forming assays (ZIKV) in Vero cells. As shown in Fig. 2A, DENV replication exhibited no tenatoprazole susceptibility at concentrations as high as 100 μM (panel A). Similarly, ZIKV exhibited <2-fold reduction in infectious virus output following exposure to

![Figure 1](https://www.nature.com/scientificreports/)
100 μM, as measured by plaque assay (Fig. 2B). This reduction was not maintained at three or six day sampling and is not considered significant. As predicted, PV exhibited no tenatoprazole susceptibility, as revealed by plaque assay, at concentrations as high as 100 μM (Fig. 2C). Interestingly, tenatoprazole treatment reduced MAYV titer in a dose-dependent manner up to >2 log10 at 100 μM (Fig. 2D).

The EBOV VP40 protein which, all by itself directs assembly and budding from the plasma membrane, contains overlapping PTAP and PY Late domains21,23 and an LYP(X)nL sequence24 (i.e., motifs required for recruitment of Tsg101, Nedd4 and ALIX proteins, respectively). Again supporting the hypothesis, the results indicate that the drug reduced the spread of EBOV in cultures of HeLa cells, as monitored by immunostaining for the viral glycoprotein (Fig. 3A). Inhibition exhibited an EC50 = 80 μM, a concentration at which >80% of the cells appeared viable (Fig. 3B).

In contrast to HIV-1, DENV, ZIKV, MAYV and EBOV, which launch lytic infections, EBV replication takes place mainly in the nucleus and is mostly latent. Following activation of the lytic phase, an immature form of the virus buds through the inner nuclear membrane (INM) to complete the maturation process in the cytoplasm. Mature virus leaves the cell through an exocytic pathway, however previous studies showed that ubiquitination events facilitate the initial step, i.e., budding through the inner nuclear membrane10. To test for prazole sensitivity, EBV lytic activation was triggered by exogenous expression of ZEBRA, the EBV latency-to-lytic switch protein, using doxycycline in CLIX-FZ, an engineered Burkitt lymphoma cell line25. Tenatoprazole impact on EBV production was assayed using quantitative PCR (qPCR). Simultaneous treatment with tenatoprazole at concentrations of 20 μM and 40 μM resulted in a dose-dependent reduction in the number of released (i.e., extracellular) EBV particles compared to the yield from cells treated with vehicle plus doxycycline (Fig. 4A). Commensurately, the intracellular EBV load increased (Fig. 4B), indicating that reactivation from latency had proceeded unperturbed but the assembled capsids were trapped inside the drug-treated cells. The host CLIX-FZ cells exhibited some impairment of metabolic capacity in the 40 μM concentration range (Fig. 4C). However, as this diminished cell capacity did not reduce the total intracellular EBV load, it seems unlikely that the observed inhibition of virus release was attributable (solely) to cytotoxicity. To assess the site of entrapment, nuclear and cytosolic fractions were prepared from control and drug-treated reactivated CLIX-FZ cells and re-assayed for EBV DNA by qPCR using primers directed towards the EBV BALF5 gene that encodes the viral polymerase. As shown in Fig. 4D, EBV DNA was dose-dependently trapped in both compartments. The results indicate that tenatoprazole did not inhibit virus replication but rather its egress. Collectively, the results (Table 1) indicated that tenatoprazole susceptibility was broad yet selective.

Figure 2. Flavi- and Picornaviruses exhibited tenatoprazole resistance; MAYV exhibited susceptibility. 293 T cells were pre-treated for 6 hr (DENV, ZIKV, MAYV) or 7 hr (PV) with media containing either DMSO (0) or the indicated concentration of tenatoprazole. Cells were then infected with Panel A, the synthetic DENV 2 strain 16681; panel B, ZIKV; Panel C, the Mahoney strain of PV at MOI = 0.01; Panel D, MAYV at MOI ~0.001. After two hours, the tissue culture media was removed and replaced with fresh treatment media. After two days, the media was collected and the virus titer was measured by focus forming assay where foci were developed with 4g2 primary anti-flavivirus antibody (DENV: the y axis shows the relative change compared to the DMSO control) or plaque assay in Vero cells (ZIKV, PV, MAYV). Plaques were visualized by staining with crystal violet. The y-axis show the virus titers in plaque-forming units. Error bars equal 1 SD.
Related prazoles differ in their conversion rates to their active form(s). As a biochemical group prazoles26 share as core structures benzimidazole and pyridine and can be divided into two groups based on their basic structure as imidazopyridine (tenatoprazole designated as N16 in Strickland et al.3) and benzimidazoles (rabeprazole, lansoprazole, esomeprazole, and pantoprazole). All compounds share the same acid-mediated activation chemistry in cells (Fig. 1A). As their structures differ and, as we determined that anti-viral activity required prodrug conversion to the active form(s) inside the cell (Fig. 1), it was important to determine how these properties influenced their anti-viral efficacy. Previously, we showed that tenatoprazole bound covalently to residue C73 of Tsg101 using a disulfide bond3. We also solved the structure of the tenatoprazole-Tsg101 complex using NMR spectroscopy, which detailed the binding interaction between the two compounds, including the covalent disulfide bond. Esomeprazole, pantoprazole, rabeprazole, and lansoprazole have similar chemical structures to tenatoprazole and all induce the largest chemical shift perturbations around residue C73 of Tsg101, indicating that they also bind covalently to this residue. We therefore determined the rate at which the prodrug forms of tenatoprazole, esomeprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole, and pantoprazole were converted to their respective sulfenamide derivatives in vitro. Using LC-MS, we determined that a compound similar to the sulfenamide derivative (Fig. 1A) was formed upon addition of the prodrug to mildly acidic aqueous buffer (Supplemental Fig. 2), as previously shown for rabeprazole27. Using NMR spectroscopy, we could follow the time-dependent disappearance of prodrug proton peaks as a surrogate for activation under similar conditions as the LC-MS experiment. As shown in Fig. 5, rabeprazole had the highest rate of conversion, completely disappearing in less than ten hours. Pantoprazole remained predominantly as a prodrug (96%) by the end of the 17 hour time course. Esomeprazole and tenatoprazole, which differ by only one atom, had quite different rates with ~55% and ~5% prodrug, respectively, remaining at 17 hours. Lansoprazole was intermediate at 20%. The observed conversion rates (rabeprazole > tenatoprazole > lansoprazole > esomeprazole > pantoprazole) are in agreement with that obtained at pH 5.1 by Shin et al.15. In all cases, we observed that the concentrations of prodrug and sulfenic acid were inversely proportional to each other, validating our following of the prodrug peak in the NMR experiments.

Chirality at the sulfoxide center is a characteristic of all the prazoles examined in this study. Chirality as a factor in therapeutic efficacy reflects the stereo-selectivity of metabolic clearance of prazoles28 but whether chirality influences conversion rate is not clear. We therefore examined this property, as the sulfoxide group can have both S- and R-enantiomers and unless specific measures are taken to produce or isolate one enantiomer, most available prazoles are racemic mixtures. Studied in their racemic mix were: tenatoprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole, and pantoprazole. Esomeprazole (omeprazole S-enantiomer) and lansoprazole (lansoprazole R-enantiomer) were tested as enantiomers. We detected no significant difference in rates for dexlansoprazole and lansoprazole (Supplemental Fig. 3A).
Figure 4. EBV replication is tenatoprazole-sensitive. Latent EBV was reactivated in CLIX-FZ cells by addition of doxycycline in the presence of DMSO (black bars) or DMSO plus tenatoprazole (20 µM or 40 µM, grey bars); non-treated cells are shown as white bars. After 72 hr, cells and conditioned media were harvested. Panel A, extracellular EBV DNA measured in pellet fraction of conditioned media. Panel B, intracellular EBV DNA measured in lysed cells. EBV DNA was determined by quantitative-PCR (qPCR) for the EBV BALF5 gene. EBV DNA copy number from each preparation was normalized to the DMSO-treated control. Panel C, metabolic activity of cells in the presence of tenatoprazole. The cells were grown for 24 hr in media containing the indicated concentrations of doxycycline and tenatoprazole followed by assessment of metabolic activity assessed using the WST-1 assay. Panel D, fractionation of intracellular DNA. CLIX-FZ cells were treated with doxycycline plus DMSO (D+) or doxycycline plus tenatoprazole (D+T), harvested 72 hr later, and separated into nuclear (black bars) and cytosolic (white bars) fractions. DNA was extracted from each fraction and the relative number of EBV genomes from each fraction was determined by qPCR using primers directed towards the EBV BALF5 gene. The number of genomes recovered was significantly different as judged by the Students t-test, two-tailed. Error bars equal 1 SD.

Table 1. Tenatoprazole Susceptibility of Viruses Unrelated to HIV. Tenatoprazole susceptibility was assessed for each virus using an assay standard for the field. Abbreviations are: focus forming units (FFU), immunostain (IS), quantitative PCR (qPCR), Western blot (WB), and plaque forming units (PFU). Virus production was determined as resistant or susceptible, with selectivity Index indicated in parentheses. Selectivity index is defined as the ratio of cytotoxic concentration to effective concentration (CC50/EC50). CC50 is the compound's concentration (µM) required for the reduction of cell viability by 50%; EC50 is the compound's concentration (µM) required for the reduction in the assay of virus production by 50%.
It was previously shown that Tsg101 binds to tenatoprazole through a covalent bond at residue C73, with the orientation of the ligand determined by interactions with neighboring residues (D40, S41, T56, W75, K90), as determined by intermolecular carbon isotope-filtered nuclear Overhauser effect (NOE) NMR spectra and chemical shift perturbations3. Large chemical shift perturbations or peak broadening indicate a change in chemical environment associated with binding or binding-induced structural change and was used here to detect differences in binding between the five prazole compounds and Tsg101 (Fig. 6). Overall, it was found that the three new compounds bind to Tsg101 in a similar manner as tenatoprazole, forming a covalent disulfide linkage with C73 and contacting many of the same residues. Table 2 shows residues that undergo large chemical shift perturbations or peak broadening upon addition of the five prazole compounds. Affected residues that are common to all drugs are indicated in bold font. There are some subtle differences to note: Tenatoprazole is unique in that it contains nitrogen in place of the carbon in the benzimidazole ring in the other prazoles. Interestingly, tenatoprazole is the only compound to form a hydrogen bond with the backbone amide of S41 (as shown by the characteristically large chemical shift change of 0.29 ppm versus an average of 0.03 ± 0.02 ppm for the other ligands). Instead, the other prazoles induce large chemical shift perturbations in residues V38 and L52 (not observed for tenatoprazole), indicating that the conversion from an imidazopyridine ring to a benzimidazole encourages the ligand to interact with more hydrophobic residues in favor of a hydrogen bond to S41, and may therefore have a slightly different orientation. Secondly, rabeprazole and lansoprazole have bulky additions to their pyridine ring and induce further chemical shift perturbations in residues K98 and H102, and around the C-terminus (S135, E137, S143). Figure 6F, shows the proximity to the PTAP-binding pocket of residues perturbed due to the additional bulk of rabeprazole and lansoprazole. The changes in this region are likely the result of structural changes in the UEV domain rather than the direct impact of ligand binding, since they are far from the tenatoprazole binding site. As noted above, no significant difference in conversion rate was detected for complexes with lansoprazole and its enantiomer dexlansoprazole and these showed essentially identical chemical shifts, which is consistent with formation of identical covalently-bound derivatives upon activation of the two prodrugs (Supplemental Fig. 3B). These findings support the conclusion that, as a biochemical class, prazoles target the Tsg101 Ub-binding pocket region, specifically, C73.

Prazole conversion rates predict inhibition of HIV budding. The five prazoles, whose rates of conversion and binding to the Tsg101 UEV domain were characterized in Figs. 5 and 6, were compared for potency in inhibiting HIV-1 production. All were tested in the 0–75 μM range. Cytotoxicity (CC50) for these prazoles is shown in Supplemental Fig. 4. The effect of these prazoles on virus production is shown in Fig. 7. Pantoprazole (lanes 2–4) exhibited negligible inhibitory activity. As previously reported, esomeprazole (panel A, lanes 7–9) was less efficacious than tenatoprazole (lanes 12–14) while lansoprazole (lanes 16–18) exhibited greater potency than tenatoprazole. Rabeprazole provided the strongest inhibitory effect (lanes 20–23). Potency ranking was therefore as follows: pantoprazole (EC50 > 75 μM), esomeprazole (EC50~75 μM), tenatoprazole (EC50~50 μM), lansoprazole (EC50~25 μM) and rabeprazole (EC50~15 μM) (Table 3). Comparison with the results shown in Figs. 5 and 7 indicated that antiviral activity correlated directly with the prazole conversion rate and possibly also with bulky side group addition.

We conclude that a direct relationship exists between formation of the sulfenamide compound that attacks C73 in the Tsg101 UEV domain and prazole inhibitory potential.

Discussion

Here, we report that prazoles, approved for use as PPIs, also exhibit potential for antiviral therapy. For this application, the prodrug required conversion inside cells. HIV-1, MAYV, EBOV and EBV replication were tenatoprazole sensitive while DENV, ZIKV and PV replication were resistant. Further testing employing HIV-1 as a model revealed its susceptibility to additional prazoles with inhibition generally correlating to the rate of pro-drug binding.
conversion to the active sulfenamide derivative. In all cases, the prazoles targeted the Tsg101 UEV domain C73 residue, indicating that they inhibited Tsg101 function through the same mechanism. It should also be noted that previous studies demonstrated that esomeprazole and omeprazole inhibited entry of a lentivirus-based pseudo-typed particle using the EBOV Env (G) protein29. As noted already, both the chiral esomeprazole and the racemic

Figure 6. Identification of prazole target in Tsg101 UEV domain. Chemical shift perturbations in Tsg101 UEV complexed with prazole derivatives are shown in Panels A to E. Prazoles were mixed with purified Tsg101 UEV domain protein and chemical shift perturbations measured after covalent attachment and subsequent buffer exchange. Left inset, prazole structure; Right, chemical shift perturbations. Perturbed residues are marked in color on the front and backside of the UEV domain structure: green, tenatoprazole; orange, esomeprazole; red, pantoprazole; blue, rabeprazole; yellow, lansoprazole. Residues that cannot be assigned or that disappear in the bound spectrum are marked in grey. The cut-off for large chemical shift perturbations was standardized as 0.084 ppm (1.5 standard deviations from zero for tenatoprazole chemical shift perturbations). Panel F, Models showing residues in PTAP-binding pocket perturbed by prazole binding (PDB ID 1M4Q, Pornillos, et al26).
Omeprazole would be converted to the same achiral active sulphenamide derivatives which are expected to target Tsg101 identically. In the case of the pseudotyped virus particle, inhibition was observed and attributed to the off-target inhibitory activity on endosomal vacuolar ATPase29. In our studies, esomeprazole had no significant inhibitory effect at concentrations up to 100 μM but tenatoprazole showed some efficacy (EC50 = ~80 μM). These results are consistent with those previously reported for the pseudotyped virus tested in 293T cells (esomeprazole EC50 = 50 μM)29.

Tabata et al. proposed that DENV recruits Tsg101, an early acting ESCRT, to its budding site on the ER membrane to function as an adaptor to recruit downstream ESCRTs, the CHMP2/3 and CHMP4 proteins needed for budding7. They suggested these factors comprised a “common core machinery” distinct from that involved in cytokinesis or MVB vesicle formation. We hypothesize that viruses like HIV-1 that bud from the plasma membrane recruit Tsg101 to access downstream membrane scission machinery comprised of CHMP2, 4 and other ESCRT-III factors. As part of this, they may “tailor” the core machinery to exploit features that facilitate Tsg101 recruitment, Vps4-mediated membrane scission and/or ESCRT factor recycling, and MVB formation/function. In tailoring the core machinery, different viruses would employ subsets of the ESCRT factors, ESCRT factor isoforms and/or different adaptor proteins to facilitate their trafficking to the egress destination. Possibly, they mimic the plasticity inherent within the machinery. For example, although all Chmp4 isoforms inhibit both HIV-1 release and cytokinesis to some degree, Chmp4b exhibits the most potent inhibition of viral budding

| Tenatoprazole | Esomeprazole | Pantoprazole | Rabeprazole | Lansoprazole |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| K36          | K36          | K36          | K36         | K36          |
| V38          | V38          | V38          | V38         | V38          |
| L39          |              |              |             |              |
| D40          |              |              |             |              |
| S41          |              |              |             |              |
| L55          | L55          | L55          | L55         | L55          |
| T56          | T56          | T56          | T56         | T56          |
| G57          | G57          | G57          | G57         | G57          |
| T58          | T58          |              |             |              |
| G65          | G65          | G65          |             |              |
| I72          | I72          | I72          | I72         | I72          |
| C73          | C73          | C73          | C73*        | C73          |
| L74          | L74          | L74          | L74         | L74          |
| W75          | W75          | W75          |             |              |
| C87          | C87          | C87          |             |              |
| F88          | F88          | F88          |             |              |
| V89          | V89          | V89          |             |              |
| K90          | K90          | K90          | K90*        | K90*         |
| S93          | S93          | S93          |             |              |
| T96’         | T96’         |              |             |              |
| L97          |              |              |             |              |
| K98          | K98          | K98          |             |              |
| T99*         | T99*         |              |             |              |
| G100         | G100         | G100         | G100        | G100         |
| K101’        |              |              |             |              |
| H102’        | H102’        |              |             |              |
| G107         | G107         | G107         | G107        | G107         |
| K108         | K108         | K108         |             |              |
| T109         |              |              |             |              |
| F135’        | F135’        |              |             |              |
| D137         | D137         |              |             |              |
| E138         | E138*        |              |             |              |
| V141*        | F142         |              |             |              |
| S143         | S143         |              |             |              |

Table 2. Chemical Shift Perturbations and Broadened Peaks Observed Upon Prazole Binding to Tsg101. Prazole binding was determined by NMR. Residues that were broadened beyond detection upon addition of ligand are indicated by superscript (*). Bold font indicates affected residues common to all drugs tested.
while Chmp4c was found to be a much more potent inhibitor of cytokinesis than either Chmp4a or Chmp4b30. This differential inhibition of HIV-1 budding and cytokinesis by heterologous Chmp4 suggests that the different functions have “tailored” their utilization of the different ESCRT factors. Indeed, although there is only one form of Tsg101, theoretically, it could exist as part of several unique ESCRT-I complexes, each tailored to optimize a particular role. Human ESCRT-I is a tetramer which, in addition to Tsg101, contains one of two isoforms of VPS28 (generated by alternative splicing), one of four Vps37 isoforms, and one of three Mvb12-related proteins. Depletion of one of the Mvb-related forms prevents MVB sorting of EGFR but not cytokinesis or viral budding31,32. Thus, the ESCRT-I subset that normally includes this form has been tailored for a particular cellular function. Depending on their needs, some viruses might similarly tailor an ESCRT-I complex to ultimately provide the best mimicry of the MVB’s ability to stimulate membrane curvature away from the cytoplasm, creating the topological equivalent of the membrane evagination events that form virus buds. Viruses such as HIV-1 and EIAV have been shown to utilize a limited subset of the ESCRT-III factors33,34. Perhaps, by synthesizing all of their

Table 3. HIV-1 Prazole Susceptibility. HIV-1 prazole susceptibility was assessed by comparing CC₅₀ (concentration at which cells exhibited 50% metabolic activity of control as assayed with WST reagent (see Materials & Methods) and the approximate EC₅₀ (concentration at which VLP production was reduced to 50% of control as assayed by Western analysis). The selectivity index (CC₅₀/EC₅₀) ranks relative theoretical effectiveness as an HIV-1 antiviral agent.

| Prazole      | Cytotoxicity (CC₅₀) | Approximate Effective Concentration (EC₅₀) | Selectivity Index |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Esomeprazole | 75 µM               | 75 µM                                     | 1.0               |
| Lansoprazole | 50 µM               | 25 µM                                     | 2.0               |
| Pantoprazole | 40 µM               | >75 µM                                    | <0.5              |
| Rabeprazole  | 150 µM              | 15 µM                                     | 10                |
| Tenatoprazole| 125 µM              | 50 µM                                     | 2.5               |

Figure 7. Prazole potency against HIV-1. 293 T cells were co-transfected with pNL4-3ΔEnv and pIII Env plasmids about six hours after addition of prazole compound in the 0–75 µM concentration range. VLPs and cell lysates were prepared 24 hr after transfection. Panel A, Western analysis of viral particles and cell lysates for CA p24-related proteins. Panel B, Quantitation of virus release efficiency based on CA p24 signal. Error bars equal 1 SD.
proteins on the ER, remodeling the ER to incorporate both viral and host factors, assembling viral particles on the remodeled ER membrane and then exiting via the secretory pathway. Flaviviruses have optimized the components necessary for membrane remodeling at this site. Tabata et al. were unable to identify a need for Vps4 or alternate AAA ATPases. Interestingly, they showed that the PTAP binding ability was important and reported that NS3 bound directly to Tsg101 but no motif has been identified in the NS3 protein. We hypothesize that the requirement for the PTAP-binding but not the Ub-binding function of Tsg101 indicates that Tsg101 recruitment can be a multi-step process for some viruses, such as HIV-1, but not others.

What might determine a virus’ susceptibility to inhibition by prazoles, or the need for more than “common core machinery”? In Supplemental Fig. 5, we show that an HIV-1 Gag mutant, bearing a disrupted PTAP motif (P7L-Gag) and whose egress is therefore independent of direct Tsg101 binding, nevertheless exhibited prazole sensitivity (panel A). It is well-established that the stimulation of release observed following ALIX overexpression is independent of Tsg101. Supporting the specificity of prazole targeting to Tsg101, Alix rescue of P7L-Gag was tenatoprazole resistant, averaging 2–3 fold in the concentration range to which the WT is susceptible (panel B). The Alix-mediated rescue includes stimulation of p25 to p24 maturation and this event was also resistant to tenatoprazole inhibition, averaging ~3-fold in the absence or presence of the drug (panel C). It was previously established that Nedd4–2 (also called Nedd4L) and some other Nedd4 isoforms can potently rescue the release of HIV-1 Gag with a disrupted PTAP motif27,28. We interpret this to mean that, although Gag-Tsg101 binding is not occurring, Tsg101 is still needed in the cell for the budding process. We hypothesize that prazole susceptibility reflects a requirement for Nedd4-mediated modification of Tsg101, thereby permitting Gag to recruit Tsg101 from its inactive form in the cytosol to the plasma membrane. Elsewhere (Strickland, et al., manuscript submitted), we show that the UEV domain in Tsg101 binds Lys63-linked di-Ub (K63-Ub2), a Ub-derivative formed by Nedd439. We also show that Gag3TAP-mediated recognition of Tsg101 requires the determinants in the UEV domain that bind K63-Ub2. Rabeprazole can disrupt the interaction. Thus, we hypothesize that Tsg101, like other ESCRT factors, exists in active and auto-inhibited states and that the susceptibility to prazole inhibition of any virus is based on a need to activate the factor and mobilize ESCRT-I.

Collectively, the results described here: (i) show that the antiviral activity applies broadly to several families of human pathogens and yet may selectively target a property of the ESCRT machinery that is common only to budding at certain cellular membranes; (ii) extend the demonstration of antiviral activity to additional members of the prazole class and provide evidence that all prazoles tested target the Ub-binding pocket at the N-terminus of Tsg101 and thereby operate through the same molecular mechanism.

Cells of hematopoetic lineage, notably lymphocytes, are important in the pathogenesis of viruses. Prazoles access these cells when circulating in plasma. Commonly marketed PPIs taken at a single daily dose achieve plasma concentrations ranging from 0.1–23 µM40 which may be increased though use of a single enantiomer or by extended release delivery. Our study demonstrates that, in the context of virus production in tissue culture, a tenatoprazole concentration in this order of magnitude was inhibitory in two cases (HIV-1 and EBV). Thus, PPIs as currently administered, were efficacious as antivirals at concentrations feasible to achieve in plasma. Although we know of no focused or systematic study, it is highly likely that PPI use has been unintentionally employed supportively in several clinical settings. As our study mainly examined just one prazole (tenatoprazole) against a panel of viruses and employed assays that assessed different stages in the viral life cycle and in different tissue culture cell environments, the appraisal of susceptibility here is not intended to be definitive. The inhibitory potential against any of the viruses might be improved by selection of a different prazole compound. Drug repurposing or repurposing is a growing trend as a discovery strategy which is both cost-effective and permits leveraging of the proven safety profile. In the case of PPIs, there are already several studies exploring the compounds for cancer40 and genetic disease41 therapeutics. Our findings provide proof-of-concept that prazoles are promising candidates for repurposing as antiviral agents.

**Methods**

**Compounds.** Compounds were purchased from Sigma, Toronto Research Chemicals and Selleck Chemicals. Stock solutions were prepared in DMSO (100%) and stored in aliquots at −80 C.

**Prazole degradation rate.** Stock solutions (20 mM) of each prazole prodrug were prepared in deuterated DMSO (DMSO-d6) and diluted in NMR buffer (20 mM potassium phosphate, 50 mM NaCl, pH 5.8), to a final prazole concentration of 2 mM. Proton spectra of prodrugs were acquired at intervals during a 17-hour experiment. Esomeprazole magnesium hydrate, rabeprazole sodium, pantoprazole sodium hydrate, lansoprazole (Sigma-Aldrich), dexlansoprazole, and tenatoprazole (Toronto Research Chemicals) were each dissolved in deuterated DMSO (DMSO-d6) to make 20 mM stock solutions. 50 µL of stock solution was added to 450 µL of NMR buffer (20 mM potassium phosphate, 50 mM sodium chloride, pH 5.8) to a final prazole concentration of 2 mM. Samples were mixed inside the NMR tube (Wilmad 535-PP) using a 100 µL calibrated pipet (Drummond Scientific Company) attached to a 200 µL pipette via rubber tubing. All NMR experiments were started exactly 13 minutes after sample mixing, which allowed for locking (to DMSO-d6), tuning, and shimming. Proton spectra were acquired with 1.2 second water pre-saturation and increasing numbers of scans over time (8 × 256 scans, 8 × 512 scans, 8 × 1024 scans, 10 × 2048 scans, which corresponded to experiment times of 7.5 min, 15 min, 30 min, and 60 min, respectively, and a total experiment time of 17 hr). Plotted time points are the mid-point of each experiment, taking into account initial experiment setup and sample mixing. To follow degradation, resonances were chosen that were far from the water signal and non-exchangeable, (esomeprazole, 1.844 ppm (methyl); rabeprazole, 8.009/7.999 ppm (aromatic doublet); pantoprazole 2.584 ppm (methylene); lansoprazole 1.889 ppm (methyl); dexlansoprazole, 1.886 ppm (methylene); tenatoprazole, 3.487 ppm (methoxy)). Intensities were...
measured as absolute peak heights after phasing and baseline correction using Topspin 3.0. The peak heights were normalized against the peak height measured for the first experiment. All data were collected at 300 K on a Bruker Avance 600 MHz spectrometer equipped with a room temperature probe.

**Chemical shift perturbations.** Determination of chemical shift perturbations in purified 15N-labeled Tsg101 UEV domain protein complexed to various prazoles was performed as described for tenatoprazole in Strickland, et al. Buffer was exchanged and concentrated using Amicon centrifugal filters (MWCO 3 kDa) into 20 mM potassium phosphate, 50 mM sodium chloride, pH 5.8. Stock solutions of esomeprazole, rabeprazole, pantoprazole, lansoprazole, dexlansoprazole, and tenatoprazole were made using DMSO to a final concentration of 20 mM. 250 µL of 15N-Tsg101 (243 µM) was added to 60.75 µL of prazole (20 mM) and 3.189 mL of room temperature buffer (20 mM potassium phosphate, 50 mM sodium chloride, pH 5.8) to make a total reaction volume of 3.5 mL, which was left for 16 hours at room temperature. Unreacted prazole and DMSO were removed using Amicon centrifugal filters (MWCO 3 kDa) and buffer containing 20 mM potassium phosphate, 50 mM sodium chloride, pH 5.8. NMR samples (250 µL, Shigemi tubes, 7% D2O) were measured at final concentration of the Tsg101-prazole complexes of 200 µM. Chemical shift perturbations were measured as the difference in proton and nitrogen chemical shift between 1H/15N-heteronuclear single quantum coherence experiments before and after binding, using the following equation, as described previously:

\[
\Delta \delta = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \left( H_{\text{free}} - H_{\text{complex}} \right)^2 + \left( N_{\text{free}} - N_{\text{complex}} \right)^2}
\]

where \( \Delta \delta \) is the chemical shift perturbation, \( H_{\text{free}} \) and \( H_{\text{complex}} \) are the proton chemical shifts with and without the addition of the prazole compounds, \( \alpha \) is calculated as the ratio between the proton and nitrogen chemical shift ranges of the backbone amides of 15N-Tsg101 in the free form (\( \alpha = 0.13 \)) as described. Chemical shift perturbation experiments were measured at 300 K on a 600 MHz Bruker Avance spectrometer equipped with a cryo probe. 15N-Tsg101 in the free form and 15N-Tsg101 in complex with tenatoprazole resonances were previously assigned using standard triple-resonance experiments. The other Tsg101-prazole complexes were assigned using 15N-NOESY experiments measured at 800 MHz and HNCACB experiments measured at 600 MHz (both Bruker Avance equipped with a cryo probe). Spectra were processed using NMRPipe and analyzed using CCPN Analysis 2.4.144. The cutoff for large chemical shift perturbations was standardized as 0.084 ppm (1.5 standard deviations from zero for tenatoprazole chemical shift perturbations). Structure figures were rendered using MacPyMOL.

**Prazole effect on virus production.** Metabolic activity of the cells in the presence of the prazole drugs for 24 hr was assessed using the WST-1 assay (Roche Applied Science) following the manufacturer’s protocol. The treatment regimens used to assess susceptibility were as follows:

**HIV-1.** Cells used: 293 T (ATCC CRL-3216), HeLa (ATCC CCL-2). Methods were as previously described. Briefly, cells were grown in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle medium supplemented with fetal bovine serum (10%) and antibiotics (1%) to 70% confluency at 37 °C prior to drug treatment, transfection or toxicity assays. Tissue culture media was aspirated and replaced with control or treatment media prior to transfection unless stated otherwise in figure legends. Transfection was done using XtremeGene reagent (Roche) for DNA. Plasmids pNL4-3-ΔEnv, pIIIB-Env3-1, pCMV-Gag-HA encoding HIV-1 Gag C-terminally tagged with hemagglutinin were previously described. For production of virus particles, cells were transfected with pNL4-3-ΔEnv and pIIIB-Env3-1 plasmids and for production of virus-like particles (VLP), cells were transfected with Gag-encoding construct as previously described. After 24 hr, tissue culture media was collected and passed through a 0.45 micron filter; cells were scraped with a rubber policeman, rinsed with PBS and pelleted. For virus or VLP isolation, filtered media was centrifuged through a 20% sucrose cushion at 22,000 × g for 90 min at 5 °C and the pellet fraction saved for analysis. For cell lysate preparation, cell pellets were lysed with Triton X-100 buffer (50 mMTris, pH 7.4, 137 mM NaCl, 1.5 mM MgCl2, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton X-100) containing a protease inhibitor cocktail. VLP and cell lysate samples were analyzed using Western blotting. Primary antibodies used were: Rabbit anti-CA; anti-actus (Sigma); anti HA (Biorad). Secondary antibodies used were: goat anti-mouse IgG Alexa Fluor 680 (Molecular Probes); goat anti-rabbit IRDye800 (Rockland). Protein bands were visualized using an infrared-based imaging system (Odyssey, LI-COR Biotechnology) and band intensities measured using the Li-Cor Odyssey software version 2.1.15.

**EBV.** CLIX-FZ cells were derived from the endemic EBV-positive Burkitt lymphoma cell line HH514-16 as described previously and used in lytic virus production following (re)activation from latency via induction of exogenous ZEBRA expression by addition of doxycycline (5 µg/ml). CLIX-FZ cells were treated with DMSO, doxycycline plus DMSO or doxycycline plus 20 µM or 40 µM tenatoprazole. After a 72 hr incubation period, cells and conditioned media were harvested. EBV particles in the media were pelleted, washed with 1X PBS, treated with DNase and processed for measurement of extracellular EBV DNA. Cells were lysed and total DNA extracted and used to measure intracellular EBV DNA. Relative viral DNA copy number from each preparation was determined using quantitative-PCR (qPCR) to amplify the EBV BALF5 gene with forward primer CGTCTCATTCCAAAGTGTTC and reverse primer GCCCTTTTCCATCTCGT. Nuclear and cytosolic fractionation: Cells were washed with 500 µl of ice-cold 1 × PBS, pellets were resuspended in 500 µl of ice-cold 1X nucleus isolation Buffer (#7006, Cell Signaling Technology), and incubated at 4 °C for 1 hr. Nuclei were pelleted by centrifugation at 2000 × g at 4 °C for 5 min and resuspended in 500 µl of ice-cold 1X nucleus lysis buffer (#7007, Cell Signaling Technology) after carefully separating the supernatant containing the cytosolic fraction. Nuclear and cytosolic fractions were treated with 10 mg/ml of proteinase K (catalog no. 19131; Qiagen) at 56 °C overnight. The
enzyme was inactivated by heating at 95 °C for 1 hr. Aliquots of fractions were used to amplify the EBV BALFS gene, mitochondrially encoded Cytochrome B (CYTB) gene, and nuclear KAP1 gene by qPCR. Relative numbers of EBV genomes were calculated using the delta-delta CT method by normalizing to KAP1 and CYTB genes in nuclear and cytosolic fractions, respectively.

**EBOV.** Hela cells were pre-treated with media containing either DMSO or ten doses of tenatoprazole up to 100 μM, repeated four times on a single plate. After 2 hr, cells were infected with EBOV (Zaire), at MOI = 0.5. Infection was stopped after 24 hr by fixing cells with a formalin solution. Infected cells were detected by immuno-staining viral glycoprotein (GP) with anti-GP antibodies and the signal for GP-staining converted into % infection. Viability was determined from the number of nuclei per well in comparison to infected but untreated controls. Two independent experiments were conducted.

**DENV.** Confluent monolayers of Vero cells or 293 T in a 12-well format were treated with tenatoprazole at concentrations of 0, 10 μM, 50 μM and 250 μM in 1 μL of DMSO added to 500 mL of 5% BCS DMEM. Cells were incubated for 6 hr at room temperature while being rocked gently. Following treatment, the medium was aspirated and replaced with 250 μL containing 100 FFU (MOI = 0.0001) or 10,000 FFU DENV27 (MOI = 0.01) as described26. The plates were rocked at room temperature for 30 minutes, then 250 μL of 5% BCS DMEM was added to a total volume of 500 μL. The plates were then incubated at 37 °C, 5% CO2 for 2 hr. The medium in each well was aspirated and replaced with 1 μL of 0.6% Tragacanth Gum in 5% BCS DMEM and incubated at 37 °C, 5% CO2 for 5 (D2-Syn) days. The D2-Syn focus forming assay was developed with 4g2 (primary anti-flavivirus antibody hybridoma supernatant) that recognizes a conserved epitope in Flavivirus envelope protein, anti-mouse HRP conjugated secondary antibody (GeneTex), and HRP substrate (Vector VIP). Synthetic Dengue virus type 2 strain 16681 (D2-Syn) acquired from the laboratory of Dr. Eckard Wimmer at Stony Brook University.

**ZIKV.** Confluent 293 T cells were pre-treated for six hours with media containing DMSO (0), 10 μM, 50 μM, or 100 μM tenatoprazole. Media was aspirated and the cells infected with ZIKV PRVABC59 at a concentration of $2 \times 10^4$ FFU/mL in a volume of 500 μL (MOI = 0.01). After two hours of infection, media was replaced with fresh treatment media. After five days, conditioned media was collected and measured for virus titer by plaque assay. Vero cells in 12-well plates were infected with virus in serially diluted samples for two hours, layered with 0.6% Tragacanth Gum in 5% BCS DMEM and incubated at 37 °C, 5% CO2 for five days. Plaques were visualized by staining with crystal violet. ZIKV strain PRVABC59 was provided by BEI Resources (NIAID, NIH: Zika Virus, PRVABC59, NR-50240). PRVABC59 is a recent isolate (2015) from a human patient in Puerto Rico46.

**MAYV.** 293 T cells at ~80% confluency in 6-well plates were pre-treated for 6 hours with media containing either DMSO (0), 6.25 μM, 12.5 μM, 25.0 μM, 50 μM, or 100 μM tenatoprazole. Media was then aspirated, and the cells were infected with MAYV TRVL 15537 (ATCC VR-1277) at a concentration of $2 \times 10^4$ FFU/mL in a volume of 500 μL (MOI = 0.001). After two hours of infection, media was replaced with fresh treatment media. After two days, conditioned media was collected and measured for virus titer by plaque assay. Vero cells in 12-well plates were infected with virus in serially diluted samples for two hours, layered with 0.6% Tragacanth Gum in 5% BCS DMEM and incubated at 37 °C, 5% CO2 for five days. Plaques were visualized by staining with crystal violet.

**PV.** 293 T cells were pre-treated for 7 hr with media containing DMSO (0), 20 μM, or 100 μM tenatoprazole. The cells were then infected with 10,000 PFU of the Mahoney strain of poliovirus (MOI = 0.01). After two hours of infection, media was aspirated and replaced with fresh treatment media. After 24 hr, conditioned media was collected and measured for virus titer by plaque assay. Vero cells in 12-well plates were infected with virus in serially diluted samples for two hours, layered with 0.6% Tragacanth Gum in 5% BCS DMEM and incubated at 37 °C, 5% CO2 for five days. Plaques were visualized by staining with crystal violet.

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Author contributions
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Competing interests
The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information
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Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to N.T. or C.C.

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